

Choosing Between Christ and Kin

Jesus, the Lord of Glory, came to this earth, lived a sinless life and died a shameful death. He did it for you and me "while we were still sinners" (**Romans 5:8**). Surely, we do not feel ourselves worthy of such a sacrifice. But Jesus came into the world to "save sinners," even the "chief of sinners" (**1 Timothy 1:15**). To our Lord, the souls of sinners have value -- something that makes them worthy of His saving sacrifice.

Considering this, our Lord's statement in **Matthew 10:37-38** is quite astounding, for here Jesus tells us that there are some who are "not worthy" of Him!

He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me."

Every follower of Christ has a cross to carry and a burden to bear. For many Christians, and "wannabe" Christians, one burden to be born

By Steve Klein

involves a choice between a close family member and the Lord. This choice may present itself in several different ways, but it always boils down to this question: Whom do I love more, Christ or family?

WHOM DO I LOVE MORE, when there is...

A choice between God's plan of salvation (i.e. **Acts 2:38**), and the one followed by parents or grandparents?

A choice between following God's instructions for discipline within the body of Christ (**1 Corinthians 5:9-13**) and "maintaining family ties"?

A choice between the truth of God on a moral issue (e.g. marriage and divorce, **Matthew 19:9**), and twisting God's truth to try to justify the behavior of a family member?

If we love the family more, we are not worthy of Christ. Are you worthy?



Lisa Carter (Luke's mother)	Jesse Godwin (Troy's father and Mac's grandfather)	Virginia Box (Sarah Norman's grandmother)	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)	Jamin Hymel (Chad's son)
Terri Moore (Joey's aunt)	Artina Hunt (Esther's friend's sister)	Betty Bradford	Hazel Gilliland and Sherry Carroll (Toni's relatives)
Ricky Tucker (Tyler's cousin)	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)	Bernice Martin (Will Harris' great-grandmother)	Sasha Rozier (Makenzie Reynolds' cousin)	Eva Jean Cavender (Matt's grandmother)
John M. Rhodes and Bonnie Rhodes Kirkley (Toni Herd's family)	Howard Vaughan (Mary Ann's Granddad)	Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephew)	Maria Aragon (Liseth's Mother)

June Birthdays

- 3-Philip Stephens
- 4-Alexander Nam
- 5-Cheyenne Redus
- 6-David Eison
- 7-Spencer Borden
- 8-Joanetta Lauderdale
- 9-Kay White
- 10-Joah Green
- 12-Orie Cecil
- 14-Jeremiah Johnson
- 17-Brooks Pender
- 17-Sarah Norman
- 18-James Long
- 22-Paul Tam
- 24-Justin Bice
- 25-Corey Hunt
- 26-Katie Gentry
- 27-Ada Owen
- 27-Kelli Huggins
- 28-Craig Davis

News and Notes

- ☒ - The ladies' class this week is Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at Sarah Bethea's house. Study is on David and Jonathan.
- ☒ - Please pray for Buddy Scalf, Ada Owens uncle who lives in West Virginia. He has been diagnosed with incurable cancer and his home has been flooded. Please also include his wife Priscilla.
- ☒ - Toni Herd continues to improve and appreciates all the help and prayers.
- ☒ - Perry Hill Road will have a gospel meeting with Max Dawson Sun-Wed, June 26-29.
- ☒ - Spencer Sullivan had tonsils/adenoids removed on Wed. He is recovering at home.
- ☒ - Our new quarter begins on Sunday, July 3rd.
- ☒ - Mary Ann's sister, Tamora Cornelius, had an MRI last week.
- ☒ - Please keep Makenzie Reynolds' cousin, Sasha Rozier, in your prayers as they investigate her health problems.
- ☒ - Group meetings are tonight!

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**)

Let All the Earth Keep Silence

By Sewell Hall



Thoughts to Ponder

These things you have done, and I kept silent; You thought that I was altogether like you; But I will rebuke you, And set them in order before your eyes. (**Psalm 50:21**)

But the Lord is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him" (**Habakkuk 2:20**). How often have we heard these words read or sung at the beginning of a service? The silence enjoined by Habakkuk is not a literal silence but the silence of submission and acceptance which would not dare to voice any question or complaint against God.

There is, however, great value in literal silence—a value our generation may well have forgotten. In these days of roaring traffic, noisy factories, humming household appliances and megawatt stereos, an unexpected moment of silence can be almost frightening. The first option we demand for our automobiles is a radio/cassette player; and people going to the mountains or the seashore for a picnic seem more concerned about getting their ghetto blasters or portable TVs than they are about the sandwiches. One thing to be said for many of these people is that they are generous enough to share

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their sound with everyone within a mile's radius. With all due respect, however, I think I prefer the selfish kind who, while walking, running or cycling, get their necessary sound from those little earphones that allow the rest of us to make our own selfish choices of what we want to hear—or not hear.

All of this lust for sound has even carried over into worship: we want sermons delivered with machine-gun rapidity and prayers prayed without a moment's pause for thought. The silence during the Lord's Supper has become so un-

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Elders
Walker Davis
(334) 703-0050
Larry Rouse
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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
E-Mail:
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Evangelist and Editor

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bearable to some that they have eliminated it with live or recorded singing. Our generation would have been miserable in heaven when there was silence “for about half an hour” (**Revelation 8:1**).

