

All Things But Loss

Saul of Tarsus knew the truth. He had seen the Lord and had talked with Him. For three days he had been blind, and had not been able to eat or to drink. He was fully persuaded that Jesus was not an imposter, but was truly the Son of God. The Christians whom he had persecuted were not blind heretics; they were the true followers of God. He had been told by Ananias to "Arise, and be baptized and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." **(Acts 22:16)** He understood that command, and wanted to be a Christian and have hope of eternal life, but there was a lot to be considered.

How could Saul turn his back on his trusted teacher, Gamaliel? And what would his fellow Pharisees think? And there were Dad and Mother who had raised him so strictly in the ways of the Law. Besides, Saul had made a name for himself among the Jews, having "profited in the Jews' religion above many (his) equals in (his) own nation." **(Gal.**

By Bill Hall

1:14) Too, Saul would lose his financial support. Who would care for him? The sacrifices were too great. He would have to tell Ananias that he just couldn't obey the gospel.

No! No! No! Not Saul of Tarsus! He knew the value of his soul and the meaning of eternity. If he ever questioned what to do as he faced heaven's invitation, the scriptures do not reveal it. His mind was made up, and he expressed his determination in the following words: "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the 'knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ." **(Phil. 2:7, 8)**



Classes This Week

Sunday PM College Devo and Singing at the Weldon's, Rusty Weldon Teaching!	Sunday 5:00 PM Song leading/learning class at 5:00 in college classroom	Tuesday 8:00 PM Room 2225 in Student Center	Thursday 7 PM at Belinda Hartsell's on "Teaching Your Children the Facts of Life", Belinda teaching.	Saturday 6:00-8:00 PM 1st-5th grade class from 6-8 p.m. at Craig and Paula Davis' house	Saturday 6:30-8:30 PM 6th-12th grade class from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Jeff and April Jerkins' house
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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)
Tom Davis (Walker Davis' Uncle)	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)
Toni and William Herd	Joe Perkins (Scott Perkins' Dad)	Toni and William Herd	Jim Trull (Phillip Box's grandfather)

February Birthdays

- 2-Ken Sullivan
- 2-Wesley Herd
- 3-Chris Long
- 5-Jude Hosey
- 5-Chase Counsell
- 6-Jackson Fowler
- 13-Leslie Freeman
- 14-Leighton Daniels
- 14-Anna Jean Selsvik
- 15-Ella Miller
- 15-Dave Johnson
- 16-Seth Humphrey
- 18-Caralise Hunt
- 18-Tyler Cox
- 20-Andrew Tominack
- 22-Elizabeth Anne Calvert
- 22-Alexander Calvert
- 23-Greg Lanier
- 23-Luke Carter
- 24-Jeff Jerkins
- 25-Valerie Liverett
- 27-Julie Johnson
- 28-Cole Graviett

News and Notes

- ☒ - Lets keep in our prayers our expectant mothers, Laura Humphrey and Jana Hall!
- ☒ - Rusty Weldon will have outpatient surgery for his sinuses on Monday.
- ☒ - Tim Morton is home from Afghanistan!
- ☒ - We express sympathy to Laura Humphrey in the loss of her great-grandmother last week.
- ☒ - We welcome new members Bruce and Becky Daniels!
- ☒ - This year's VBS will be June 8-11. VBS topic: "Heroes of the NT"
- ☒ - David Ogle had successful hip replacement surgery on Thursday!
- ☒ - York's dad, John, came through his procedure for kidney stone well!
- ☒ - Scott Perkins' dad, Joe, is now in rehab.
- ☒ - Phillip Box's grandfather, Jim Trull, remains in hospice care.
- ☒ - Neal May is in serious condition and nears death.
- ☒ - There are slots on the signup list in foyer to prepare Lord's supper.
- ☒ - There are slots on the list in the foyer to join others in public Bible reading groups.

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)**

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Are They Spiritually Minded?

By Irven Lee



Thoughts to Ponder

For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. **(Romans 8:6)**

It is amazing how many hours some parents of young children give to the world promoted by some denominational church that is tied in with the social gospel movement. There are the gatherings on Sunday and midweek, and in addition to them there is choir practice one night, all those arts and crafts for VBS, and then on Saturday night several dozen children of various ages will be by to eat one part of that continuing meal which will be supplemented at several other homes before it is over at bedtime, and those children who play in the church league must be coached, and who will take those classes to Opryland or Six Flags?

