

Be Careful With The Blame Game

Often I hear folks talking about finding some deficiency of understanding and practice of some biblical truth in some congregation or individual Christian and charge that we (usually meaning all but them) have failed in properly preach on this subject. It is easy to see some worldly members of a congregation and conclude and even charge that they have not received enough preaching on these things by the preachers and teachers in that church. Often we hear of someone tell of talking with a brother or sister who expresses great insecurity about their salvation because they fear they have not been good or even obedient enough. Therefore, the reason must be that all they have heard is "obey, obey" and not enough about God's grace for those that fall short. Wait a minute! Let's be very careful with the blame game.

By Edward O. Bragwell, Sr. may preach or teach on any subject, there are going to be some that just don't get. Even when the "Master Teacher" taught on some things, there were those who just did not get it.

My friend, Hiram Hutto (deceased), told of having been invited to speak to a "Unity" group who believed in fellowshipping "all churches." He said he preached what he thought was a good and clear sermon on there being only one church according to the New Testament and how to identify it. After the lesson, a nice older lady shook his hand and said, "That was a wonderful sermon, you believe just like I do – it doesn't matter which church we are in as long as we love the Lord." Enough said.



We all ought to know that no matter how much one

Classes This Week

Sunday 5:00 PM Singing Class in College Classroom	Tuesday 8:00 PM Truth-seekers Campus Study in Room 2225 in Student Center	Thursday 7:00 MM Ladies Class at the Paula Davis' home on "Personal Evangelism" taught by Summer Mauldin
---	---	--

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)	Austin Locke (Jeremiah Johnson's Grandfather)	Emily Stallings (Anna's sister)	Camden, grandson of Steve Pruitt (friend of Greg Lanier)
John M. Rhodes and Bonnie Rhodes Kirkley (Toni Herd's family)	Joe Perkins (Scott Perkin's Dad)	Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephew)	Johnny Richardson

April Birthdays

- 1-Rachel Hobgood
- 3-Jessica Shaver
- 3-Cameron Abernathy
- 4-Julie Henriquez
- 5-Tate Pender
- 8-Laura Humphrey
- 8-Hannah Morris
- 12-Becky Daniels
- 12-Austin Adams
- 14-Kaylee Searcy
- 14-Jesse Roberts
- 16-Victoria Dunaway
- 16-Carson Fowler
- 17-Daniel Cobia
- 18-Spencer Sullivan
- 18-Taylor Godwin
- 18-Joel Black
- 20-April Jerkins
- 20-RJ Martin
- 23-Anna Miller
- 24-Bob Simpson
- 26-Latisha Redmon
- 28-Anna Stallings

News and Notes

- ☒ - Lets keep in our prayers our expectant mothers, Laura Humphrey and Nicole Pender!
- ☒ - 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.
- ☒ - There is a gospel meeting at Perry Hill from Apr 10-12 with Phillip Shumake on "Lifelong Zeal"
- ☒ - This year's VBS will be June 8-11. VBS topic: "Heroes of the NT"
- ☒ - Please pray for the family of Amy Baswell Hall who was buried yesterday.
- ☒ - Johnny Richardson, from Russellville, AL, has been moved to a rehab facility.
- ☒ - Today begins a new teaching quarter.
- ☒ - Please pray for Rebecca Davis, Church Hahn's niece, who is battling cancer.
- ☒ - The latest audio is posted to www.auchurch.com and CD's are immediately placed in the foyer.

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 22

April 5, 2015

Two Unscriptural Concepts

By Frank Jamerson



Thoughts to Ponder

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body -- whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free -- and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:13)

The New Testament speaks of the church in both the universal and the local senses. In the universal sense, there is one body and it is composed of all the saved of all the world (Eph. 1:22,23; Acts 2:47). In the local sense, a church is composed of Christians who agree to worship and work together, and in this sense there are many churches (Rom. 16:16).

The two unscriptural concepts that we want to study involve how we become members of the universal and the local church. The "language of Ashdod" that is too prominent today indicates that many brethren do not have a clear understanding of the distinctions between these two uses of the word "church."

First, some talk about "joining the church" when they are speaking about their baptism into Christ. This indicates a lack of understanding about how we become a part of the body of Christ. We do not "join" the universal church. The Bible says,

The Ethiopian eunuch was baptized by Philip, and "went on his way rejoicing" because he was saved (Acts 8:38,39), but he was not a member of any local church at that time.

"And the Lord added to the church day by day those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47). The one who saves us, adds us! When does He add us? The context in Acts 2 shows that those who "repented and were baptized for the remission of their sins" were saved (Acts 2:38,41). Paul told the Corinthians, "For by one Spirit were we all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether bond or free; and were all made to drink of one Spirit" (1 Cor. 12:13). The penitent believer is baptized "into one

(Continued on page 2)

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

(Continued from page 1)

body," or "into Christ" (**Gal. 3:27**) in the sense that God forgives his sins and saves him because of his obedience to his commands. That does not make one a member of a local church, but of the universal church.

The second unscriptural concept that we want to notice is the idea that baptism automatically makes one a member of a local church. Just as we do not join the universal church, we are not baptized into a local church.

