

# Sleeping and Awakenings in the Lord's Care

"I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; For You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety." - **Psalm 4:8 NKJV**

"Give ear to my words, O Lord, Consider my meditation. Give heed to the voice of my cry, My King and my God, For to You I will pray. My voice You shall hear in the morning, O Lord; In the morning I will direct it to You, And I will look up." - **Psalm 5:1-3 NKJV**

If we are serving God as we ought, we have this comfort. We can pray to God and know that He will hear and He will answer (**Jas 5:16**). However if we're living unrighteous lives, our Lord will not answer our cries for we are separated from Him so long as we live in sin. Were you able to rest peacefully last night due to your pure state before Him; have you awakened this morning to praise and glorify His name, giving thanks for yet another day to serve Him? Will you live in such a manner as to abide in His care throughout this day, will you draw near to Him, will you serve Him faithfully (**Jas 4:7-8**)?

If we abide in Him, we shall surely dwell in safety and in peace; if we abide not in Him, sheer terror awaits us for

By Matt Adams

eternity (**Ps 23; Mt 25:41-46**). The choice is ours. What shall we do with this day, while it is still called "today" (**Heb 3:12-13; Mt 6:25-34**)?

"Come and hear, all you who fear God, And I will declare what He has done for my soul. I cried to Him with my mouth, And He was extolled with my tongue. If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear. But certainly God has heard me; He has attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, Who has not turned away my prayer, Nor His mercy from me!" - **Psalm 66:16-20 NKJV**

"I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. May my meditation be sweet to Him; I will be glad in the Lord. May sinners be consumed from the earth, And the wicked be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul! Praise the Lord!" - **Psalm 104:33-35 NKJV**

### Classes This Week

<b>Sunday PM</b> College Devo and Singing at the Johnson's. Brad Golden teaching!	<b>Thursday 7 PM</b> Ladies Class at the Rouse's with Countess Carswell teaching: "Ecclesiastes"	<b>Saturday 6-8 PM</b> 1st-5th grade from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Rouses.	<b>Saturday 6:30-8:30 PM</b> 6th-12th grade from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at TBD
--	---	--	---

### 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)	Amy Baswell Hall	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)

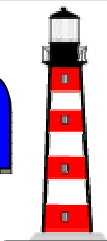
### December Birthdays

- 2 - Brady Peek
- 4 - Justin Padgett
- 5 - Rusty Weldon
- 5 - Charlie Johnson
- 5 - Drew Ogles
- 5 - Allie Hosey
- 7 - Michaela Walton
- 8 - Macy Johnson
- 13 - Dave Hosey
- 13 - Will Bruce Harris
- 14 - Beth Lingerfelt
- 16 - Cliff Parsons
- 17 - Joseph Miller
- 18 - Tin-Yau Tam
- 20 - Chris Zeannah
- 20 - Meredith Reid
- 20 - Micah Waters
- 21 - Holly Johnson
- 22 - William Herd
- 22 - Laura Abell
- 22 - Carter Burns
- 24 - Ryan Yates
- 24 - Jessica Yates
- 27 - Jacob Neeley
- 28 - Ebony Morrison
- 28 - Turner Stephens
- 28 - Gabby Borden
- 29 - Christian McGee
- 30 - Holly Law
- 30 - Justin Miller

### News and Notes

- ☒ - Lets keep in our prayers our expectant mothers, Laura Humphrey, Brittany Bagents, Shang Li and Jana Hall!
- ☒ - Easton Nash is in the hospital receiving antibiotics for an infection.
- ☒ - Remember Tim Morton in your prayers as he is deployed to Afghanistan.
- ☒ - Let us continue to remember all of those who are travelling!
- ☒ - Clint Stagner broke a wrist and fractured the other arm last week!
- ☒ - Clint Stagner's grandfather, Joe Stagner, died last week and the funeral is today in Alex City. (2:00 at Hillview Cemetery)
- ☒ - Group meetings are tonight.

