

# Indictments of the Social Gospel

**THE SOCIAL GOSPEL** is a philosophy in religion that the church should concern itself with worldly problems rather than spiritual ones. It is more interested in ecology, biology, psychology and sociology than in theology. It is more concerned about preserving the whooping crane and alligator than about preaching Christ the emancipator. It spends more time fighting earthly pollution that MAY damage the body than with fighting spiritual plagues that WILL certainly damn the soul.

**THE SOCIAL GOSPEL** is more interested in feeding the body than in nurturing the soul. Its goal is education, not salvation; recreation, not sanctification; fraternity, instead of eternity. It concerns itself with the "new morality" rather than with immortality; birth control rather than self-control; ministering to the "inner city" rather than seeking the heavenly city; slum clearance rather than with spiritual perseverance.

**THE SOCIAL GOSPEL** philosophy is more interest-

ed in helping men make a living than in helping them make a life. It is more concerned with civil rights than with spiritual fights; civil laws rather than spiritual flaws; revolution rather than revelation; civil disobedience rather than spiritual obedience; communism rather than faith, repentance and baptism.

**THE SOCIAL GOSPEL** is a lame duck spiritually because it is without the power to fulfill the lasting needs of the human race. It preaches Christ as a great social reformer, rather than as a Spiritual Savior. It limits His work to earthly benefits for mankind; and Paul said, "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable" (1 Cor. 15:19). Social 'Gospelism' can only leave man spiritually naked!



**Classes This Week**

<b>Sunday 5:15 PM</b> Kids Class in Auditorium	<b>Monday 7 PM</b> Men's Class at Walker Davis' House	<b>Tuesday 8 PM</b> Truth Seekers class in Student Center Room 2216	<b>Thursday 10 AM</b> Ladies Class on "Good Homes" at the Rouse's	<b>Thursday 7 PM</b> Bible Reading/Prayer Class at Stefan Richardson's
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**Sick**

Sam Cox (Friend of Anna Stallings)	Owen Mauldin (Seth and Summer Mauldin's Son)	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	Sandlyn Fultz (Davis Fultz's Sister)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)	David Hartsell (Holly and Brad's Father)	Kate Miller (Daughter of Brandon and Erin Miller)
Emma Hettinger (William Herd's Mother)	Neal May (Manna Jones' Mother)	Sarah Lanier (Caleb Gandy's grandmother)	Andrew Hagewood (Friend of Sarah Norman)
Betty Bradford	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	Martha Godwin (Troy's mother)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Patty Herd (William's sister-in-law)	Emily Stallings (Anna's sister)	Madi Wise (Friend of the Robert's)
Marty Meeks, Russell Dickerson (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Joe Perkins (Scott Perkin's Dad)	Toni and William Herd	Tom Davis (Walker Davis' Uncle)

**September Birthdays**

- 2 - Denise Davis
- 3 - Trenton Anderson
- 4 - Logan Dean
- 4 - Kevin Anderson
- 10 - B J Winslett
- 10 - Eleanor Weldon
- 10 - Matthew Sullivan
- 10 - Keeley Porter
- 10 - Josh Carter
- 11 - Sheryl Fowler
- 12 - Jared Johnson
- 12 - Heather Bethea
- 13 - Rachel Lagrone
- 14 - Patsy Ogle
- 16 - Brittany Bagents
- 17 - Laura Weldon
- 19 - Kayti Persall
- 21 - Sarah Chandler
- 24 - Wade Winslett
- 26 - Ali Ingram
- 28 - Hannah Bruce

**News and Notes**

- ☒ - There will be a new Spanish only class beginning this morning and will be taught by Caleb George!
- ☒ - Those who have chosen to participate in the adapt-a-student program should have received your list of students. We encourage all to reach out to others you do not know!
- ☒ - We will have our monthly singing tonight!
- ☒ - In addition to the announced classes there are additional opportunities to study in the home! Do not hesitate to ask for a home study if you are interested!
- ☒ - CD's are available after every service. Also you may find immediate audio online at [www.auchurch.com](http://www.auchurch.com)

# The Auburn Beacon



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Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

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## Make Sunday Special

By Dee Bowman



**Thoughts to Ponder**

There is no past we can bring back by longing for it. There is only an eternal now that builds and creates out of the past something new and better.

Sunday is special. It's the day of His resurrection. It's the day of devotion to God, a day for spiritual service and rejoicing. It's the day God ordained for worship and service. It's the day when we keep the memorial of Jesus' death, the Lord's Supper. It's a day for singing and praying and being together. It's a day for spiritual feasting.

Sometimes I think we take the Lord's Day for granted. We become so familiar with it that we fail to give it the thought and emphasis it deserves. If we're not careful, it can become plain, ordinary.

Please allow me a few observations on how you can make Sunday even more special. These are suggestions, not rules; but they are worth consideration, methinks.

