

Sectarian Inconsistencies

By W. Curtis Porter

I have never known a sectarian preacher who could preach or write without contradicting himself. His contention at one point is in direct conflict with what he preaches about something else. His declamations are characterized by sectarian inconsistencies. For example, note the following:

"If Adam did not have the power to choose to disobey, then God's command had no meaning, nor point. Certainly God will not command me to refrain from a thing he knows I cannot do!" - C. O. Baker in Orthodox Baptist Searchlight.

I wish you to notice especially that last sentence: "God will not command me to refrain from a thing he knows I cannot do." Who said that? A Baptist preacher. Yet this same preacher in the same article says:

"I do not believe that a person who is saved by grace can apostatize."

If, that is so, then God will not tell him to refrain from falling, since he will not tell a man to refrain from a thing that he cannot do. But the two points are inconsistent. If a child of God cannot fall, then God does command a

Christian "to refrain from a thing he cannot do," for God tells Christians to refrain from falling. Note the Statement of Paul in **1 Cor. 10: 12**: "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." This was written to Christians. It records what God, through an apostle, is telling Christians and he tells them "to refrain from falling" to "take heed lest they fall." Is he telling them to refrain from something that is impossible for them to do? Or again: "Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief." **Heb. 4:11**. Certainly it would be absurd for any man to say that God would tell Christians not to do a thing when it is utterly impossible for the man to do the thing forbidden. If they cannot do it, there is no need of being so foolish as to tell them not to do it. But God tells Christians not to fall! It is possible, therefore for them to fall, and C. O. Baker contradicts both himself and God when he teaches the impossibility of apostasy.

Bible Banner – Feb 1942



Classes This Week

Sunday Evening College Devo and singing at the Lauderdale's. Chase Harrison will be teaching.	Tuesday 10:00 AM Ladies Class at the Rouse's on "Giving God Control"	Tuesday 8:00 PM Truth-seekers Campus Study in Room 2310 in Student Center	Friday 7:00 PM Class at the Rouse's on how to discuss doctrinal differences among brethren.
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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)	Wanda Price (Ada Owen's sister)
Terri Moore (Joey's aunt)	Audrey Barnett (Joanetta's sister-in-law)	Betty Bradford	Hazel Gilliland (Sherry Carroll (Toni's relatives)
Tom Davis (Walker Davis' Uncle)	Ermogene Laxson (Sara Lail's grandmother)	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)	Eva Jean Cavender (Matt's grandmother)
John M. Rhodes and Bonnie Rhodes Kirkley (Toni Herd's family)	Joe Perkins (Scott Perkin's Dad)	Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephew)	Esther Biddle

February Birthdays

- 2-Ken Sullivanne
- 2-Wesley Herd
- 3-Chris Long
- 4-Emma Hayes Bagents
- 5-Jude Hosey
- 5-Chase Counsell
- 5-Jimmy Owen
- 6-Jackson Fowler
- 8-Bruce Daniels
- 11-Blake Tolliver
- 13-Leslie Freeman
- 14-Leighton Daniels
- 14-Anna Jean Selsvik
- 15-Ella Miller
- 15-Dave Johnson
- 16-Seth Humphrey\
- 17-Ivy Hall
- 18-Caralise Hunt
- 18-Wyatt Boyd
- 20-Andrew Tominack
- 22-Brock Hester
- 22-Alexander Calvert
- 23-Greg Lanier
- 23-Luke Carter
- 24-Jeff Jerkins
- 24-Thomas Peek
- 25-Valerie Liverett
- 27-Julie Johnson