# 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**)

Volume 6, Issue 4

November 30, 2014

## The Awesome Power of God

By Warren E. Berkley



### Thoughts to Ponder

O LORD, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all. The earth is full of Your possessions. (**Psalms 104:24**)

The universe continues to function according to design. We know upon what day the shortest day of the year will occur, and the longest. We know when the next solar eclipse will take place, how complete it will be, and from where it will be visible. And we expect to see both rain and sunshine in the coming days; seasons giving way to years.

What causes the world to be as it is? Many explanations have been offered by mankind; and many discarded. Some of these explanations are found in the myth and superstition of man. Ancient civilizations of both hemispheres; the Babylonians, Egyptians, Aztecs and Mayans.

More recently, some have sought the answer by purely natural means. The shortcoming of these explanations is that, while they work reasonably well up to a point, they can never really explain how things began from nothing.

Then, there is the supernatural/natural explanation. This view holds that God created matter and the natural laws by which it is governed. The universe continues to operate according to His grand design in a natural way (**Ps 104:10-14, 18,19,24,25,30**).

As a believer in God, I believe that this latter explanation best answers the questions of origins. God is the cause

Some fail to make the proper connection (and distinction) between something God has done and God Himself. We look at the thing that has been done, admiring its beauty or design forgetting that the source of the beauty or design is God.

of these things working as they do so that our world is as it is (**Mt 5:45; Col 1:16,17; Heb 1:2,3**).

Some fail to make the proper connection (and distinction) between something God has done and God Himself. We look at the thing that has been done, admiring its beauty or design forgetting that the source of the beauty or design is God.

Noah's Ark: -- "...and only Noah was left, together with those that were with him on the ark." (**Gen 7:23b cf vss 17-22**).

(Continued on page 2)

**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

Larry Rouse  
Evangelist and Editor

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

*(Continued from page 1)*

God's judgment came upon the ancient world for its evil. Noah found favor in the eyes of God, and obeyed Him when instructed to do a strange thing; build a boat.

He was probably mocked and ridiculed by many who ignored his pleas with them to repent. Only when the water began to rise and lift up the huge ark did they begin to wish they had Noah's boat-building ability. If this is so, then they still would miss the mark.

This is because it was not Noah's boat-building ability that saved him. It was God's power. God's power saved Noah because Noah had obeyed God, putting his faith and trust in Him. Without his obedience, Noah and his family would have perished along with the others of his day, but still the source of Noah's salvation was not Noah, in and of himself and his own special wisdom and insight, but God.

Moses Staff: -- "And as for you, lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, and the sons of Israel shall go through the midst of the sea on dry land." **(Ex 14:16; cf. vss. 15-28)**.

If I had been an Egyptian soldier in the company of a great number of comrades, armed and ready for battle, chasing down a mob of defenseless families, I think I would be confident of victory. As we followed that unarmed mass into the dry land in the midst of the sea, with the water standing up on both sides of me, perhaps my confidence would be in a state of free fall. As the waters began to collapse upon us, as I looked to the distant shore and saw Moses standing there having withdrawn that staff, I think I would be desperate to have that staff to hold out over the sea as he did. But the staff would not have helped me.

This is because the power was not in the staff, nor in Moses. The power was God's. The staff merely had a role to play in meeting God's condition for the releasing of His power.

The Bronze Serpent: -- "Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a standard; and it shall come about that everyone, when he is bitten, when he looks at it he shall live'" **(Num 21:8 cf. vss. 5-9)**.

Of course, this was not some sort of medical breakthrough. The power was not in the serpent of molten brass, but in God. Centuries later, people would

idolize the serpent, looking upon it as some sort of magical item (1 Kgs. 18:1-6). It was not. But people do similar things today with objects they esteem to be special. The Shroud of Turin comes to mind. And we have all witnessed the trek of many to see "weeping" statues and similar phenomena.

