

A Hard Lesson to Learn!

It is that “lessons that we learn don’t stay ‘learned’”....

By Aubrey Belue

The Bible is full of “teaching moments” – circumstances and instructions intended to help us avoid some of the same consequences suffered by our ancestors. The record of them is left “for our learning” (**Rom 15:4**). Israel’s sad decline and eventual destruction is well documented in O.T. History – Paul says these things were “written as an example, and are for OUR admonition” (**1 Cor 10:11**).

Generally speaking, worldliness, materialism, complacency and compromise brought Israel to its knees, and its ultimate downfall – and yet, here WE are!

Soothing platitudes, teaching designed for itching ears, and a lack of needed knowledge – due in large part to the self-serving omission by its “leaders” of the downside to disobedience--made Israel vulnerable to apostasy and idolatry. But, again, here WE are.

And we need not go that far back – each generation faces similar dangers, with similar results. Over my life time (and that of other “old folks” like me) there have been several predictable cycles of the ebb and flow of effective and distinctive discipleship. Issues of worldliness, materialism, complacency and compromise were not just Israel’s problem – they are ours as well. One

would be hard pressed to find a congregation today that was strong and distinctive 50 years ago...their failure to “stay learned” is obvious in the stages of their evolution - most have either imbibed the “spirit of the age” (turning to gimmicks and a changing dynamic to survive, even in a corrupted form), or dwindled down to a few who remember the “former glory”, and day dream about it to each other and to the next unstirred and unmotivated generation.

Preachers and pastors with less than pure motives and less than adequate knowledge of the principles and plan of God continually leave us exposed to the “ravaging wolves” that are always near.

As it is said, “those who refuse to learn from history are doomed to repeat it”.... Praise God for the few who prove themselves exceptions to the rule – in some places there are encouraging signs. Whether they prove to be fruitful will depend in part upon the impact the lessons of the past have made upon them. It has always been a fight, and the weapons never change. Let us not forget the lessons we have learned on how to use them!



Sick			
Brad Marshall (Allie Hosey's Cousin)	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)
Betty Mcareavey (Mary Ann Roberts' mom)	Neal May (Manna Jones' Mother)	Mark Dean (Father of Logan Dean)	Jerry Foropoulos (Anna Jean's Uncle)
Jon Jon Henderson (Suzanne Stagner's cousin)	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	Bob Cannon (Friend of Holly Law)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Dale Herd and Alice Nutt (William Herd's Siblings)	Emily Stallings (Anna's sister)	Ted Nelson (Sheryl Fowler's Cousin)
Lisa Carter (Josh and Luke Carter's mother)	Joe Perkins (Scott Perkin's Dad)	Toni and William Herd	Tom Davis (Walker Davis' Uncle)

November Birthdays

- 2 - Debbi Coleman
- 6 - Troy Godwin
- 6 - Bridgette Borden
- 7 - Amy Godwin
- 7 - Leah Donahue
- 8 - Ashley Miller
- 9 - Darla Hahn
- 9 - Casie Spencer
- 11 - Andrew Hahn
- 13 - Toni Herd
- 13 - Emerson Daniels
- 13 - Dylan Bartlett
- 13 - Ronaldo Henriquez
- 15 - Jon Hornback
- 16 - Nicole Pender
- 16 - Alexander Dunaway
- 16 - Victoria Dunaway
- 23 - Mary Ann Roberts
- 24 - John Burns
- 25 - Silas Weldon
- 27 - Scott Fowler
- 28 - Will Harris
- 30 - David Simpson

News and Notes

- ☒ - Lets keep in our prayers our expectant mothers, Laura Humphrey, Brittany Bagents, Shang Li and Jana Hall!
- ☒ - Hope Walker's great grandfather, Bill Brandon, died on Tuesday.
- ☒ - Remember Tim Morton in your prayers as he is deployed to Afghanistan.
- ☒ - Let us remember all of those who are travelling this week.
- ☒ - Bethany Marchman was baptized into Christ on Friday!
- ☒ - There will be a college devotional next Sunday night at Jared and Holly Johnson's house.
- ☒ - Be sure to go to www.auchurch.com for the latest audio and membership directory.

The Auburn Beacon



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

The Power of a Relationship

By Larry Rouse



Thoughts to Ponder

For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ. (**Galatians 1:10**)

God created man to be a social creature. Because of this everyone has a God-given need to form relationships with others. And the LORD God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him. (**Gen 2:18**)” God let Adam first see his need for companionship and then responded by creating Eve (**Gen 2:19-23**). Today there are many, because of their immaturity or because of their past hurts, that have tried to deny this need and live apart from others. All who take this path will live a lonely and painful life.