**Dress appropriately.** If Sunday is a special day, it deserves some special things. Appropriate dress is one of them. Now, please be advised that no one here is demanding that a dress

If Sunday is a special day, it deserves some special things. Appropriate dress is one of them. Now, please be advised that no one here is demanding that a dress code be observed, but it just makes sense that the importance and significance of the Lord's day is not made special by excessive casualness.

code be observed, but it just makes sense that the importance and significance of the Lord's day is not made special by excessive casualness. We should not be casual in our observance of the various blessings of the Lord's day and it just makes good sense that, if things are to be done, "decently and in order" (1 Corinthians 14:40), that proper attire is one of them. Incidentally, it might interest you to know that the Greek word translated with our word "decently" is

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**Elders**  
Walker Davis  
(334) 703-0050  
Larry Rouse  
(334) 734-2133

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**  
**Sunday**  
Bible Class .....9:30 AM  
Worship .....10:20 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM  
**Wednesday**  
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM  
E-Mail:  
[larryrouse@aubeacon.com](mailto:larryrouse@aubeacon.com)

Larry Rouse  
Evangelist and Editor

**Check Us Out On the Internet: [www.aubeacon.com](http://www.aubeacon.com)**

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defined a “denoting gracefully, becomingly, in a seemly manner” (Vine). Sometimes it even means “honorable.”

**Leave early.** It just makes sense to get here on time. First of all, it indicates interest and concern. No one is advocating that we “tail-gate,” getting ready for the services, but being here in a timely manner makes lots of things possible: 1) you have time to get settled and ready for worship or study; 2) you have time to get your mind focused so that when the services commence your mind is already receptive to what is about to occur; 3) you have time to divest yourself of any thoughts or anxieties that might preclude you getting the best from the services. And all it takes is a little planning. How hard can it be here a little early?

**Smile.** Show people you’re happy to be here. When you look like it’s a chore to attend, it has an effect on everybody concerned, visitors especially. A sad countenance makes the day dreary. It makes such a difference when people smile. Wrinkles disappear when faces light up. Attitudes, both yours and their’s, are affected when you smile at folks. Actually, a smile can change someone’s day, bring some sunlight into an otherwise dreary time for somebody. Solomon said it well (Proverbs 15:13): “A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance; but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.” Show people a merry heart. Smile.

**Greet folks.** Few things are more enjoyable than a vibrant and cheerful greeting. It makes people feel good about being here. And what’s more, it makes you feel good about being here, too. “A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth; and a word spoken in due season, how good is

it!” (**Proverbs 15:23**). A word spoken in due season seldom better used than when you give someone reason to believe that they are welcome, that you genuinely care for them. Greet the older people, but greet the kids, too. It’s good, too, to leave the place where you sit and greet some folks on the other side of the building. It’ll do them good that you came over.

**Participate.** Participation is an indication of interest. It means, as the word indicates, that you are taking part—part-taking. The Lord’s day is a good day to divest yourself of worldly things and think on the good things in the gospel, to get involved in spiritual matters, matters of the soul. Meditation means that we give our minds over to things that have a greater value, things that are really substantive, not just temporary. The Lord’s day is a time for contemplation of who we are, how well we are doing spiritually, how our course to heaven is proceeding, what we need to do to make course corrections, and where our real devotions lie. “I thought on my ways and turned my feet unto thy testimonies” (**Psalms 119: 59**). Be part of the whole service and you will bring a satisfaction to your soul.

**Don’t hurry.** Take time to be holy. Need more be said about that? I think not.

You realize, of course, that nobody can make rules of the things I have suggested. They are just that—suggestions; and it’s up to you what you do with them. But they work. I’ve seen them work.



## Keeping the Lord Near

By Steve Klein

Is your vehicle equipped with OnStar? This much-advertised feature allows owners of GM automobiles who subscribe to the service to push a button and receive instant help in an emergency. Of course, the Christian has much better emergency help available. For those who are in fellowship with God, it is a tremendous comfort to know that the help of Almighty God is only a whispered prayer away.

This wonderful blessing is not enjoyed by everyone. Everyone does not have heavenly OnStar. This is so, despite the fact that most people in the world apparently have the perception that they can call on the Lord anytime they are in trouble, and He’ll be there to help lickety-split. The consistent teaching of Scripture is that God doesn’t much listen to people who don’t listen to Him.

Note the following:

"One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination." (**Proverbs 28:9**)

"But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear." (**Isaiah 59:2**)

"For what is the hope of the hypocrite . . . Will God hear his cry when trouble comes upon him?" (**Job 27:8-9**)

No one really wants to be in the position of having the Lord far away when needing help. Here are three keys to keeping the Lord near:

**Sincerity.** **Psalm 145:18** states that, "The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth." The first part of this verse may seem to be saying that the Lord is near to any and all who call upon Him. But we’ve already noted

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that this is not the case. Look at the last part of the verse. He is near to those who "call upon Him in truth." For God to be near, this condition must be met. We must call upon Him "in truth." Though not reliable translations, some of the modern paraphrases do a good job of catching the basic meaning of this particular verse:

The Lord is "near to everyone whose prayers are sincere" (Contemporary English Version)

The Lord is near to "all who pray and mean it." (The Message)

The Lord is near to all "who call to him with sincerity" (Good News Bible)

**Righteousness.** Just as sin and unrighteousness drive God away from us, obedience and righteousness keep Him near. **Psalms 34:17** declares that "the righteous cry out, and the LORD hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles." **1 Peter 3:12** says that "the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

**Humility and Sorrow for Sin.** Pride and rebellion drive God away, but humility and godly sorrow bring Him close. "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." (**James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5**). "The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit." (**Psalms 34:18**)

At some point, all of us experience emergencies, hard times and trouble. Keep God near.

