

The New Creature

By Robert Turner

"If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature" (2 Cor.5:17). Obviously his physical characteristics have not changed, and one does not "partake of the divine nature" in its essence. We suggest a comparison study of verses in the frequently parallel letters of Ephesians and Colossians as a clue to this "new" and different man.

Eph. 4:17-32 defines the changed man. "Walk not as the Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind..." "but ye have not so learned Christ; if so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him..." "that ye put off ... the old man ... and be renewed in the spirit of your mind...etc."

Now, compare this with **Col.3:8-17**, "Put off anger, wrath ... seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; and have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him..."

I have emphasized words pertaining to the common thought: the new man thinks differently, i.e., he has new and different standards; one change has taken place in his mind.

The heart (mind) is not different through miraculous operation, but by teaching, hearing, learning

(Jn.6:45). But this "learning" is not simply the accumulation of information ... stored so it may be repeated upon examination. The "spirit of the mind" has been affected or "constrained" by our recognition of Christ's love for us (2 Cor.5:12), so that vanity has been replaced by humility and dependence (Cf. Phil.2:5; 3:15). Expositors say, "It is necessary, therefore, to take pneuma here as our spirit ... the higher faculty in man.... that makes him most akin to God." Without debating the intricacies of mind-spirit, the man is "new" because his understanding has affected his desires, and the new heart bears fruit for God.

Both passages (Eph. and Col.) tell us that the whole of the "new man" includes his conduct. "Just so the heart is right" is an idle gesture. We can not know one's heart, but "by their fruits" men are known (Matt.7: 20). Remission of sins, and heaven, are at the point of doing (Acts 2:38; Rev. 2:10), and short of this point there is no new creature (Matt.7:21).



Sick

Ken Sullivanne	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)
Donna Pridmore (Erin Miller's Mom)	Neal May (Manna Jones' Mother)	Andrew Westphal	Andrew Hagewood (Friend of Sarah Norman)
Betty Bradford	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	Dale Herd (Brother of William Herd)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Eli Williams	Emily Stallings (Anna's sister)	Madi Wise (Friend of the Robert's)
Diane Lewter (Kyle Lewter's mother)	Joe Perkins (Scott Perkin's Dad)	Toni and William Herd	Amy Baswell Hall

May Birthdays

- 2 - Taylor Bethea
- 2 - Emily-Anne Rouse
- 3 - Paula Davis
- 4 - Cadence Pittman
- 10 - Ian Norman
- 10 - Ryan Hasty
- 11 - Scott Perkins
- 11 - Caleb George
- 12 - Daphene Whatley
- 12 - Patrick Davis
- 13 - Jana Hall
- 13 - Anna Grace Long
- 15 - Bryce Daniels
- 18 - Ty Randolph
- 19 - Madison Seals
- 22 - Sarah Holliday
- 24 - Andy Roberts
- 25 - Chuck Hahn
- 26 - Fallon Hartsell
- 28 - Barbara Weeks
- 28 - Candy Long
- 31 - Rachel Tolliver

News and Notes

- Lets keep in our prayers Fallon Hartsell as she is expecting twin girls!
- Will Hollis had identified with the church!
- Congratulations to Stephen and Leah Ambrose on their wedding yesterday!
- VBS postcards are in the foyer. Please be sure to register your children for VBS!
- Be sure to go to www.auchurch.com for latest audio and directory!
- Here is Justin + Karen Padgett's new address: 501 Webster Rd #184, Auburn, 36832

The Auburn Beacon

A weekly publication of the University church of Christ in Auburn, Alabama



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

Volume 5, Issue 29

May 25, 2014

Build, Keeping Emotions in Balance

By Ferrell Jenkins



Thoughts to Ponder

For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness.

(1 Corinthians 1:22-23)

How large is your church?" "What is one of the more common questions that I am asked by outsiders who learn that I am a preacher. We hear of phenomenal growth among certain denominational churches, especially those which put undue emphasis on emotionalism. Examples of unusual and rapid growth are also cited among churches of Christ from time to time.

Don't misunderstand! This writer is opposed to neither growth among the Lord's people nor the proper use of emotions. Growth based on the truth of God is an ideal for which we should long (Eph 4:14-16). We are concerned, however, about growth which is accomplished by maintaining a high peak of excitement or through techniques which are more appropriate to sales promotions than to the gospel of Christ.

Keeping churches small is certainly not our goal. Every person in attendance represents a soul destined for eternity. Churches need to grow, and they will as souls are saved by the gospel of Christ (Rom 1:16-17). The meth-

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od by which the desired growth is achieved is extremely important. Simply preaching and teaching the word of God often seems to yield slim results. In an effort to grow, we are sometimes tempted to use methods which, if not unscriptural, are at best questionable. Here we wish to look at a few of these questionable methods which involve the improper use of emotion.

1. Super Salesmanship Techniques. The church which uses such methods must be highly orga-

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

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
Sunday
Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM
Wednesday
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM
E-Mail:
larryrouse@aubeacon.com

Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor

Check Us Out On the Internet: www.aubeacon.com

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nized into groups with leaders who are responsible for keeping each group motivated. The group must make so many "sales." Everyone must remain excited about the work. Excitement, or enthusiasm, becomes addictive... the group must constantly be "high." The assembly can become a "pep rally" with the elders, the preacher, the announcer, and perhaps even the song leader taking part.

Brethren need to be active in the work of the Lord, but these "super salesmanship techniques" keep one enthused but do nothing to provide a foundation on which to build.

