

“With All Readiness of Mind”

Acts 17:11 - “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”

By Aubrey Belue

Looking at various translations, the expression is “give serious attention to”; “welcomed”; “with all eagerness”. This involves:

“FAIRNESS” – objectively accept ALL the information, trust in the effect of the entire body of truth, be willing to acknowledge difficulties in our thinking, and the obligation to properly resolve them according to God’s word.

“FOCUS”– concentrate on the reasoning, exclude distractions, and accept the logical conclusions the passage points us to (or, which can be deduced from our initial position) (**Mt 6:19-24; Jas 1:5-8**)

“FLEXIBILITY” – have the integrity to adjust, and bring your thinking into line with the further truth as

it is learned. Arrogance and stubbornness are not part of the

‘READY MIND’

The result: “therefore...many believed”. The gospel is perfectly designed to convince the “ready mind”, and ONLY the ready mind – it can thrive only in “GOOD SOIL” – **Mt 13:19ff** It is illustrated by the difference between the way the Thessalonians received it, and those in Berea.

So many things degrade the quality of it: prejudice, emotional barriers (bitterness, arrogance, partiality), undue confidence in sources, etc.

Our doctrinal stands and relationships are dependent on it, and our troubles come where there is a lack of it.



Classes This Week

Sunday 7:30 PM College Devo and Singing at Ashley and Anna Miller’s House	Tuesday 8:00 PM Truth-seekers Campus Study in Room 2225 in Student Center	Thursday 10:00 AM Ladies Class at the Holly Johnson’s home on “Amazing Women of the Bible”	Thursday 7:00 PM Men’s Class at TBA on Elders 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)	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)	Rebecca Davis (Chuck Hahn’s niece)	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)	

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 making good progress in NICU at Baptist south in Montgomery! Please pray for her.
- ☒ - Owen Mauldin will have hip surgery on Monday. prayers appreciated!
- ☒ - Jeremiah Johnson’s father, Tj Johnson, had 2 stents put in this week.
- ☒ - Jeremiah Johnson’s grandfather, Austin Locke, was unable to have his surgery this week and sent home.
- ☒ - Ty Randolph’s grandfather, dub reeves, had a minor stroke this week and is improving.
- ☒ - Prayers requested for Betty Bradford and her family in the loss of her brother, John Bersot.
- ☒ - Prayers requested for Anne Morton who will have minor surgery this week.
- ☒ - Jimmy Roberts’ cousin, Lori Dodgion, died this week and funeral was yesterday in Virginia. prayers appreciated.

The Auburn Beacon



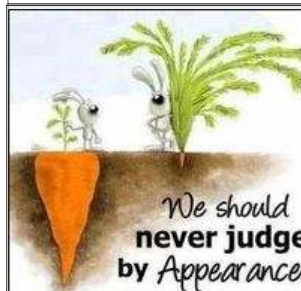
Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (**Matthew 5:16**)

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The Lord Looks on the Heart

By Irven Lee



Thoughts to Ponder

“Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.” (**John 7:24**)

“For the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart” (**1 Sam. 16:7**). In speaking of Christ it was said, “He needeth not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man” (**John 2:25**). There are some soul searching questions one might consider because God is not mocked. He knows our thoughts and motives, and He judges according to what He sees inside.

It is better that man not be left to handle this matter of trying to settle the question as to each man’s destiny. He would make many mistakes. Two older men were talking about whether it was best to withdraw from a certain man. They did not agree as to the guilt of the man in question. One said, “I would hate for one who was considered a member in good standing with this church to die and go to hell.” The other said, “I would hate for one who dies and goes to heaven to be one from whom we had just withdrawn.” Men should be very careful in obeying the command to with-

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draw from the disorderly (**2 Thess. 3:6; Rom. 16:17, 18**). Patience, love, and wisdom should be there to help us when we seek to use righteous judgment (**John 7:24**).

The hypocritical Pharisees and the unbelieving Sadducees did condemn the Christ and many saints to harsh persecution and death. When Stephen and other such people were condemned, their eternal destiny was not endangered. Heaven’s court is the supreme court and makes the final decisions. In our generation many of the supporters of institutionalism

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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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and church support of recreation have considered those who walked in the safe way to be unworthy of fellowship. I am glad that these bitter digressive preachers are not the ones to determine our final destiny.

For what will Christ, the great Judge, be looking when He separates the sheep from the goats? He will be looking for genuine love for God and men. The two greatest commandments are evidently very important * He will look for the love that will bring about obedience (**read John 14:15, 21, 23; 1 John 2:4; 5:3**). He will also look for the love that will properly regulate man's behavior to his fellow man (**Rom. 13:10; James 2**). A little touch of emotionalism will not suffice as a substitute for loving obedience.