Our need for a relationship is also central in God’s drawing us to Him. God’s care, His understanding, His wanting to listen and communicate with us and His willingness to know and meet our real needs are revealed in the scriptures. “How precious *is* Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings” (**Psa 36:7**).

The real focus of our faith is found in coming to “know God.” “And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent” (**Jn 17:3**). When we do this, we will slowly be changed to be like Him. Those who “walk with God” will find their lives transformed and filled.

Our adversary, Satan, will not sit idly by without trying to destroy this relationship by offering substitutes. I believe this is Satan’s most powerful weapon.

As Christians, we need to look carefully at which relationship is the most important to us, that of God or that of other men. From doctrinal issues, to the use of our time and our lives, our priorities in relationships will be seen.

As Christians, we need to look carefully at which relationship is the most important to us, that of God or that of other men. From doctrinal issues, to the use of our time and our lives, our priorities in relationships will be seen. May we always stand with Paul as he wrote: “For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ” (**Gal 1:10**).

The Example of Korah

Over the years I have seen men do things that made no sense whatsoever, until I examined their relationships. One of the more stunning examples in the Bible of how a relationship could influ-

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Sunday
Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM
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Bible Classes.....7:00 PM
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ence others is found in the rebellion of Korah. Korah led a very "effective" rebellion against Moses. He used his relationship with "men of renown" to sway a majority of people to claim Moses and Aaron had cheated them by bidding upon them their "traditional" view of the unique work of the priesthood. "They gathered together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, *'You take too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?'*" (Num 16:3).

Once the discussion turned from the revealed will of God to man's sense of "fairness" then Satan was able to use all of the tools in his arsenal. No doubt that these leaders of the various families had time to spread their anger in private meetings about the "legalism" of Moses and Aaron in their insistence that only priests could be used in the offering of incense in worship to God. Anger is an effective tool in shutting down the mind and inciting men to "mob action." "A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city, And contentions are like the bars of a castle" (Prov 18:19).

Most of those in the wilderness did not know God, and, as a result, they failed to reasonably look to see how God had displayed His authority so that they could clearly know His will. From the signs given to Pharaoh in the freeing of the people, to the parting of the Red Sea and ultimately in the delivering of the 10 commandments, God had shown to Israel over and over again that Moses was His spokesman. Many of the people, however, because of their relationships, were not going to accept this truth.

The Destruction of Korah and his Associates

The end of Korah and his fellow troublemakers was predicable. After several appeals to reason, God made a powerful display of His wrath upon Korah's new approach to worship. Imagine watching this scene as "the ground split apart under them, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the men with Korah, with all their goods. So they and all those with them went down alive into the pit; the earth closed over them, and they perished from among the assembly" (Num 16:31-33).

The Stunning Response of the People

After seeing this incredible display of the direct wrath of God, any rational man would assume that the people would now understand God's way and the role that Moses played as God's servant. Here is where we see the diabolical power of relationships in the

hands of Satan. The poison had already been effectively delivered by Korah in destroying the respect the people should have had for Moses. Because these falsehoods had been delivered by ungodly men that the people had come to trust and love but were now dead, these people are now ready to fight Moses, God and anything else that got in their way of their anger. "On the next day all the congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, saying, 'You have killed the people of the LORD' (Num 16:41). Did Moses open up the earth and cause these men to be swallowed up? No, but these people clearly wanted the relationship with these ungodly men over a relationship with God. All of these men died in the wilderness and never entered the Promised Land.

The Battle Before Us Today

I have seen the rebellion of Korah replayed many times in my life. As churches are swept away by apostasy, most "arguments" consist of social pressure and ridicule rather than an open study before the God that we should fully trust. Great preachers, influential men and past "great" relationships are held before us as "proof" that we are "traditionalists" or "legalists" and therefore should line up with the majority. Others will follow their children in rebellion by "restudying" the subject of divorce and remarriage after their offspring needed to justify a new marriage that was contrary to God's teachings. Others will blindly follow editors of gospel papers, or elders of local churches out of a loyalty to a relationship and in opposition to the plain teachings of God's word.

