

“Extremist Cult”

How will the liberal agenda begin the intimidation process against Bible-based churches? The fires of testing are beginning to stage the attack to silence churches that openly teach what the Bible says about the sexual immorality of homosexual activity. Not that this is the only sin we might preach about, but if you preach about it at all you fit the "hate crime". Already in parts of our present world the media has labeled Christians as “extremist cults”.

How many will go into silent mode? How many will abandon local churches to avoid persecution and intimidation? The brainwashing is actually happening through early public schooling. Those who stand upon the word of God will be hated and branded as "haters" and "extremist cults".

When the fires of testing begin at home, how prepared are you to stand up for Jesus and the inspired word of God? Some will begin

By Terry W. Benton “rethinking” whether those parts of the Bible were really inspired and will conveniently dismiss those parts, which means that they will compromise truth for the sake of convenience. Some within local churches will demand that topics not be mentioned or spoken about to avoid public labeling.

What was freedom of speech and freedom of religion in this country and common knowledge may soon be labeled as “extremist cults”. The fires of testing will sort the gold, silver, and precious stone believers from the “believers” who are wood, hay, and stubble (1 Cor.3). It will purify and solidify the true believer and will burn up those who have no depth of love and commitment to the Lord. When the smoke clears, where will you be standing? Where are you standing now?



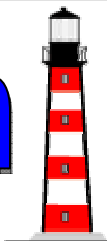
Sick			
Kevin Simpson (Bob Simpson's son)	Owen Mauldin (Seth and Summer Mauldin's Son)	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	Sandlyn Fultz (Davis Fultz's Sister)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)	David Hartsell (Holly and Brad's Father)	Kate Miller (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 Perkins' Dad)	Toni and William Herd	Amy Baswell Hall

July Birthdays
3 - Nathan Rouse
6 - Nathan Bradshaw
6 - Katie Carter
7 - Chris Thompson
11 - Madi White
11 - Chase Winslett
11 - Clay Morris
11 - Hope Walker
14 - Laurel Jerkins
15 - Bradley Seymore
19 - Ben Holcomb
25 - Yvette Rouse
26 - Brandon Hester
28 - Jacob Bradshaw

News and Notes
☒ - Lets keep in our prayers our expectant mothers, Fallon Hartsell and Brittany Bagent!
☒ - Remember Ryan and Jennifer in your prayers as Ryan is preaching in Sough Africa.
☒ - Class on evangelism this Tuesday at 7:30 at Ashton Guy's apartment.
☒ - Remember Hollis Creel in your prayers as he is in very serious condition.
☒ - We welcome the Borden's to the university church: Jay and Bridgett, Gabby, Spencer, Sophie and Molly.
☒ - Remember Tim Morton in your prayers as he is deployed to Afghanistan.
☒ - Remember Mark Dean (Logan's father) in your prayers as he has esophageal cancer.
☒ - Remember Stephen Guy (Yvette's brother) in your prayers as he is to have a 3rd neck surgery this week.
☒ - Congratulations to Tyler and Sarah Claxton in their marriage last week.

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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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Getting Tougher Minded

By Gardner S. Hall



Thoughts to Ponder

".... choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." (Joshua 24:15)

The June issue of The Rotarian has an excellent article on the subject: "Let's Get Tougher Minded." Under the title there is a cartoon that appears to picture a book burning. We read of an event like that in the Bible (Eph. 19: 18, 19). I wish I had space to reproduce most of this article. While it is not applied particularly to religious subjects, and the author might not approve of such an application, it really is most important when applied in this realm.

The article has to do with the weak cowardly spirit that assents to wrong because it is to spineless to speak up for the right.

He does not advocate blunt, harsh answers when error is taught, but does encourage asking questions and bringing out the wrong and exposing it. Let me quote a little.

"These incidents are examples of a malady I call softening of the mind. It is not a new sickness — but it is spreading. It arises from the failure to ask questions of a subject or speaker. Montigne decided those persons who have not

"A tough controversialist listens with more alertness than the rest of us. He misses nothing of what the Other person is saying, but at the same time he is passing judgment, questioning conclusions as well as premises, and formulating what he is to say in reply. The tough mind grapples with basic ideas. He doesn't surrender his judgment."

the courage to correct, because they have not the courage to suffer correction, and always speak with dissimulation in the presence of another.' Emerson's biographer said that as a young man the sage of Concord 'retreated before every confident person... he listened like a willow; he took the contagion of everyone's views and utterly lost his own.'

"The trouble seems to be that when a persuasive person is talking we tend to surrender our judgment to

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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

(Continued from page 1)

the force of his words. Our opinion then becomes that of the last positive fellow with whom we have talked . . ."

"A tough controversialist listens with more alertness than the rest of us. He misses nothing of what the Other person is saying, but at the same time he is passing judgment, questioning conclusions as well as premises, and formulating what he is to say in reply. The tough mind grapples with basic ideas. He doesn't surrender his judgment.

"Nor is he troubled by a desire to conform. That's another tenderizer of minds. Many men fear being in a minority quite as much as being caught in a public place dressed only in a breech clout. They speak of the ignominy of 'losing my vote' to characterize a failure to be on the winning side of a political issue.

"Several influences today tend to exaggerate this condition. One is the new Pollyanna inspirational literature: honey catches more flies than vinegar, therefore use honey even on your leafy green salad. 'Thou shalt always be constructive and positive, never destructive and negative' is the First Commandment of this faith. That's equivalent to saying that if you're starting to do a slum-clearance job, you simply begin construction and forget about tearing down the old rat nests.

"Thus, a strategy that is good under some circumstances can evolve into a fetish for every occasion. The new way offers an easy setup for the clever propagandist . . .

