

They Hated Me First

It was because people knew that Jesus was uncompromising with God's truth that they hated Him and worked for His death. Just before Jesus laid His life down for such sinners, He warned His apostles, "if you were of the world, the world will love its own." (John 15:19) but because you are not like them they will hate you. He reminded them that they needed to remember that "they hated Me first."

It is easy to want two masters, to please the world and think we have God's pleasure in us at the same time, but God says that one who makes himself a friend to the world becomes the enemy of God (James 4:4). We cannot love God and uphold His word, while trying to approve of those who trash His word.

By Terry W. Benton

Love for God separates us from the world of those with a self-centered lust-based outlook. The world follows a completely different standard than those who follow Christ. Don't expect the world who hated Jesus, the real one, to love you. We cannot do better than Jesus. We cannot stand for what Jesus stood for and expect the world to think well of us. Jesus told His disciples, "Woe to you when all men speak well of you." What fellowship does light have with darkness? Come out and be separate from the world. Christ will give you light! (2 Cor.6:14 - 7:1). Do not be afraid or ashamed to be hated for Jesus' sake and for righteousness sake! In striving to be like the Master it is inevitable!



Brad Marshall (Allie Hosey's Cousin)	Jesse Godwin	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	Louise Pack (Anna and Christopher's grandmother)
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)	Audrey Barnett (Joanetta's sister-in-law)	Betty Bradford	Hazel Gilliland (and Sherry Carroll (Toni's relatives)
Tom Davis (Walker Davis' Uncle)	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	Yolanda Stewart (Michael Bassie's Sister)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Toni Herd	Rebecca Davis (Chuck Hahn's Niece)	Holly Law
John M. Rhodes and Bonnie Rhodes Kirkley (Toni Herd's family)	Joe Perkins (Scott Perkins' Dad)	Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephew)	Ellie Vaughn (Scott and Genna's baby)

August Birthdays

- 2-Emma Miller
- 2-Heath Donahue
- 7-Joey McGee
- 8-Alli Luther
- 9-Elliot Weldon
- 9-Troy Swenson
- 10-David Hartsell
- 11-Walker Davis
- 11-Andrew Kiser
- 12-Jon Coleman
- 13-Brendon Kirby
- 13-Ariel Ramsey
- 15-Kalee Reid
- 16-Cade Smith
- 18-Makayla Chittam
- 19-Brettlyn Currier
- 19-Taylor Lawrence
- 20-Caleb Law
- 21-Matt Cavender
- 23-Jordan Flatt
- 23-Colton Miller
- 24-Sophie Hall
- 27-Chip Freeman
- 28-Larry Rouse
- 28-Cole Johnson

News and Notes

- ☒ - Lets keep in our prayers our expectant mother, Nicole Pender!
- ☒ - We want to wish Daphene Whatley all the best as she leaves us to live in Shelby county.
- ☒ - Please continue to pray for Scott Perkins' dad, Joe.
- ☒ - Remember our upcoming meeting with Paul Earnhart, August 23-27!
- ☒ - Please pray for the Harold Carswell family as they are caring for his sister in their home.
- ☒ - The ladies class will be this Thursday. At 7 PM at Joanetta Lauderdale's house on "heaven."
- ☒ - Please pray for Troy's father, Jesse Godwin (Mac's grandfather) who is recovering at home with a back issue.
- ☒ - Let us work to welcome our students that are returning and to meet the large number of new students arriving!

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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Pearls From Proverbs: A Seemingly Right Course

By Irvin Himmel



Thoughts to Ponder
You shall not follow a crowd to do evil; nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after many to pervert justice.
(Exodus 23:2)

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death (Prov. 14:12).

So important is the thought of this verse that it is repeated in **Proverbs 16:25**.

Things are not Always What They Seem

To an infant, a pair of scissors may seem desirable, for the child does not realize the danger in playing with a sharp cutting instrument.

It seemed proper to Saul of Tarsus in his earlier years to persecute the disciples of Jesus. Looking back on that part of his life, he acknowledged, "I verily thought with myself that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them. And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities" (Acts 26:9-11). It

Many people rely on their feelings. They say, "This seems to me to be the right thing to do." But what does the word of God say about it? We may honestly feel that we are on the right road and all the while be on the wrong road.

seemed to Saul at the time that he was rendering God a service by persecuting the followers of Jesus, but he was actually fighting against God.

When Paul clashed with the Greek philosophers at Athens, some of them said, "He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods" (Acts 17:18). They made this judgment because he preached unto them Jesus and the resurrection. But in this case, as in many others, things were not what they seemed.

Right Not Determined By "Seeming"

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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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A way may seem right but that does not make it right. A number of years ago I was traveling south on interstate 75 in the early hours before dawn. A heavy fog made visibility difficult. I stopped at a restaurant. Daylight was just beginning as I negotiated several turns to get back on the interstate. It seemed that I was heading in the direction of Florida until I began noticing road signs. I had traveled a number of miles before realizing that I was going in the direction from which I had just come. I turned around and headed south, but for a while it seemed that this should be north. Finally, when the sun broke through the fog, my sense of direction cleared.

