

Some Seem To...

Some seem to act as though they deserve salvation on the grounds that they argue so strongly against earning salvation. Some seem to think they are right because they argue so strongly against those who think they are right. Some seem to talk as though grace is reserved only for those who constantly deny the need for works.

Where, when, and why did anyone come up with the idea the need to “do the will of the Father” (**Matt 7:21**) should ever, in any way, shape, or form, be equated with attempting to earn salvation? Jesus gave the command and never drew such a conclusion. There is no contradiction between teaching God’s grace and teaching that we actually need to do what He said.

By Doy Moyer

“For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome” (**1 John 5:3**).

“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.” (**Titus 2:11-14**)



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)	Jim Trull (Phillip Box's grandfather)	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)
John M. Rhodes and Bonnie Rhodes Kirkley (Toni Herd's family)	Joe Perkins (Scott Perkins' Dad)	Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephew)	Austin Locke (Jeremiah Johnson's Grandfather)

March Birthdays

- 1-Amanda Cagle
- 2-Maddie Norman
- 2-Chase Harrison
- 2-Bryan Golden
- 2-Angela Fowler
- 2-Elizabeth Barham
- 3-Shaun Oliver
- 5-Sophie Borden
- 7-Josh Pender
- 7-Lily Walton
- 8-Carmen Herd
- 10-Pepper Humphrey
- 10-Parker Godwin
- 11-Becky Harris
- 12-Brad Hartsell
- 14-Megan Nix
- 17-Susan Sullivanne
- 18-MaKenzie Anderson
- 18-Victoria Holland
- 18-Alaina Barham
- 20-Jimmy Roberts
- 21-Carter Hunt
- 21-Rachel Bobo
- 22-Will Hollis
- 27-Shelby Freeman
- 27-Roxie Rodriguez
- 29-Rachel Simpson
- 29-Makenzie Reynolds
- 30-Amanda Stephens
- 30-York Smith

News and Notes

- ☒ - Lets keep in our prayers our expectant mothers, Laura Humphrey, Nicole Pender and Jana Hall!
- ☒ - Scott and Jenna Vaughn had a baby girl, Marcelle Grace, at 23 weeks. She is in NICU at Baptist south in Montgomery. Please pray for her.
- ☒ - Sympathy is extended to the family of Doris Wood Isbell, the sister of Dave Bradford.
- ☒ - This year's VBS will be June 8-11. VBS topic: "Heroes of the NT"
- ☒ - VBS volunteer forms are available for those who wish to help in any way. please get a form from the foyer and turn in to Jared Johnson by March 22.
- ☒ - Johnny Richardson, from Russellville, AL, has made some improvement from a very serious illness. Please continue to pray for him.
- ☒ - Jana is due to give birth to Sawyer Hall on Wednesday!
- ☒ - Please pray for Steve and Becky Pruitt as their young son has cancer and is undergoing chemo treatments.

The Auburn Beacon

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



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 20

March 22, 2015

Influences

By Dee Bowman

God, may my child's father use his words wisely.

Proverbs 17:27

Thoughts to Ponder

He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, But whoever walks wisely will be delivered.

(Proverbs 28:26)

It has been said that if all mediums of advertising were lumped together, it would be the largest industry in our country. I don't know if that is so, but I do know one thing: advertising has a profound influence on our lives. Certainly it is not my notion to condemn all advertising as wrong. That's not so. However, it is obvious to even a casual observer that advertising—and particularly certain types of advertising—has a profound effect on our lives. And it does it with such finesse that we do things, say things, and, yes—buy things—even dress a certain way, because of the subtle influences of advertising. It has an effect on our lives.

Advertising can be one of the pernicious influences of the devil. He is wily, sagacious in his appeals. He slips up on us in cleverly devised manners, and he can have us in his grip without our hardly eve recognizing it. He uses advertising to promote and recommend certain styles, language usages, social

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pressures, peer influence, and a variety of other subtitles to seduce us into his trenches. We best be careful to plot our course in such a way as to preclude his being able to trap us—even with his subtle forms of publicizing.

Here are some “don'ts” for your consideration.

Don't be unduly influenced by all current styles. In the last few years particularly, some among us have decided that public opinion is the standard for judging modesty. It is not so. No matter

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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

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the accepted style, the godly woman (or man, either, for that matter) will adorn herself with shamefacedness and modesty (**Peter 3:1-5**). When Christians begin a flirtatious affair with the world there is trouble ahead. And while we're not to be conspicuously strange and out of vogue, we need to exercise caution lest we, through a lack of attention and concern, cause someone to stumble by our immodesty. The Christian woman is a modest woman. The Christian is always more interested in how he looks to God than how he looks to man.

Don't be influenced by popular ethics.

Subjectivism has surrounded us at almost every turn today. People are of the opinion that if it feels right it must be right, or as long as it doesn't offend your conscience, it's OK. It's actually popular to do many things which, when examined in the light of Scripture, are sinful. Sexual improprieties are everywhere; cheating of all kinds is engaged with little or no guilt-feelings. A person can seemingly do whatever he wants and if he can "get away with it," or if he "feels all right about it," it's all right. Many folks see no harm in small misrepresentations, feel no compunction for filing false claims, have no regrets about taking "small stuff." The "business lie" is a lie, people! "White lies" are still lies. Excuses are not reasons. "A little won't hurt," is still wrong. And "nobody will know" is foolish to a fault. Believe me, He knows. Today's so-called "ethics," if written down on a list, would surely shock most people; but when they're done a little at a time, they take on an air of almost trivial insignificance. Wrong is wrong, no matter how small it is (**Galatians 6:7-8**).