The Ethiopian eunuch was baptized by Philip, and "went on his way rejoicing" because he was saved (**Acts 8:38,39**), but he was not a member of any local church at that time. Saul of Tarsus had been baptized into Christ, and accepted by brethren in Damascus, but when he went to Jerusalem and "assayed to join himself to the disciples" there, he was not automatically accepted (**Acts 9:26**). After Barnabas "took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus," they agreed to accept him (**Acts 9:27**). The next verse says he "was with them" (**v. 28**). He did not just "join up," he "joined in"! But there had to be the desire to "belong" on his part, and the willingness to "accept" on their part. When Apollos wanted to go from Ephesus to Achaia, brethren in Ephesus wrote a letter "to the disciples to receive him" (**Acts 18:27**). What the word of mouth accomplished for Saul, the written word accomplished for Apollos! Before there can be local church membership, there must be a desire to belong and an acceptance on the part of others.

How is this desire and agreement expressed? The Bible does not give the details about this, therefore we must use our judgment in applying these principles. There are three ways that I know that have been used. (1) When a person moves to an area, or is baptized into Christ, and begins worshiping with a congregation, his participation is accepted by the church and understood by him as indicating desire to belong and acceptance, and no word is spoken. (The danger of this method is that one party or the other may misunderstand the intentions of the other. Simply worshiping with a group does not necessarily indicate a desire to belong, nor a willingness to accept.) (2) A person goes forward and states his desire to the preacher, or expresses it to the elders and a public announcement is made of this person's desire to "identify" or join this group. Unless there is some reason to question the person's faithfulness, he is accepted by the congregation as a member. (3) When a person expresses a desire to be a part of the church, the elders meet with him, or her, and discuss their mutual responsibilities. After such discussion an announcement is made that this person is a part of the congregation. (Elders have a special responsibility toward members of the flock and such a meeting serves to let the prospective member know what we are doing, as well as what we do not practice, and find out what they have done in other places and are willing to do here. This is the approach that the elders here use.)

Other methods may be just as good in fulfilling the two requirements for local church membership, but we need to keep clearly in our minds that we are baptized "into Christ" (this is not "joining a local church"), and we join a local church (we were not baptized into it).



We May Undertake Too Much

By Irven Lee

We do not know the secrets of all hearts, and we do not have a full comprehension of the mind of God, so we need to restrain ourselves in separating the flock into two groups and preparing a list for the Lord. He may not accept all our decisions.

"He hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead" (**Acts 17:31**). "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: and before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: and he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left" (**Matt. 25:31-33**). "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (**2 Cor. 5: 10**).

These verses on the judgment are familiar to Bible students. We need to know that we do not make the final decisions (see **1 Cor. 4:3-5**). We are to be doers of the law and not set ourselves up as if we were infallible judges, "Every one of us shall give account of himself to God." "Why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at naught thy brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ" (read **Rom. 14:1-13**). Are some too willing to announce before the time what the destiny of those who may not follow some scruple will be? The dogmatic announcer may have something in his eye. He may be able to see the other man's eye better than he can see his own.

We are to contend for the faith and warn against soul destroying sins (read **1 Cor. 6:9,10; Gal. 5:19-21; Col. 3:5,6**). The Judge has spoken on these matters, and we are free to quote Him. We may also quote what He has said about preaching some other gospel (**Gal. 1:6-10**). It is not a sin to use great plainness of speech as we reprove and rebuke (**2 Tim. 4:1-5; Tit. 1:13; 2:15**). Man is to use righteous judgment in discerning the difference in good and evil (**Jn. 7:24; Heb. 5:12-14**). Man is going too far when he becomes too reckless in announcing the eternal destiny of each individual that passes by. There may be too frequent use of the expression: "You are going to hell," or "If you do not, you are going to hell." Are we sure in each case? Do

others not know that we do not sit on the throne? We might warn more effectively if we would stick more closely to our teaching job and leave the decision making to the Master.

On the other hand, some seem only to know the first two words in **Matthew 7:1** - judge not. These people overlook the context and the teaching of the Lord. We should all desire to be so well taught and of such disposition that we may be "perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (**1 Cor.**

1:10). We are expected to have skill in the proper type of judging (**1 Cor. 6:2-5**). Righteous men have ability to evaluate the evidence in many matters and make wise decisions.

We do not know the secrets of all hearts, and we do not have a full comprehension of the mind of God, so we need to restrain ourselves in separating the flock into two groups and preparing a list for the Lord. He may not accept all our decisions. The church is in much distress now over many questions that are being discussed with more heat than light. Knowledge that "puffeth up" may be more common than love that edifies or is upbuilding. It may be hard to distinguish between the judging that is very necessary and that which is forbidden. There is a big difference in the two types of judging, and we need to learn what is proper.

One is not necessarily in grievous error if he does not agree with me in some matter of expediency. We need to be aware of the consolation, comfort, fellowship and mercy to be found in the hearts of Christians. "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:3-5). This is not the mind of bitter men who so often shout at their brethren: "You are going to hell." Let us have more love in our hearts for our brethren and let us not judge them too harshly. — **Guardian of Truth - January 15, 1987**

