

Our Oneness in Christ

While having dinner with some folks during a gospel meeting some years ago, we were treated by a near monologue from one of our fellow dinner guests. He was telling us why he and his wife were more comfortable in the former congregation they attended more than in the one they now attended. They presently attended where our hosts were members and I was preaching in the meeting. The reason for their enjoying the former group was that most of them were nearer to their "socioeconomic status," which he obviously thought to be quite high. Being the nice cultured fellow that I am, I bit my tongue and did not say the first thing that came to my mind, which was, "Why don't you go back to where you came from."

If there is any place where people can feel like, and be treated on equal footing, it ought to be in the congregations of God's people. Being in Christ is a great equalizer. Both the rich and the poor should feel both "poor in spirit" (Mt 5:3) and "rich in faith" (Jas 2:5) at the same time. Paul said of those in Christ: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Je-

sus." (Gal 3:28 KJV) This covers ethic, social, and gender differences.

An informed humble faithful Christian recognizes that all people are really of one ethic background. All came originally from one couple and then from four couples. (Gen 1, 2, 6). He recognizes that the "bond" (low on the socioeconomic scale) are "free" in Christ and the "free" man realizes he is under servitude to Christ and righteousness. (1 Cor 7:22; Rom 6). He realizes that, while the roles of males and females differ because of the creation and fall of man (1 Tim 2:11-14), both males and females are "heirs together of the grace of life." (Cf. 1 Pt 3:7).

In Christ and His local churches, there is no room for any "Big I's and little you's" because we are all one in Christ. If one can't live with that, then he, like Peter on one occasion, needs a serious attitude adjustment.



Classes This Week

Tuesday 8:00 PM Room 2225 in Student Center	Thursday 10 AM Ladies Class on "Amazing Women of the Bible" at the Rouse's home.	Thursday 7 PM Men's Class at Walker Davis' home on book "With the Bishops and Deacons"
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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)	John Marvin Rhodes (Toni Herd'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)

January Birthdays

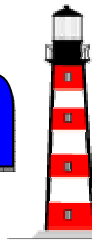
- 1-Luke Carter
- 1-David Ogle
- 2-Savannah Spohn
- 2-Chuck Hunt
- 4-Phillip Box
- 6-Erica Seymore
- 7-Sarah Darby
- 9-Jordan Oldag
- 9-Liseth Aragon
- 9-Tyler Hudson
- 10-Mallory Randolph
- 11-Spencer Hall
- 11-Shepherd Hall
- 13-Meredith McCray
- 14-Kendall Parker
- 15-Michael Bassie
- 18-Scott Vaughn
- 21-Jacob Jerkins
- 23-Connor Godwin
- 25-Caleb Daniels
- 25-Sara Lail
- 27-Blake Bagents
- 30-Kayla Garlock
- 30-Kristi Garlock
- 31-Jennifer Daniels

News and Notes

- ☒ - Lets keep in our prayers our expectant mothers, Laura Humphrey, Brittany Bagents and Jana Hall!
- ☒ - Scott Perkins remains in CA to manage his grandfather's estate issues.
- ☒ - Taylor Lawrence's dad, Jerry, is scheduled to have a benign brain tumor removed on Feb 3.
- ☒ - Remember Tim Morton in your prayers as he is deployed to Afghanistan.
- ☒ - Welcome to our new member: Matthew Cavender!
- ☒ - York's dad, John Smith, has returned home from appendix surgery and awaits procedure on kidney stone.
- ☒ - We are thankful that Trenton Anderson's surgery went well on Monday!
- ☒ - We are thankful that Kevin Anderson is responding well to medication for infection and is now home!
- ☒ - Congratulations to David and Patsy Ogle on the birth of their new grandson, Hudson Banks Oliver!
- ☒ - This year's VBS will be June 8-11. VBS topic: "Heroes of the NT"
- ☒ - There will be a meeting after the Wed service for those interested in helping with the creative tasks for the new OSH NT curriculum.
- ☒ - Group meetings are tonight.

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

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 12

January 25, 2015

Four Problems With Worry

By Warren E. Berkley

Prayer is where an amazing exchange happens, You hand over your worries and God hands over his Peace

Thoughts to Ponder

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; (Philippians 4:6)

By "worry" I mean the debilitating, nagging sense of doom that (a) goes further than concern and sympathy, (b) does not involve any remedial activity to solve a real problem, and (c) is characterized by habitual, constant churning thoughts of despair. It is often unreasonable and a prelude to depression. Webster's Dictionary says: "to feel or express undue care and anxiety; to manifest disquietude or pain; to be fretful ..."

Worry has never paid a bill, or put a meal on the table. It has never cured a serious illness, but has caused many. Worry has never solved a marriage problem, or successfully raised a child. It has never prevented a church problem, or solved a personal conflict.

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

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Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor

1. Worry is often out of proportion with reality.

It becomes an emotion that is difficult to contain in proper, reasonable bounds. Illustration: Your teenage son is ten minutes later than the usual arrival time from school. Your first thoughts may be well within the range of possibility: traffic, he had some necessary task at school or someone needed a ride home. But as the clock ticks your thoughts move away from the probable

toward the tragic or bizarre. A traffic accident ... he wrecked the car and it was his fault ... there is serious injury ... several are dead ... And as the delay goes on for a few more minutes, our imagination develops other images, even darker. This seems to be the nature of worry; it is so difficult to contain these negative thoughts of dread. A man once said, "Don't tell me that worry doesn't do any good. I know better. The things I worry about don't ever happen!" Isn't it

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so. A Swedish proverb says, "Worry gives a small thing a big shadow."