"When a salesman 'throws his pitch,' demand documented proof of his claim, whether it be for a patent medicine or a new social system. (Or a church, institution or religious doctrine. And, of course, in religion the document must be the New Testament—G. S. H.) When he's asking you to put your money (or your soul—G. S. H.) into a new proposition, you are entitled to say to Him: 'I'm sure you're an honest man. But you'll admit you are an interested

party. Give me 'evidence other than your unsupported statement about this deal.' If he supplies a reference, (Scripture reference in religion — G. S. H.) confirm it. As a consistent practice, that attitude would avoid many an unwise purchase. But it requires a bit of iron in the personality, and the same practice a prudent man follows in buying a commodity should be used in buying an idea.

"The habit of asking questions is the major resource of the tough mind. Questions can be used for a great variety of purposes. You can ask them to elicit information, to express skepticism, to confirm a suspicion, to confuse an opponent, to gain time, to create a diversion. A talker who was attacking a Congressional investigation of subversive activities said that 'many a good man's reputation has been smirched by the investigators.'

"Who, for instance?" he was asked. After fumbling a bit he cited two names. That gave the other man the opening he wanted, because he could show that one of the names had in no sense been 'smirched,' and that the other had later been proved to be a Communist conspirator."

Now my friends and brethren, this is fine counsel. In substance it says, Don't accept some view because it comes from a big preacher, or from the majority of preachers. Test it. It is saying, Search the Scriptures daily to see if these things are so (**Acts 17:11**). This is the application of the principles announced as they pertain to religion. I think I know some subjects most of you would change on overnight if the majority of the preachers should change. Beware of putting your faith in preachers! Let them teach you, but demand the proof and check it. Practice this with all preachers and teachers—those in the church of Christ as well as in denominations. If all should begin this "tougher minded" practice it would revolutionize religion!

Preceptor – July 1954



How to Make a Bad Decision

By Bubba Garner

It is not wrong to choose. That's the way God made us, to be creatures of choice. Life, in its very nature, is a series of decisions. Some prove to be rather insignificant, but others are quite crucial. Once they are made, lasting consequences flow from them. They include: *who will I chose for my friends, will I become a Christian, where will I go to college, who will I marry, what will I do for a living, where will I raise my family?*

In **Genesis 13**, Lot made such a choice, one that changed the direction of the remainder of his days. If you desire to have his lot in life, follow these steps on how to make a bad decision.

Step 1: Think for yourself. Think *about* yourself, that is. Take no thought as to how your decision will affect anyone but you. When Abraham gave him the first pick of the land, the text says that "Lot chose for himself" (**13:19**). There is nothing wrong with taking yourself into account when you choose. The danger is when you take nothing or no one else into account.

Lot didn't think about Abram. He wouldn't have even *had* any livestock and herdsmen to strive with were it not for his uncle. The Lord had blessed Abram greatly where they were in Egypt, and Lot was just a long for the ride. Not only that, Abram had been promised the land for his innumerable descendants. But Lot chose the well-watered plain of Jordan for himself.

Lot didn't think about his family. He didn't consider what would be best for his wife and daughters. He didn't imagine the influence that Sodom would have on his family, he just saw the affluence he could gain by moving near a city of renown.

Perhaps the only other thing Lot thought about, besides himself, was his livestock. He knew they would benefit from the lush, verdant pastures. But, as Thaxter Dickey once observed, "sheep don't have souls, daughters do."

Lot chose for himself. Any decision that does not take into account you and your family's relationship with God and the people of God deserves to be reevaluated.

Step 2: Show no regard for the subtlety of sin. Lot didn't plan to go as far as he did. "He settled in the cities of the valley, and moved his tents as far as Sodom" (**Gen. 13:12**). While Abraham was building altars to the Lord near the oaks of Mamre, Lot was pitching tents closer and closer to a city where not ten righteous people could be found. And in the next chapter, he was no longer satisfied with building temporary dwellings, "for he

was living in Sodom" (**14:12**). Yet he did not see the potential danger of that when he chose for himself the well-watered plain.

That's how the devil operates, working on us a little at a time. He doesn't just barge through the door; he sticks his foot in. Then, he inches his way in slowly but surely. And before you know what's happened, he's standing next to you in the room. Don't underestimate him.

We make his job a lot easier when we make choices that put us closer to him. Paul did not say to abstain from evil, he said to abstain from every *appearance* of evil (**1 Thess 5:22**), the very form of it. It's just about impossible to get burned if you stay away from the fire. Instead of staying away, we're straying away.

Step 3: Be more concerned about income than outcome. By his own choice, Lot lost a lot. If only he would have thought less about what he had to gain and more about what he had to lose.

He lost his peace of mind. Peter comments that "while living among them, he felt his righteous soul tormented day after day with their lawless deeds" (**2 Pet. 2:8**).

He lost his earthly goods. Whatever was not taken from him during the war (**Gen. 14:11-12**) was destroyed with the rest of the city (**19:24-25**). That's the way of earthly treasures—they're fleeting and easily relinquished.

He lost his wife. As they fled from the fire and brimstone, she looked back and became a pillar of salt. While she was responsible for disobeying the command, Lot was the one who made the decision to move her there.

He lost his two daughters. When they escaped to the hills, they got their father drunk and had sexual relations with him to preserve the family line. Where do you think they learned that?

Perhaps we would be more careful in our choices if we would just imagine the end result of them. Everyone wants the ability to make their own decisions. But few bear the responsibility of where those decisions lead them. There is no such thing as sowing without reaping.

Choose today to follow Jesus, to selflessly serve the Lord, to deny all that is ungodly. It is the best decision you'll ever make and one that you'll never regret.