The Ark Of The Covenant: -- "...let us take the ark of the covenant of the Lord, that it may come among us and deliver us from the power of our enemies" (1 Sam. 4:3b; cf. vss. 1-4).

The Israelites during this period of their history were not being very true to the Law of God. But they did think the ark of the covenant, made some 400 years before, contained some mystical power that would help them defeat their enemies if they took it to battle with them.

Faithful living before God would have been much more beneficial to them. The power was in God; not in the ark. Of course, failing to realize this, they lost the battle.

The Jordan River: -- "So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean" **(2 Kgs 5:14; cf. vss. 9-14)**.

Naaman was healed of his leprosy, but not by the power in the waters of the Jordan. It was God's power that had healed Naaman when he had placed his confidence in the Word of the Lord by obeying.

Baptism: -- The point of the above examples is the same. Today, with respect to salvation, the power to save is God and His Word **(Rom 1:16,17)**. He does so in His own way, according to His own purpose. The power is not in the water of baptism, nor in our efforts to be baptized. But baptism is still the condition God has appointed which, when we meet it, His power will wash our sins away **(Acts 22:16)**. Just as certainly as Noah had to build an ark, or Naaman had to dip seven times, we must be baptized **(Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:27; Col. 2:12)**. In obeying the gospel, we are not showing confidence in ourselves or our works, but in God and His power to save us **(1 Pet. 3:20,21; Rom. 6:3,4)**. Whether Moses' staff or a brass serpent, the power belongs to God, and we must obey Him.



## The Christian's Earthly Life

By Edward o. Bragwell, Sr.

But, as a Christian focuses on the life to come, he can live a happy and productive life here in the face of the all the difficulties involved, because of the mind-set that faithfully studying and practicing God's will create within him.

The life of, even the best among Christians, is one of both joy and suffering. They suffer their share of all the infirmities common to all people as a result of living in a world marred by sin. Like all people, they hurt (physically and mentally), they have tragedies that affect their lives and those they love, they are victims of the sins of others, and they have to earn a living by the "sweat of their brow," just as do others. The list could go on.

They, also, enjoy and participate in many of the innocent pleasures enjoyed by their neighbors. They rejoice with those that rejoice as well as weep with those that weep, even with their non-Christian neighbors.

Besides the problems common to man, Christians take on the additional responsibilities and problems in being obedient to the faith. Persecution, in some form, goes with the territory. **(2 Tim 3:12)**. They add suffering as Christians, to their suffering as humans. Besides all this, they are not promised relief from poverty or physical infirmities, as the "health and wealth" gospelers deceptively proclaim. Without the hope of life beyond this life, they would indeed be a people to be pitied. **(1 Cor 15:19, 32)**. But, as a Christian focuses on the life to come, he can live a happy and productive life here in the face of the all the difficulties involved, because of the mind-set that faithfully studying and practicing God's will create within him.

1. It is a mind-set that considers all his suffering insignificant compared the glory he sees awaiting him. **(Rom 8:18)**.

2. It is a mind-set that is convinced that godliness is profitable both in this life and the one which to come **(1 Pt 4:8)**. He knows that his life might not give the most fleshly pleasure or best earthly advantage –

but he knows it is still the most profitable life that he can live.

3. It is a mind-set that believes that God only does what is best for him. He understands that God only commands what is good for him **(Deut 10:13)**. That is why he does not consider the commands a burden **(1 John 5:3)**. He knows that while God's discipline may cause pain for the present, but it will bear pleasant fruit in the future. **(Heb 12)**.

4. It is a mind-set that can rejoice and be content in the midst of circumstances that would overwhelm others. **(Acts 5:40-41; Phil. 4:11; 2 Cor 12:10)**.

5. It is a mind-set of a pilgrim in a foreign land. **(1 Pt 2:11)**. He joyfully seeks to do all the good he can do and enjoy all of God's temporal blessings while passing through this present world, but always looking to the day of his homecoming. **(Tit 2:11-13)**.