The Judge will be looking for those who hunger and thirst after righteousness. (**Mt. 5:6; 1 Pt. 2:2; 2 Tim. 2:15, 16; Heb. 5: 12-14.**) People perish through lack of knowledge. We speak as the oracles of God and we walk by faith. It is very important for us to be able to discern between good and evil. We are to be able to give a reason for the hope within us. We are to be apt to teach and to stop the mouths of gainsayers. Is the lack of knowledge and the lack of desire to learn about the greatest dangers facing us now? It is a noble spirit that searches the Scriptures daily to see what is true.

The Judge looks for those who grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord. We never learn all there is to know, but we can grow in this precious knowledge. We are to go on unto perfection. We are to press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling (**2 Pet. 3:18; Heb. 6: 1; Phil. 3:14**).

All men everywhere are commanded to repent. If we ever decide that we have graduated with the class that knows everything and has added all the faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love that can be added we are

unprepared for judgment. We all will need to find mercy even when we have done our best.

That man who works out his salvation with fear and trembling and gives diligence to make his calling and election sure is the best man I can picture in my mind. That devout person who is in his Father's kingdom contending for the faith needs to study and press on toward perfection, confessing his sins and his need of mercy along the way. This servant will make it to heaven, but only by grace. Christ died that people like this may enter in through the gate into the city. Now, at this time, if we truly set our affections on things above we may lay hold of the hope set before us.

The Philippian jailer and his family were babes in Christ the morning after they were baptized as penitent believers, but their sins had been washed away. If they lived for years but never walked in newness of life they would surely be lost. The Lord handles the final judgment as one who knows what is in man and He knows His Father's will. Each will be judged fairly according to the deeds done in his body.

A first grade pupil at school may have high marks on his report card even though his big brother knows more than he does. The graduate student should know much more than that one in the first grade. The assignments given the graduate student will be much more difficult than that which is expected of the beginner. "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more" (**Luke 12:48**).



Endure

By David Smelser

The examples we have in Hebrews tell of men who endured temptation, shame, want, and physical abuse. But how do we achieve the endurance for which they are praised?

We often think of Hebrews as the book about how Jesus is better: Jesus is better than the angels, Jesus is better than Moses, Jesus is better than the Levitical high priests. A large portion of Hebrews is dedicated to the idea that Jesus is a more complete fulfillment of Old Testament figures. However, this is only one side of the book of Hebrews. The author spends time establishing the superiority of Jesus in order to inspire his audience to endure.

The book of Hebrews alternates between concepts and application. As the book progresses, the author spends more and more time on the application. By the time we reach chapter 10, the writer begins a final push toward his goal of encouraging his readers to endure. He reminds them of "the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings" (**10:32**). However well they endured in the "former days," the readers now "have need of endurance" once again (**10:36**). The writer fills chapter 11 with examples of men and women who endured through faith, and begins chapter 12 with the exhortation, "Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted" (**12:1b-3**). Using the examples of the men of chapter 11 and the ultimate example of Jesus, we, like the original audience, are encouraged to endure.

The examples we have in Hebrews tell of men who endured temptation, shame, want, and physical abuse. But how do we achieve the endurance for which they are praised? We are told of Moses, who endured the temptation of riches and power because "he endured as seeing him who is invisible" (**11:27**). Put another way, Moses recognized that "the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are not seen are eternal" (**2 Cor. 4:18**). If we are to endure, we must maintain that eternal perspective. Second,

we have to accept that endurance will cause pain. The Hebrew audience is rebuked for having "not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood" (**12:4**). We like the idea of endurance. Many people have begun new years with plans to incorporate distance running into their lifestyle; however, as soon as they realize that every road in Georgia is uphill and the weather in January is bitter, their commitment wanes. If we are to endure, we cannot shy away from pain. Instead, we must look past our

pain to the reward, just as Jesus endured the shame of the cross by looking to "the joy that was set before him" (**12:2**). Sometimes our suffering may be physical abuse, like the Hebrew audience received. Sometimes it might be temptation. Sometimes our pain may be that which comes from recognizing our sins and weaknesses and confessing to one another. However, the third way we become better at enduring depends on this sometimes painful interaction with each other. In **Hebrews 12**, the author quotes from a passage in **Isaiah 35**: "Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, 'Be strong; fear not!'" If we are to endure the way God wants us to, we must keep our eyes on the unseen, not shy away from pain, and strengthen one another where we are weak.

The result of endurance is multifaceted. Hebrews tells us that we endure through discipline "that we may share his holiness" (**12:10**). Paul tells us in Romans that "endurance produces character, and character produces hope" (**5:4**). And finally, "If we endure, we will also reign with him" (**2 Tim. 2:12**). Endurance is difficult and painful, but its end is holiness, character, hope, and reward. "Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning" (**Ps. 30:5**).