Silence is the natural effect of many commendable emotions: awe, humility, controlled anger, sympathy, a stricken conscience, and reverence, as well as the submission and acceptance of superior wisdom advised in **Habakkuk 2:20**. Even love may be expressed by silence. Someone has said that the depth of a friendship may be measured by the time two individuals can be comfortable with no word exchanged. Our aversion to silence may reveal the scarcity of some of these qualities.

Silence increases objectivity as we escape the clamor of emotional appeals and subjective arguments and evaluate the real substance of things we have heard. Crooked salesmen do not like silence.

In a special way, silence seems to remind us of the presence of God. It is not in the city that Christians most often remark on the certainty of a creator; rather it is on a mountain peak, far above the noise below, where the stillness is broken only by sounds of God’s creation. Silence allows us to hear the voice of the Spirit—not in some miraculous way, but through reflection upon the law of God which we have laid up in our hearts (**Psalms 119:11**) and upon which we “meditate day and night” (**Psalms 1:2**). Meditation is best without distracting noise. Because of these qualities, silence may often be used effectively to calm bitterness and to avoid polarization of individuals in disagreement. The Quakers have become known as peerless mediators in numerous types of conflict; and periods of silence are among their favorite devices. Most of us talk

too much and are too rushed to be successful as peacemakers.

Silence is an excellent tool in personal evangelism. A period of quiet reflection after the reading of a scripture gives the student time to reach his own conclusions about its message. It is amazing how effective the Holy Spirit can be in revealing truth to one whose mind is uncluttered by the explanations of “teachers.”

Silence can encourage decisions. Once, talking to a couple who had been attending services for many years, I was urging their obedience. As usual, they said they needed a little more time. “How much time do you need?” I asked. “You have had 20 years.” Silence followed. They said nothing. I said nothing. I determined that I would not speak until they did. The silence lengthened. It became almost embarrassing—it seemed so long. But it was finally broken when he said, “I’m ready; let’s go.” They died not long after that—saved by a decision which was spurred, not by what was said but by what was not said. I learned that there is, indeed, “a time to keep silence” (**Ecclesiastes 3:7**).

Silence facilitates private prayer. Perhaps it was a quest for such silence which led Jesus, rather often, to rise a long while before day to go out into a solitary place to pray. If He sought it, so should we.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with Thee
The silence of eternity,
Interpreted by love!

Drop Thy still dews of quietness
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess,
The beauty of Thy peace.
—John G. Whittier



Who Selects Your Ties?

By James W. Adams

Several years ago, A British magazine, Tailor and Cutter, suggested the following guide to be used in tie-buying so as to match the tie to the personality of the wearer:

“Neat patterns are chosen by men modest and careful in thought and action. Stripes are selected by men overwhelmingly conscious of fashion, decisive in action and reluctant to take ‘no’ for an answer. A single motif is chosen by those who are studious, attentive to detail and efficient. Knitted ties are for the flamboyant, with an eye to color. A plain or single color indicates one who is upright, conservative and careful with money. The bow tie is for the extrovert. However, when women buy the ties instead of men, you can throw out the guide. Women are more likely to buy something that appeals to them regardless of the personality of the man who is going to wear the tie. If someone else picks out ties for you, the ties may not reflect your personality at all. Worse than that, they may misrepresent you.”

When I read this, it occurred to me that there is an important analogy that is suggested by it. The pattern of the lives of some does not always represent what they really are. Their pattern of life (called today, “Lifestyle”) often misrepresents them. The reason for this: they allow the views of others to determine their choices in life. Faith and conscience, in the eyes of God, are intimately personal things. The faith of another will not suffice for me. My faith must represent my personal conviction relative to that which is true and right. The conscience of another person cannot be substituted for my conscience, even though there are many fanatical brethren who seem to think that their consciences should be the consciences of every member of the congregation in which they hold membership. Even “public consciences” - the norm of behavior that is the consensus of society in general - sometimes called, “social conscience,” will not do. Conscience must be based

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upon absolute personal conviction concerning which is right and what is wrong.

All of us like to please our peers; hence we often allow peer pressure to determine the course of our lives. In other words, we are letting somebody else select our spiritual ties. Therefore, our actions do not truly represent our basic convictions. This is a species of hypocrisy in reverse, and it emanates from cowardice. Christians must “dare to be differ-

ent.” They must make their own choices. They must stand on their own convictions. No other course will meet the approval of God. Paul says, “whatsoever is not of faith is sin” (**Rom. 14:23**). The faith to which he refers is one’s personal faith in the rightness or wrongness of any act the Christian performs. A life lived in conformity to what one honestly believes to be wrong will damn his soul whether it is wrong or not. The following poem well expresses what the Christian should do in life:

Paddle Your Own Canoe

Voyager upon life’s sea, to yourself be true;
And where’er your lot may be, paddle your own canoe.
Would you crush the tyrant, Wrong, in the world’s fierce fight?
With a spirit brave and strong, battle for the Right;
And to break the chains that bind the many to the few -
To enfranchise the slavish mind,
Paddle your own canoe. -- Sarah K. Bolton

Represent yourself as you are. Select your own ties!