In the course of one's life it may seem that he is on the right track. "But a man is not the highest surveyor of life, and the map that he draws is not the supreme authority" (W. F. Adeney). Thinking a thing to be right does not make it so.

Many people rely on their feelings. They say, "This seems to me to be the right thing to do." But what does the word of God say about it? We may honestly feel that we are on the right road and all the while be on the wrong road.

God gives us the standard of right. No matter how things seem, or how we feel, or what we personally may be inclined to think, we must let the Bible be our guide.

Ways That Seem Right

(1) The end justifies the means. In many situations people pay little attention to whether or not they are following the Scriptures. They suppose that so long as some good is resulting from their actions, they must have God's approval. But it is never right to do wrong in order to accomplish something worthwhile. One is not justified in stealing in order to give to the poor. There is no warrant for perverting the gospel in order to gain favor with sinners.

(2) God will make an exception. There are people who think that no matter what the Bible says, they can do otherwise and get by. Re-

cently, a woman who entered into an adulterous marriage was questioned by a preacher about her conduct, and she replied that she felt that God would make an exception to **Matthew 19:9** in her case. Apparently, some feel that God will make an exception to **Mark 16:16** in their case, and they can be saved without believing and being baptized. The way of the "exception" rule seems right, but do not be deceived by it. God has not revealed that He is going to make exceptions with any of us.

(3) Many others are going this way. It is hard for some, old and young alike, to resist the current popular opinion. To them it seems right to do whatever the multitudes around them are doing. Moses warned Israel, "Thou shalt not follow a multitude, to do evil" (**Ex. 23:2**). Jesus taught that the way is "narrow" which leads to life, "and few there be that find it" (**Matt. 7:14**).

A way is not right merely because it seems so!

Destination Death

A way may seem right, but consider the end thereof. No one can judge the end of a road by the appearance which it has at the beginning. The broad road which leads to eternal ruin offers many attractions at the outset. There are bright lights, the promise of fun and pleasure, and the crowd entering this way seems to include the most influential and best educated. Alas, look at the destination!

The end result of what one does should be contemplated from the beginning. A sinful act may offer temporary pleasure, but it is followed by remorse, regret, and misery. A way may seem right, but if it ends in eternal separation from God, it should be avoided at all cost. Read **Romans 6:23**.



Quit Murdering Your Savior

By Matt Adams

"For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding Him up to contempt." ~**Hebrews 6:4-6 (ESV)**

When we, who have been saved, return to a life of sinning and refuse to repent of our sins then we're putting our Savior back up on the cross. We're murdering Him again and again and again! Do we not see our sins for what they are?! Friends and brethren, wake up to the reality that no sin is too small to separate us from our God and our Savior for eternity. All sin is serious and we shall not escape the mighty hand of the Lord - we will be judged eternally for every sin we do not repent of and get right before God. How serious do we take our lives and our status before God? Does God see a murderous rebel, or a redeemed humble servant in you and me?

Let's all be mindful of what our sins caused, and what had to happen to redeem us from that evil, to give us life, hope, and redemption. Don't forget that our sin separates (**Rom.3:23; 6:23**).

Our sins put those nails back in His hands and feet; that crown of thorns back on His head; the mockery, the disdain, the cruelty spoken; the crying out of "Crucify! Crucify!" and "His blood be upon us and our children!"; the beating, the scourging, and the spitting upon the Savior - the blessed Son of God...those are our sins. Take some time now to go back and read **Matthew 27**, put yourself into the account given there and let it sink in that your sins and mine caused that. We nail His hands, we nail His feet, we beat Him, we deride Him, we rip His body into a bloody mess, we revel in His pain and

That sin we hold on to, that sin we engage in, it cost the Son of God His life! And we, being called His followers, willingly engage in sin yet again after being redeemed?! Considering all He did for us, we then refuse to repent?!

delight in His death...we do that when we choose to sin. Your sins and mine, friend.

That's what sin does. It's not so glamorous is it? Not so "fun" anymore, is it?

That sin we hold on to, that sin we engage in, it cost the Son of God His life! And we, being called His followers, willingly engage in sin yet again after being redeemed?! Considering all He did for us, we then refuse to repent?! How will we answer

to God if our life ends without our sins repented of? If we do not choose instead to have our lives truly transformed by His Son?

Today is a blessing from God, a chance to get it right - what shall we do (**Acts 2:36-38; Acts 8:20-24**)? Which will it be for us today, what shall we choose - sin or salvation?

Consider this verse throughout the day:

"For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The Lord will judge His people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." ~**Hebrews 10:26-31 (NKJV)**

Friends and brethren, let's put away the sin (**Heb.12:1-2**).

Friends and brethren, quit murdering your Savior.