2. Worry is distracting. It is so hard to concentrate when you are worrying; it is troublesome to deal with people in a kind and friendly manner. Illustration: You are at a crisis point in your financial condition; bills are soon due, and the money isn't in the bank. As the due dates approaches, you are less productive in your job and it is increasingly harder for your loved ones to deal with your negative mood. (Have you considered - worry over finances can lead to less responsibility; therefore, less money and more worry!!) Worry robs us of the energy we need to apply to all our life's responsibilities. But when some worrisome problem distracts you, the daily routine of duties continues. But there's more.

3. Worry keeps us from productive activity. While immersed in worry, we tend to let distraction introduce neglect of duty. Worry has never paid a bill, or put a meal on the table. It has never cured a serious illness, but has caused many. Worry has never solved a marriage problem, or successfully raised a child. It has never prevented a church problem, or solved a personal conflict. Worry has never united a church, converted a sinner, or brought back an apostate. It has never repaired a car, fixed the plumbing or reversed the aging process. We might add, it has never added one cubit unto the measure of a man's life (**Mt 6:27**).

4. Worry is a symptom of a lack of trust in God. This is the worse problem associated with worry. And in the passage quoted above (**Mt 6**), Jesus not only teaches the

futility of worry. He tells us not to do it: "Do not worry," (**Mt 6:25, 31, 34**). He wants us to know, our heavenly Father knows what we need and our role is to put Him first (**Mt 6:32-34**). Making God our first priority is an act of trust. Worry contradicts our claim of trust in God. {By the way, you also cannot read this text in Matthew six without seeing one of the basic attachments that cause anxiety: MONEY! Surely we need to realize that money can be an excellent servant but is a horrible master. See **Psalms 127:2 & 39:6**.}

The answer is trust in God, such as depicted in **Psalms 37:5** where you "commit your way to the Lord," and "trust in Him, and He shall bring it to pass." This trust yields the confession: "I sought Jehovah, and He answered me, and from all my fears did deliver me," (**Ps 34:4**).

Here are six things I have posted on a card on our refrigerator. Despair is not necessary because:

1. You can always pray (**Phil 4:6,7**).
2. In suffering, there is always the potential to grow, mature and learn (**Jas 1:2-4; Rom 5:1-4**).
3. There is value in having your faith tested (**1 Pt 1:6, 7**).
4. Whatever the problem is, that problem will not make it into heaven (**Rev 21:7**).
5. God is good, regardless of what happens on earth (**Jn 10:11; Ps 18:1-3**).
6. There are some things we can know (**2 Cor 4:1-10, v.14**).

Friends, I know this works because my refrigerator doesn't worry about anything!



Forsaking True Worship

By Seth Buchanan

"After seeking advice, the king made two golden calves. He said to the people, 'It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt. One he set up in Bethel, and the other in Dan. And this thing became a sin; the people came to worship the one at Bethel and went as far as Dan to worship the other. Jeroboam built shrines on high places and appointed priests from all sorts of people, even though they were not Levites. He instituted a festival on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, like the festival held in Judah, and offered sacrifices on the altar. This he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves he had made. And at Bethel he also installed priests at the high places he had made" (**1 Kings 12:28-32**).

In an attempt to solidify his rule as king, Jeroboam built two altars to "the god that brought the Israelites out of Egypt", one in Dan to the north, the other in Bethel to the South. In doing so, he turned many hearts away from the true worship of the Lord, and started Israel down a path of sin that would lead the nation all the way to captivity.

While this seems so outlandish to 21st century Christians that the children of Israel would so easily turn their attention to golden calves, I would suggest that this kind of apostasy is peddled and accepted among the children of God today! Jeroboam's new worship practices were not set up to the exclusion of worship to Jehovah, but as supplements meant to enhance worship. I can imagine the reactions of many Israelites whose faith was waning:

Finally, we have a graven image representative of the God of Abraham. Having a visual aid to look up to is sure to make their worship seem more real.

The fact remains the same today as it was thousands of years ago: if our worship practice is not from God, our worship is a sham. The children of Israel gave up true worship for that which was fraudulent and sinful--Let us not do the same today.

Away with the exclusionary, traditional practice of only having Levites as priests. God wants everybody to serve him, doesn't he? Everyone should be allowed to be a priest.

It's impractical for us to have to take time away from our jobs to travel to Jerusalem. That practice was surely meant for our forefathers, and is no longer relevant to an established nation such as ourselves.

The other nations do not worship their gods in tents, why should we? Worshiping atop the high places will be so amazing, so emotionally stirring. Our worship has become outdated and irrelevant anyways...get with the times!

The fact remains the same today as it was thousands of years ago: if our worship practice is not from God, our worship is a sham. The children of Israel gave up true worship for that which was fraudulent and sinful--Let us not do the same today. As we see in further study of the historic nation of Israel, it is a slippery slope from unauthorized "worship enhancements" to Baal worship.

"After this event Jeroboam did not return from his evil way, but again he made priests of the high places from among all the people; any who would, he ordained, to be priests of the high places. This event became sin to the house of Jeroboam, even to blot it out and destroy it from off the face of the earth." (**1 Kings 13:33-34**).