Parents may become so involved in such "church work" that they will not have time for Bible study at home or to bring their children up "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Children need their parents for more things than just to play with them. The family life building or the fellowship hall may interfere much with those duties the Lord assigned. Food, fun, and frolic may take the place of that which edifies.

Some of these denominations may have some zealous members who

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spend much time visiting in homes to recruit new members. They make special effort to get these people to say they believe in Jesus and then join the church and attend the class parties. These new converts are not taught much before or after they are baptized. Emotionalism, fun, and much socializing may cover the whole plan. All this actually gets people satisfied outside of Christ. It makes them happy with themselves without their obeying the gospel or learning the right way of the Lord.

Repentance, honesty, acceptable worship, modesty, and complete obedience are not the same as emo-

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Elders

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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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tionalism, excitement, and parties. The Lord loved the church and gave himself up for it. He will not accept a social club as a substitute for it. Zeal without knowledge is not enough to please God (**Rom. 10:1-3**).

As the social gospel becomes more exciting and more widely accepted there is less and less emphasis on clean speech and moral purity. The social drink which leads to addiction and the social dance, mixed bathing, and vulgar speech, which lead to fornication and divorce, are tolerated. Such churches do much for the "singles." They plan retreats for them and trips to ski resorts and other vacation spots. America's moral standards have been lowered as the fellowship hall has become more important. Each one who dies is "preached into heaven" regardless of how he behaved in life.

"One church is as good as another" has become the creed that forms the basis for unity among the denominations. Their preachers can work together in their ministerial associations. Young men who go to the seminaries are taught to believe nothing in particular. The Bible becomes "a book" rather than "the book," and all are taught to believe that each person has a right to his own opinions, as if Christ has no authority. The one thing that all are expected to combat is the idea that the Bible gives us all things that pertain to live and godliness and that Christ has all authority in his church.

Churches which can join together in their Billy Graham type of religious campaigns, and their give-away programs at Christmas, and in their sunrise services on Easter morning may not search the Scriptures daily for the will of the Lord. Whatever they like must be acceptable to God, and whatever others like must be just as good. Will there ever be another great awakening and movement back to the Bible?

Evolution takes the place of creation in the minds of most of those who are trained in seminaries. The miracles are questioned, hell is denied, and heaven just becomes a beautiful word to use in funeral services. Separation into two groups at a final judgment is ignored. These

educated infidels may preach, but they are working for what they regard as rights, better housing, government give-away programs, etc., for a better here and now rather than "pie in the sky by and by."

There is much talk of rights of the sex perverts - gay rights, etc. - as alternate life styles that should be recognized by all. There are pressures to permit two men to marry, adopt children, and be active in church work. Sodom was destroyed by the Lord for such sins, but there may be American cities with as many sodomites as Sodom had. What is wrong today? Is there such a thing as sin? The humanists, who are very powerful in many religious movements, deny that there is any such thing as sin.

"For to be carnally minded is death: but to be spiritually minded is life and peace ... For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." These statements from **Romans 8** are true as are all the teachings of God. His will is for our good always. (**Read Deut. 6:24; Mark 10:28-30; 1 Tim. 4:8.**)

There may be few in the narrow way that leads unto life, but they all should contend earnestly for the faith (**Jude 3**). The gospel is still God's power unto salvation. The word is sharp and active. There have been periods of ungodliness and unbelief before followed by zealous returns to righteousness. The cry of the day is for workers who are not ashamed of the gospel and the righteousness it reveals.

Denominationalism is certainly not a picture of a kingdom with law and order. It is confusion without a recognized authority. It is as sheep without a shepherd, or is it goats without a goatsherd? The Lord will not accept fun and frolic as a substitute for worship, nor will he accept zeal in the family life building as a substitute for presenting one's body as a living sacrifice to God. We should all emphasize the duty to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world. There is a time to laugh but not as a church "work." — **Guardian of Truth, Sept 17, 1987**



Lessons From a Tired Man

By Paul Earnhart

Our Lord did a lot of things He did not "feel like doing" because He loved men so desperately, and He always found renewed strength in the doing of it.

