

A Few Words About Our Thrill Seeking Culture

In the recent years we have developed a thrill-seeking culture – a culture moved more by emotional stimuli than careful thought – that affects many facets of our lives. I have not been to a movie in years, but I have seen trailers on TV and digital video, and heard people talk about them. I have noticed many come away more enamored with the thrilling “special effects” while having only a sketchy memory of the plot or story behind the effects. At musical concerts, for the most part, the most attention is given to special effects to create an emotional atmosphere than to thoughtful lyrics that convey real messages.

I fear this culture is affecting public worship. People are “going to church” not to be challenged to think on spiritual things but to be thrilled by the “special effects” generated by preachers and “worship leaders.” Rather than songs, clearly worded and sung to praise God and teach each other; words primarily appealing to the head rather than to the arms and feet, the order of the

By Edward O. Bragwell, Sr. day is for “special effects” designed to give worshipers an emotional high. Sermons must be jazzed up with verbal and electronic special effects so that the audience can be thrilled rather than informed or convicted in their minds. I am not speaking of the use of visual aids, computer generated or otherwise. Visual aids are great tools when they truly “aid” the listener’s understanding, but when used for emotional, thrill and awe value, they are questionable to say the least. I saw a video a while back of a congregation partaking of the Lord’s Supper while an electronically produced large cross was “floating” around the auditorium. A little too much – me thinks.

As I read the New Testament I get the idea public worship is to be done from the heart in a solemn manner, glorifying God and seriously reflecting on the words uttered in the songs, prayers and discourses.

Classes This Week

Sunday 5:15 PM Kid’s Class at the Building	Tuesday 8 PM Truth-seekers in Student Center Rm 2225	Tuesday 8 PM Truth-seekers in Student Center Rm 2225
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Brad Marshall (Allie Hosey’s Cousin)	Jesse Godwin (Troy’s father and Mac’s grandfather)	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)	William Smith (Ken Sullivan’s brother)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley’s Father)	William Herd	Rebecca Davis (Chuck Hahn’s Niece)	Holly Law
John M. Rhodes and Bonnie Rhodes Kirkley (Toni Herd’s family)	Joe Perkins (Scott Perkin’s Dad)	Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd’s Nephew)	Ellie Vaughn (Scott and Genna’s baby)

September Birthdays

- 2-Denise Davis
- 3-Trenton Anderson
- 3-Larry Lauderdale
- 4-Kevin Anderson
- 7-Abigale Gilbert
- 10-BJ Winslett
- 10-Eleanor Weldon
- 10-Matthew Sullivan
- 11-Sheryl Fowler
- 11-Kimberlee Myers
- 12-Jared Johnson
- 13-Adam Saylor
- 13-Rachel LaGrone
- 14-Patsy Ogle
- 16-Brittany Bagents
- 17-Laura Weldon
- 21-Sarah Chandler
- 24-Wade Winslett
- 24-Lauren Johnson
- 25-Ashley Collier
- 26-Ali Ingram
- 28-Katie Pepper
- 29-Preston Loggins

News and Notes

- ☒ - Lets keep in our prayers our expectant mothers, Jessica Anderson and Nicole Pender!
- ☒ - Thanks to all who worked so hard to make our meeting with Paul Earnhart successful!
- ☒ - Please remember Tori Luther’s grandmother (Carla’s mother), Joy Powell, as she recovers from a successful heart procedure last Friday.
- ☒ - Be sure and get your picture made for the updated directory! Please see Paula Davis.
- ☒ - Please remember William Herd as he continues to struggle with gastrointestinal issues.
- ☒ - Mac and Kaylee Searcy are moving to VA this week. Today will be their last services with us.

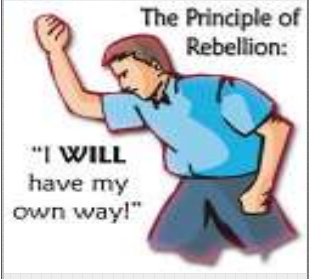
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The Auburn Beacon

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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Thoughts to Ponder

If anyone wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority. (John 7:17)

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

Doing the Will of God

By Robert H. Farish

The kingdom of heaven is reserved for those who do the will of God. Christ said that "not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven." (Matt. 7:21) It is not enough to assert that we are doing many mighty works in the name of Christ, this is shown by Christ’s statement in the next two verses — we must actually do the will of the Father. Some people are confused — they are claiming to be doing the will of God while actually they are doing their own will — following the course dictated by their own wishes. It is difficult to select any one unworthy motive as the one which prompts that particular process of rationalization by which people identify their ideas, plans or even whims as the will of God; perhaps pride is the chief offender. We need to be impressed that it is the will of God; not the will of man, which we are to do.

This passage clearly demands doing the will of the Father. Conscious human effort is involved, no rational being does the will of God accidentally. Hence it follows that knowledge of the will of God is a necessary precedent to doing the

Understanding the will of God is required by both reason and revelation. It stands to reason that one must understand the wishes of another before one can comply with those wishes. But we are not left to reason alone in this matter, for revelation has expressly required that we understand what the will of the Lord is — "Wherefore be ye not foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is." (Eph. 5:17)

will of God. One must know where to go to learn the will of God and he must then come to a knowledge of that will.