News and Notes

- Please remember Sarah Norman's grandmother, Virginia Box, who is recovering in the hospital from an infection.
- Please pray for Palmer Kate, daughter of Mark and Jana Rogers (friends of Erica) who will have corrective surgery for her cranium on Monday.
- The college devotional/singing will be at Larry Lauderdale's house Sunday night. Chase Harrison will be teaching!
- Luke Carter's mom, Lisa, will be being chemo soon at UAB.
- Ken Sullivanne will return to Bham Feb 19 for another cardioversion. Prayers appreciated.
- please remember will Harris' great-grandmother, Bernice martin, as she is gravely ill.
- Erica's cousin's baby, Everett Nowlin, had successful surgery last week to insert a pace maker.
- Please pray for Erica's friend, Terri Sams, who was diagnosed with AML leukemia.
- There will be group meetings tonight!
- All audio is at www.auchurch.com

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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Have You Ever Been Mad at God?

By J.R. Bronger



Thoughts to Ponder

"I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You. Therefore I abhor myself, And repent in dust and ashes." **(Job 42:5-6)**

"I have been mad at God many times. I would go outside and shake my fist at God and let him know how angry I was. It just isn't fair." These words were blasted out like the heat from a furnace from one whose life is hard and growing harder. All one has to do is sit through the funeral of a child; look into the dying eyes of a loved one, or try to comfort a woman whose husband of 30 years leaves her for a younger and prettier woman and you will often see those who are "mad at God."

I must acknowledge that life is unfair. This unfairness is seen on nearly every page of the Book of Job. It was hard for Job to swallow and it is as hard for us today as it was for him. Job and his friends try to understand Job's tragedies but they can't. They all agree that God should reward those who do good and punish the evil doers. Based on this premise, the friends conclude Job must be an evil doer—but Job is confident that he has not committed some secret sin. This is so unfair. "Have I sinned? What have I done to You, O watcher of men? Why have You set me as Your target, so that I am a burden to myself?" **(Job 7:20)**. It almost appears that Job feels that God is not doing so well at running the world, and I think this is why the Book of Job seems so modern

So, the next time you feel a tinge of anger, or disappointment with God, take your eyes off the unfairness of life and focus on Calvary.

and relevant, because we too often struggle to understand life's unfairness.

Why do the innocent suffer? Why, for example is a child molested and killed by some drug-crazed psychopath? But then the drug dealer who supplied him lives in a multimillion dollar mansion and sends his children to private schools with security guards. This is unfair!

Faithful Christians who die in the prime of their lives but atheist entertainers flaunt their disdain for God and live to ripe old ages. It certainly isn't fair that liars, cheaters and unscrupulous businessmen are able to amass riches while godly men lose their jobs and per-

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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
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haps their homes. Believe me I would love to be able to say to the parents of a beautiful six-year old girl stricken with a malignant brain tumor “Don’t worry, the world is fair, you just pray and your daughter will recover.” But I can’t—because life is unfair, and when we are beaten to our knees because of it we tend to become angry with God.

Before continuing, I want to ask the reader to pause and consider this question: “Have you ever been angry with God?” Has God made you mad? Has there been such unbearable trauma in your life that you just could not restrain yourself from lashing out at God?

There are those who when faced such a crisis of faith turn away from God. Anger turns to hatred and they want nothing more to do with God. They conclude that because God is fair (just, and righteous) then life should be fair. Therefore, when life is unfair they conclude that God is unfair and they bail on Him. They feel betrayed by God: “This is so unfair.”

Then there are those who seem to have great spiritual resilience; they are able to face the difficulties and unfairness of life with an unshakable faith. Like Paul they voice, “. . . the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day . . .” (2 Timothy 4:6-8).

I believe there is reason some become angry with God during life’s disasters while others are drawn into a deeper relationship with God during these difficult days. Once a man, whose wife was dying with cancer and who, himself, had recently been involved in an automobile accident that left him nearly blind and suffering from migraines to the point he was no longer able to work as a psychotherapist, was asked about his disappointments with God. “Have these tragedies soured you on God?”