The Path Less Traveled

Build your faith upon God. Come to know His will and turn away from those who would use social pressure to bring you into bondage to men. While you may lose relationships, you will never be alone. Remember the words of our Lord Jesus Christ: "These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. ²They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me" (Jn 16:1-3) Later in the same chapter Jesus pointed to His future example: "Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world. (Jn 16:32-33)"

Let us draw near to our God that will never leave us alone!



Shall We Let Peace Settle Among the Churches?

Author Unknown

There is a peace which hell approves, and a war that heaven sanctions. One is the brush of the vampire's wing, humming the lullaby of death. The other, like the anguish pains of travail, eventuates in life and joy and beauty. (Jn. 16:21) Since Satan usurped the world and the heart, he is for peace—peaceable possession. The strong man armed having gained the palace, would keep his goods in peace. So the wolf in the fold craves freedom from hindrance while destroying the flock. "Let us alone, what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth" (Luke 4:34), is the abject, base, cowardly, deprecatory, let-us-have peace policy of demons. . . . But there is, there can be no peace. An irrepressible conflict has been inaugurated. The "enmity" has been divinely put (Gen. 3:15). The presence of sin in the moral alembic excites to their intensest activity the expelling energies of holiness. Truth waits not to be attacked, but marshals her hosts for aggressive war. She neither sends nor receives truce, but fights to the death. The horsemen of Israel are rough riders, the chariots thereof rush furiously along the steepes of sin. God's heroes have ever been troublemakers of the world. Enoch the seventh from Adam, reproving an ungodly race. Noah, a preacher of righteousness, condemning all the world except his own little family (how very uncharitable in that old-fashioned saint). Moses in the Egyptian Court with his hated refrain, "Thus saith the Lord, let my people go, that they may serve me;" with Elijah and Micah (I Kings 18:17), whose names come to us across the ages as the troublemakers of wicked kings and idolatrous priests; these only anticipate the Captain of our salvation, who came, not to send peace, but a sword (Matt. 10:34); to kindle a fire (Luke 12:49), to produce division, and set mankind at variance. In righteousness doth he make war. The stronger than the strong man (Luke 11:22) hath taken from him his armor wherein he trusted. . . . The weapon in which the strong man trusted is taken from him. Death is destroyed, captivity led captive. The Lord is a man of war. The Lord hath triumphed glorious The Lord, strong and mighty in battle, hath all our foes overcome; and now by death we shall be saved from death and life eternal gain...

Tremble not, soldier of the cross, at the trumpet blast of strife. It is the stern necessity of our fallen state The healing virtue imparted to Siloam's waters must be diffused from the troubling angel's wing. Liberty blooms in the track of revolution. Religion is not the frail, sickly sentimentalism that many paint it. Its baby clothes were

sprinkled with the blood of Bethlehem's slaughtered innocents. The good fight of faith is a great fight of affliction. Christianity is a nursing of the storm; was rocked into vigor upon the purple crest of opposition. The apostles, as they sped along the highways of earth with the message of salvation, were hailed as the troublemakers of cities, and upside-down turners of the world. Princes trembled in their presence; the faces of priests gathered blackness. Hated of all men for His name's sake, they ceased not from aggressive war till judgment was brought forth unto victory; rested not, but resisted unto blood, striving against sin, and now await the victor's crown beneath the altar. Shall we be worthy the society of those who attained heaven thru much tribulation? Of some it is said they shall walk in white, for they are worthy. What is it to be worthy of the world to come? The soldier who endures with his leader the toil of the weary march and the dangers of battle, is accounted worthy to share with him the wealth of victory and glory of the triumph....

We may not die for Christ, but much weariness and painfulness attend upon the church heavenward. We war against spiritual wickedness in high places, and what is more difficult to subdue the promptings of our own sinful hearts. Luther was wont to say that he feared his own heart more than the pope and all his cardinals. The conflict between the law in our members (Rom. 7) and the law of the spirit will end only with life. Let us put on the whole armour, and praying with all prayer, and watching thereunto, gird ourselves anew for the fight. . . . Shall we in the "storms that sweep our wintry sky," hear "the sound of a going," and arouse us to smite the hosts of the enemy (2 Sam. 5:24). The "conflict of ages" was never more sanguine than now. Never was sin more impudent in its mien, nor potent in its sway. Inadequate views of the malignant nature and tendency of sin, coupled with a chilling indifference, is the bane of the present generation. O, that the "enmity" between us and the serpent were quickened anew. All intelligences, supernal and infernal, are actively engaged. Shall man, on account of whom this strife is waged, remain neutral? - Bible Index, January, 1874