With reference to the first we sometime encounter the question — "How can I know that the New Testament is the will of God?" A person once presented the problem in this way to me — "I believe that there is a God — no one could consider and accept the idea of limitless space and reject the idea of eternity — nor can space without end "filled" with myriads of bodies be attributed to chance. These and other things all around me declare the glory of God and evi-

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dence his handiwork. Thus the fact of the existence of a supreme being — a divine being with everlasting power, is not questioned. But how can I know where to go to learn his will toward me?" The answer to this was given by our Lord — "If any man willeth to do his will, he shall know of the teaching, whether it is of God, or whether I speak from myself." (**John 7:17**) Does this need any comment? Notice the context as you study this — Christ had just claimed that the teaching which he did was not his but God's. The New Testament claims to comprise the teaching of Christ — that which was taken of Christ's by the Holy Spirit and declared unto the apostles who in turn spoke it. It is clear then that the single-minded determination to do the will of God will result in the one so determining knowing "whether it is of God or whether" Jesus spoke as a mere man. When one is assured that the New Testament is the expressed will of God, he must then learn what that will is that is contained therein.

Understanding the will of God is required by both reason and revelation. It stands to reason that one must understand the wishes of another before one can comply with those wishes. But we are not left to reason alone in this matter, for revelation has expressly required that we understand what the will of the Lord is — "Wherefore be ye not foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is." (**Eph. 5:17**) Paul prayed that his brethren might "be filled with the knowledge of his will," (**Col. 1:9**) and then placed upon them the responsibility of letting "the word of Christ dwell in you richly." (**Col. 3:16**)

God appointed that Paul "know his will"—"see the righteous one" — "hear a voice from his mouth."

(**Acts 22:14**) This was necessary to equip him as a witness. (**Acts 22:15**) Paul must know the will of God before he could open men's eyes. "That they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan unto God" (**Acts 26:18**) Knowledge of the will of God is essential equipment for any preacher who turns people to God, for no one can do the will of 'God until he

knows the will of God. Other passages on this point may be studied but these suffice for our purpose of establishing that knowledge of God's will is essential to doing God's will. We can and must know the teaching and that that teaching is from God.

The Christian is required to arm himself with the mind of Christ "that ye no longer should live the rest of your time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God." (**1 Peter 4:2**) Our time must be lived to the will of God. But without the mind of Christ no one can accomplish this design. The proper attitude toward the will of God is indispensable to doing the will of God. Christ's attitude was "not my will but thine be done." When we arm ourselves with this mind, we are equipped to live the rest of our time in the flesh to the will of God. There are two alternatives — either we can spend our lives to the lusts of men or we can spend our lives to the will of God. The big question is shall we do the desires of the flesh or shall we do the desires of God.

Our abiding forever is conditioned upon our doing the will of God. "And the world passeth away, and the lusts thereof; but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever." (**1 John 2:17**) The one who does the will of God is more enduring than the established order of nature. When the world passes away and the lust thereof no longer exists, he that does the will of God continues. When we are all made manifest before the judgment-seat of Christ, we shall each one of us "receive the things done in the body, whether it be good or bad." (**2 Cor. 5:10**) How urgent is the need to make it our aim "to be well pleasing unto him." We have his assurance that we will be well pleasing unto him if we do his will.

"Now the God of peace, who brought again from the dead the great shepherd of the sheep with the blood of an eternal covenant, even our Lord Jesus, make you perfect in every good thing to do his will" (**Heb. 13:12**)

Gospel Guardian – November 8, 1956



Christians With No Denominational Ties

By Bill Hall

God places great emphasis on names. He changed Abram's name to Abraham (**Gen. 17:5**), Sarai's name to Sarah (**Gen. 17:15**), and Jacob's name to Israel (**Gen. 32:38**). He gave to John and Jesus their names before they were born (**Luke 1:13,31**). He has given to His people of this age the name "Christian" (**Acts 11:26; 1 Peter 4:16**). He

has given no sec-tarian or denominational names, but rather condemns them (**1 Cor. 1:10-13**). The great need of our day is for men and women to forsake their denominational ties, be nothing but Christians, and call themselves "Christians," with no other religious names.

It is of interest to note that leaders in the prominent denominations, including some of their founders, recognized and preached this truth. N. B. Hardeman, in his *Tabernacle Sermons* (Volume IV, pages 216, 217), gives quotes from Charles Spurgeon, Martin Luther, and John Wesley in which they plead for unity. Charles Spurgeon, a prominent Baptist preacher, is quoted as saying: "I look forward, with pleasure, to the day when there will not be a Baptist living. I hope they will soon be gone. I hope the Baptist name will soon perish; but let Christ's name endure forever." (Spurgeon's Memorial Library, Vol. I, page 168).

The quote from Martin Luther: "I pray you to leave my name alone, and call not yourselves Lutherans, but Christians. Who is Luther? My doctrine is not mine. I have not been crucified for anyone. St. Paul would not let any call

Today, one can be just a Christian—as was Paul, or Peter, or James, or John with membership in nothing but a local church made up of other Christians. Faithful churches of Christ, with no denominational affiliations, meet throughout the world. There may be one near you.

themselves after Paul, nor of Peter, but of Christ. How then, does it befit me, a miserable bag of dust and ashes, to give my name to the children of God? Cease, my dear friends, to cling to these party names and distinctions: away with them all; and let us call ourselves only Christians after Him from whom our doctrine comes." (The Life of Luther, by Stork, page 289).

Brother Hardeman's quote from John Wesley, founder of the Methodist church: "Would to God that all party names and unscriptural phrases and forms which have divided the Christian world were forgot; that we might all agree to sit down together as humble, loving disciples at the feet of a common Master, to hear His words, to imbibe His spirit, and to transcribe His life into ours."

We cannot help but wonder what changes would have taken place in religious history had the followers of these men heeded their pleas. The pleas, however, went unheeded. Denominationalism with its religious division exists and will continue to exist until our Lord comes to "root it up" (**Matt. 15:13**). But meanwhile, no one has to be a part of the denom-inational system; no one should be a part of it. Today, one can be just a Christian—as was Paul, or Peter, or James, or John with membership in nothing but a local church made up of other Christians. Faithful churches of Christ, with no denominational affiliations, meet throughout the world. There may be one near you.