When Jesus sat down on the well curb in Sychar He was a totally exhausted man. His deep fatigue held him virtually motionless (**John 4:6**). John says that the thirty mile journey from Jerusalem wearied Him but surely He must have been tired before His trek through Samaria began. The months of wrestling with the enthusiastic but unknowing crowds which His signs produced in Judea must have been draining. And His departure for Galilee was occasioned by the malevolent fear His popularity was stirring in the Jewish hierarchy, along with the foreboding news that Herod Antipas had arrested John the Baptist (**John 4:1; Mark 4:12**). Teaching men on issues critical to eternity is an exhausting business in itself but who among us could fully understand what it is like to be the only one on earth who fully understands the crisis, and to be the only one in heaven or on earth who could do something about it. His disciples were loyal but grievously limited in understanding. There was no human companion with whom to share His burdened thoughts. And so He sat that day beside Jacob's well, alone and spent.

If past records should be allowed to control it would not be difficult to imagine my own response had I been in the Lord's place that day as some strange woman approached the well with her vessel, threatening to break my solitude. "Please don't let this woman be talkative. I'm too tired to utter a word." How many times on a bus or a plane, in a restaurant or a bank, have all of us wished to be left alone. Fortunately, our Savior was not like that. His fatigue was no less deep than our own has been but His concern for lost men and women was deeper still. Immediately it would appear, as the woman drew near, Jesus was already planning how He could reach her. He was no doubt thirsty but His quiet request for a drink had a higher purpose. It was calculated to induce an opening in her heart. Weariness changed nothing. He was still the Shepherd in search of lost sheep. His example serves to make disciples like myself feel ashamed of the times that, having struggled to correct some particularly perplexing and sometimes almost intractable human problems we wander off to hide in our self-pity. We are surely often unworthy of Him.

The Samaritan woman was startled by this strange Jew who was willing to receive a drink from the "unclean" hands of a Samaritan. Perhaps she, too, was hoping to be left alone in the midst of her daily chores. What seems fairly clear is that she was not in any passionate search for the kingdom of God. Her life was a mess in most respects. She had been married five times and was now living with the sixth "without benefit of clergy." And the Lord knew this before He even

spoke to her. We are not very much like Him here either. Usually if we learn that an acquaintance is in a marital tangle we spare ourselves the trouble of even talking to them about the "living water." And if we come on that information in the midst of our efforts to teach we are inclined to close our Bibles and say, "Well, it certainly has been good to talk with you. Maybe we'll see each other around some time." It is altogether true that becoming a Christian can make some heavy demands on the sinner. John had to speak some very hard words to Herod (**Mark 6:17-18**). But what is it that makes us walk away from some individuals rather

than teach them? Is it not a failure of faith and commitment within ourselves? The problem is that we do not really believe that the Lord and heaven are worth everything and that no loss could be too great not to be overwhelmed by the gain in Christ. Who are we to decide who will receive and who will not receive the kingdom? Our task is to preach the word expectantly to all and let come who will.

This woman was not a very "bright prospect" and she was looking for water, not for the Christ—but she was caught unawares, and because her heart was good she abandoned her water pot that day in the joy of a wholly unexpected discovery. There are a lot of unlikely people in this world who are certainly not looking for the kingdom but if there was just someone, somewhere who would care enough to approach them in a kind and concerned way they would fling down everything, take up their cross, and follow.

A few years ago while driving to a Tuesday evening Bible study in Kendall Springs, Kentucky, I asked my companion, the aged gospel preacher Henry Ficklin (nearly ninety and stone-deaf), if he felt like going with me to this class. "Brother Earnhart," he replied with a characteristic twinkle in his eye, "I do a lot of things I don't feel like doing." Our Lord did a lot of things He did not "feel like doing" because He loved men so desperately, and He always found renewed strength in the doing of it. "I have meat to eat that ye know not of," He told His amazed disciples when they returned from the village with food and found their once exhausted Master now animated and alive. We, too, are destined to become occasionally weary with our task, but if we can muster the strength to take just one more step toward the lost we will learn what Isaiah meant when he said of God: "He giveth power to the faint; and to him that hath no might he giveth strength" (**40:29**).