Don't be influenced by consequences.

Far too often people decide what they're going to do by supposing what is going to

happen if he does it. He reasons that he will or will not do something based on what he thinks will be the consequences of his action. Reasoning from consequences is a foolish way to live life. We are far wiser to concern ourselves with what will happen if we don't obey God. "He who trusteth in his own heart is a fool; but who walketh wisely, he shall be delivered" (**Proverbs 28:26**). We cannot know the future, but one thing is certain: God will never require of us that which is not in our best interests. Further, we would do well to consider the consequences of paying no attention to what He has said, no matter what consequences or inconvenience it brings upon us.

Don't be influenced by men's religious ideas.

No preacher, no matter who he is or how popular, is equal to God! That's the end of that matter. And furthermore, there is no religious authority in any group of men. People are being deceived by a multitude of man-made religions today. They seem pleased to accept almost anything said in a religious way as if it is from God. It is good to respect men of religious influence, men who show a love for God and their fellow man, and it is good to admire men of intelligence and influence. However, it should never be forgotten that no man—no matter how attractive he may be, no matter how many degrees he has attached to his name—has any authority in religion (**1 Corinthians 4:6; 1 John 1:6-9**). No man is truly intelligent nor prudent who does not subscribe to and practice the divine directive without deviation or substitution (**1 Corinthians 2:9**).

Influence can be a good thing (**Matthew 5:16**) or it can be terribly evil (**2 Peter 2:1-3**). Let us be very careful how and by whom we are influenced.



Murmurers and Complainers

By R. J. Evans

The Apostle Paul, in speaking of the Israelites, said, "nor murmur, as some of them also murmured and were destroyed by the destroyer" (**1 Cor. 10:10**). To the Philippians, Paul said, "Do all things without murmuring and complaining" (**Phil. 2:14**). To murmur and complain is to give audible expression of dissatisfaction. Some instances of murmuring and complaining during the history of the Israelites are recorded in **Exodus 16, Numbers 14 & 16**. Paul points to the Israelites as a warning to Christians who murmur and complain. Thus, both are condemned in the Old and New Testaments. And, no doubt, there are those among us today who need to heed Paul's warnings. In this article, we shall focus our attention on some of the characteristics of murmurers and complainers that we read about in Scripture. They expressed:

1. Unbelief. In most cases, the root of all murmuring and complaining against God and His servants is unbelief or a lack of faith. God is no longer relied upon and trusted; God, or His servants, are accused of treating and leading in the wrong way. This was exactly the problem with the Israelites in the wilderness.

2. Ingratitude. Murmuring and complaining indicates a spirit of ungratefulness for all the blessings received. This was true of Israel. Just one month after being delivered from Egyptian bondage, the people began to murmur and complain. Think of how much can be forgotten in such a brief period of time! Having entered the wilderness, with supplies running low, the people began to murmur by saying, "Oh, that we had died by the hand of the Lord in Egypt, when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger" (**Ex. 16:3**).

3. Accuse God. The murmurer and complainer attempts to accuse God of dealing with him harshly and unjustly. In essence, he complains against God. That is precisely what the Jews were doing in the wilderness. This manifests a narrow, self-centered, self-pitying, egotistic spirit on the part of the complainer.

4. Likely to exaggerate. I seriously doubt that the Israelites were as well off in Egypt as they claimed to be in **Exodus 16:3**. But in order to make their present situation appear as dark and grim as possible, they began magnifying the so-called advantages they had while they were slaves in Egypt. But bear in mind that they were not so excited about those conditions when they were living under them!

5. A masked rebellion against God. In **Exodus 16:2**, we are told that "the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness." But this murmuring, even though it was verbally directed toward Moses and Aaron, was in reality, against God. What the people said in verse three was simply an attempt to mask their murmurings against God, for Moses told them in verse eight: "Your murmurings are not against us but against the Lord." (Also see **Jude 16**.)

6. A feeling of superiority. Those who murmur and complain often reveal a sense of feeling superior to others. In other words, they think they are entitled to do what they are doing because of their great importance and intellect. It reminds me of what Paul warned against in **Romans 12:3**—"For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God had dealt to each one a measure of faith."

Yes, at times, it may be easier to murmur and complain than it is to work and pray. In the local church great harm can result from murmuring and complaining. It is much like what Paul told the Galatians: "But if you bite and devour one another, beware, lest you be consumed by one another" (**Gal. 5:15**). It is always much easier to tear down than it is to build up. Some never see any good; they always have a negative, pessimistic outlook; nothing ever pleases them. If this is not stopped, a murmuring, complaining spirit can sweep through a congregation and do much damage to it. It creates unrest and dissatisfaction; it alienates; it creates suspicions and distrust; it cultivates a fault-finding, hypercritical attitude; it creates factions; and it lowers the overall morale of a congregation. Of this principle, Paul said, "Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?" (**1 Cor. 5:6**).

No doubt, there are many complaints that can be offered if all someone ever does is look for things to be critical about. We suggest the best remedy for this is to get busy in the Lord's service, faithfully doing His will, encouraging others to do the same, and work in a constructive manner to improve where improvements are needed—so that we will not have time to sit around looking for something to murmur and complain about. Again, in referring to the sins of Israel, we are reminded that Paul told the Corinthians not to murmur, "as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed by the destroyer" (**1 Cor. 10:10**).