Was he angry with God? Had the misfortunes of his life embittered him? Was he disappointed with God? After thinking for a few minutes he answered “I don’t feel any disappointment with God.” Then he explains; “The reason is this. I learned, first through my wife’s illness and then especially through the accident, not to confuse God with life. I’m no stoic. I am upset about what happened to me as anyone

could be. I feel free to curse the unfairness of life and to vent all my grief and anger . . . (but) I don’t blame God for what happened.”

What he was expressing is something all believers need to learn. We tend to think that life should be fair because God is fair—but life is not God. He went on to say: “God’s existence, even his love for me, does not depend on my good health.”

Do not fall into the trap of thinking that because God is fair life will be. Life is not God! Our faith in God must transcend life. If we can develop a relationship with God apart from life’s circumstances (unfairness) then we will hang on when the physical breaks down.

If we conclude that life must be fair because God is, then when life deals us a tremendous blow, we become angry and leave God, then all we really had was “contract faith,” not genuine faith (2 Timothy 1:5). Contract faith is “I’ll follow God if life is fair, but when it’s not I will seek support elsewhere.”

Genuine faith, however, is anchored in Christ despite the brazen unfairness of life. “For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day” (2 Timothy 1:12).

The greatest illustration of life’s unfairness is in Calvary. The sinless died for sinners—the innocent was beaten, spat upon, cursed and mocked, and there was nothing fair in that. Consider Paul’s profound observation: “For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation,” (Romans 5:6-11).

Every Christian savors the benefits of the death of our precious savior—but there was nothing fair about His death. As Pilate said: “I find no fault in Him.”

So, the next time you feel a tinge of anger, or disappointment with God, take your eyes off the unfairness of life and focus on Calvary.



Joseph

By Morris D. Norman

The picture of a truly successful man is seen in Joseph. As we view him in his late thirties, he is in the courts of Pharaoh with the number two position in the land. But his success was measured by more than that. He was a righteous man who, even in his youth refused to be involved in immorality. He had a tender and forgiving attitude toward his brethren. He had a clear concept of God’s plan for him. He coped with life in its hardest moments and overcame, keeping his perspective. He was sold by his envious brothers and his father did not come to look for him. He was lied about when he dealt justly with Potiphar, and cast into prison. The butler forgot him when he returned to his place in the court. But through it all Joseph remained a godly man.

How could this have been? He left home at about 17, and how many at that age could have coped with life as did Joseph? Have not similar circumstances embittered many a young person, causing them to wax worse and worse? Was he not found in a world that did not believe in Jehovah God? Weren’t many ungodly pleasures thrust on this young man? Was he not faced with unfair treatment from the beginning? What made his case different from many who have much better advantages today?

It must have been that he had the training at home that was necessary for him to cope. By age 17 our patterns for life have most likely been set. We are what we will likely always be. But where did Joseph get this training? Were not his older brothers the opposite? There are

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two or three possibilities. His mother died in giving birth to his younger brother, Benjamin, but she could have spent much time with her first born who was so long in coming. We are told that the first five years of a child’s life are the most important to his later life. The other sons belonged to either Leah or the two hand maidens. Leah was jealous of Joseph’s mother because his father

loved her most and this jealousy could have affected Leah’s sons. Jealousy and envy will not only destroy us but also those around us. You mothers, be aware of your role in shaping the life of your children.

Another possibility is that Jacob could have given more time to Joseph than to the other sons. After all, he was the first born of his beloved Rachel. It was clear that Joseph was his favorite. But then, when the other boys came along, Jacob was busy building his fortune and likely did not take the time that a father needs to spend with his children to help them build their character. And during this time the character of Jacob wasn’t all it should be. He had stolen his brother’s birthright and used deception with his father-in-law to build his herd. When Joseph came along, he was regretting some of his actions and longing for home. He had begun to realize what was most important in life. Having learned this himself he could teach young Joseph.

Do you want your child to be truly successful? Parents, mothers, fathers begin putting godly qualities in them from birth. They will likely be what we teach them to be.