Without this foundation we are sure to **fall (1 Cor 3:10-15)**. Christians are to edify (build up) one another. Notice Paul's instruction along this line even during the days of miraculous gifts (**1 Cor 14:12,26**). The religion of excitement won't do this.

If we want to learn how to motivate Christians we should spend our time studying the methods of Jesus and the apostles rather than the line of books, tapes, videos, and seminars used to motivate sales people. When our assemblies or group meetings sound more like a pep rally for a ball game, or for a sales promotion, than an opportunity to praise God and study His word, we need to become concerned. The narcotic of activism may be lulling us to sleep.

2. Humor. Humor is an interesting and worthwhile human activity. It often occurs naturally or spontaneously when we least expect it. It might be during the Lord's Supper, like when the child standing in the pew beside his mother exclaims aloud, "Wow, I could have had a V⁸!" That's one thing! But intentionally to try to make things funny in order to keep a group excited is improper. A friend told me of visiting a congregation where nearly everyone who took part in the public service began with something "cute." This, I think, is inappropriate.

3. Physical Contact. Some churches fall into the habit of stressing physical contact. Leaders sometime teach this by their example. Saints greet one another with a hug because we are the "family" of God and are supposed to love one another.

In New Testament times, the kiss was a typical form of greeting, even as it still is in the Middle East today. Christians were exhorted to salute one another with a "holy" kiss (**Rom 16:16**). There is nothing wrong with a warm, fervent greeting, per se. We must not make the mistake of assuming that this proves that we "love" one another. Love (Greek: agape) is best expressed by deeds of kindness done for those in need. Christian men and women need to be careful how they embrace one another. Emotions are stirred easily, especially in young men. The attitude can be developed which thinks that others who do not show their love in the same way are not spiritually minded Christians.

Conclusion: When the seventy disciples returned from their first mission, they rejoiced because of the miraculous power they had seen demonstrated even at their own hands. Jesus said, "Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven" (**Luke 10:20**). Their emotions led them in the wrong direction. Our past criticism of the denominational emphasis on emotion has been proper. Now we should examine ourselves to see whether our emotions are balanced with fact and reason. My observation has been that churches which go wild over excitement are just waiting for the fall. Another writer has somewhere pointed out that mushrooms grow overnight, but it takes longer to grow an oak.



When God is With Us

By Bill Hall

I do not care about his race, gender, or station in life. If God is with him, he is the one whose prayers will avail. That person is the richest of all persons. Let each ask himself, "Am I that person?"

In our prayers, I am constantly hearing the expression, 'Be with this one,' and 'Be with that one.' What is meant by the expression? That question was addressed to this writer thirty years ago. He would like to think that the answer given in this article will be more enlightening than the feeble answer given then.

A consideration of the occasions when God said, "I will be with you," should help in providing an answer.

To Moses: When Moses asked, "Who am I that I should go up to Pharaoh?" God replied, "I will certainly be **with you**" (**Exodus 3:12**).

To Joshua: "As I was **with** Moses, so I will be **with you**" (Joshua 1:5). God further assured Joshua that the crossing of the Jordan on dry ground would show the people that "as I was **with** Moses, so I will be **with you**" (**Joshua 3:7**).

To Gideon: "The Lord is **with** you, you mighty man of valor" (**Judges 6:12**).

To David: Saul said to David as he was leaving to face Goliath: "Go, and the Lord be **with you**" (**1 Samuel 17:37**). Two giants faced one another that day: one, a physical giant; the other, a spiritual giant. The difference in the battle was in the fact that God was **with** the spiritual giant and **was not with** the physical giant.

To Jeremiah: "Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am **with you** to deliver you" (**Jeremiah 1:8**).

Obviously, the expression, "I will be with you," is assurance of success in whatever God wants to accomplish through that person whom He is **with**.

Present Day Application

How can a man and his wife leave family and friends to go into some foreign field to preach the gospel? How can they go where custom and language are different and where living standards are far below what they have been accustomed to all their lives? The answer: "And lo, I am **with you** always, even to the end of the age" (**Matthew 28:19,20**).

How can a Christian face death in peace, with confidence as he passes from this life into the realms that he beyond? The answer: "Yes, though I walk through the val-

ley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art **with me**" (**Psalms 23:4**).

"Be with me, Lord, no other gift or blessing,

Thou couldst bestow could with this one compare;

A constant sense of Thy a abiding presence,

Wher-e'er I am to feel that Thou art near." - T. O. Chisolm

When God is Not with Us

If success is assured when God is with us, failure results when God is

not with us. After the Israelites in their lack of faith refused to enter the promised land (**Numbers 14:1-4**), some had a change of heart and decided to go up after all. Moses warned them that they would not succeed, but would fall by the sword:

"Because you have turned away from the Lord, the Lord **will not be with you**" (**Numbers 14:43**). Their efforts indeed failed. One may appear to succeed for a while when the Lord is not with him, but eventually he will fail.

Conditions to be Met

What must be true of one if God is to be with him? The answer is found in God's statement to Jeroboam after promising him ten of the twelve tribes: "Then it shall be, if you heed all that I command you, walk in My ways, and do what is right in My sight, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as My servant David did, then I will be **with you** and build for you an enduring house" (**1 Kings 11:38**). Unfortunately, Jeroboam chose to follow his own ways rather than God's, and consequently his name ranks among the infamous.

When my loved ones are sick, or I am facing surgery, or am leaving for gospel meetings, or am in distress in any way, I want the prayers of that person whom God is with. I do not care about his race, gender, or station in life. If God is with him, he is the one whose prayers will avail. That person is the richest of all persons. Let each ask himself, "Am I that person?"

"Go, and the Lord be with you."

