

No Problem

When a person is eager to learn the way of salvation and is willing to accept the word of God as the final authority, there is no problem in teaching him what to do to be saved.

When differences arise among brethren and all have a humble attitude, and there is a sincere desire for peace and unity, and all parties want to follow God's word, the settlement is no problem.

When a person genuinely believes that Jesus is the Son of God and wants to yield in submission to Christ, once he is shown the Lord commands baptism for

by Irvin Himmel

the remission of sins, because he is honest and longs to go to heaven, there is no problem getting him to be baptized.

When a worshiper comes into the assembly with the right attitude of heart, there is no problem if the song leader misses the pitch on one of the hymns or if the building is too warm, or if the janitor has missed some cobwebs over the pulpit.

Many of the problems that arise are the bitter fruit of improper thinking. **(James 3:13-18)**



Classes This Week

Sunday Evening College Devo and Singing at the Robert's House. Harold Carswell will be teaching!	Monday 7:00 PM Men's study at Walker Davis' on "How to change Yourself"	Tuesday 10:00 AM Ladies Class at the Rouse's on "Seasoning Your Words"	Tuesday 8:00 PM Truth Seekers in room 2326 of the student center (Note changing room number!)
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Lisa Carter (Luke's mother)	Jesse Godwin (Troy's father and Mac's grandfather)	Nell Holcomb (Ben's grandmother, Joanetta's aunt)	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)	Ruth Addison (gmom of April and Julie)
Madeline Morton (Greg Lanier's g'daughter)	Alexander Locke (Jeremiah's cousin's son)	Betty Bradford	Hazel Gilliland (Toni's relatives)
Jean Buchanan (Abbie Harrison's grandmother)	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)	Arabelle Rich (Joanetta's aunt)	Sasha Rozier (Makenzie Reynolds' cousin)	Charles Hunt, chuck Hunt's dad
Bonnie Rhodes Kirkley (Toni Herd's family)	Howard Vaughan (Mary Ann's Granddad)	Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephew)	James Palmer (Rachel Hobbard's grandfather)

February Birthdays

- 2-Ken Sullivan
- 2-Wesley Herd
- 3-Chris Long
- 4-Emma Hayes Bagents
- 5-Jude Hosey
- 5-Jimmy Owen
- 6-Jackson Fowler
- 8-Bruce Daniels
- 11-Blake Tolliver
- 13-Leslie Freeman
- 13-Samuel Bush
- 14-Leighton Daniels
- 15-Ella Miller
- 16-Seth Humphrey
- 16-Anna Vega
- 17-Ivy Hall
- 17-Emmy Cantrell
- 18-Caralise Hunt
- 18-Wyatt Boyd
- 18-Tyler Cox
- 20-Andrew Tominack
- 22-Brock Hester
- 22-Alexander Calvert
- 23-Greg Lanier
- 23-Luke Carter
- 24-Jeff Jenkins
- 27-Julie Johnson

News and Notes

- ☒ - Harold Carswell will be preaching tonight. We support him as he works in Troy!
- ☒ - Please continue to pray for Fallon Hartsell as she recovers.
- ☒ - Congratulations to Orie's sister and her husband, Kalie and Jonathan Thrasher, who were able to adopt baby Henry this week!
- ☒ - Please remember these family members of Orie Cecil as they battle cancer: his cousin, Tina Atnip, and her son, Caleb, and Orie's grandfather Charles Cecil
- ☒ - Scott Smelser will preach on evidences at the Prattmont church Feb 12-14.
- ☒ - Please pray for our expectant mothers: Amanda Stephens, Brooke Perkins, Fallon Hartsell and Jenna Vaughn.
- ☒ - Please pray for the Anderson's newly adopted daughter, Julianna, that she is able to come home from the hospital soon.
- ☒ - All audio is immediately posted on www.auchurch.com. Cd's are available immediately after each service!

The Auburn Beacon

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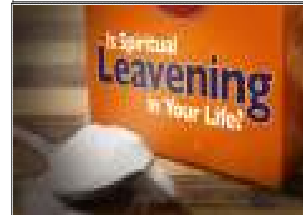
Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. **(Matthew 5:16)**

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Beware of the Leaven of Politics

By Larry Rouse



Thoughts to Ponder

Then He charged them, saying, "Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod. **(Mark 8:15)**

The lure of the political spirit is a genuine danger to the cause of Christ. There is a legitimate realm where the Christian can seek to exercise influence for good in the community and country where he lives. Working for proper causes through the government or other organizations can be a good choice when proper considerations and priorities are in place. We need to be reminded, however, that the political realm remains firmly in the hands of "the ruler of this world."

Jesus gave a grave warning concerning His disciples partaking of the spirit (a condition of heart that comes through shared ideals) of influential groups of His day. "...He began to say to His disciples first of all, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known" **(Luke 12:1)**. The spirit of this world seeks to obtain its objective at any cost. The worldly man may show concern for a given issue, be it serving God, helping the poor, etc., when the real goal is the obtaining of personal power. This is hypocrisy. The ruler of this world has no concern for principles, people and especially of God's way.

The political way of creating crisis

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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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Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor

It is far easier to stir emotions that shut down the mind rather than build a reasonable case for a cause. H.L. Mencken said this over 50 years ago:

"The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed -- and hence clamorous to be led to safety -- by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary."

We must learn to guard our spirit from those who would lead individuals or crowds to act out of emotion that shuts down both reason and fairness! God warned long ago: "You shall not follow a crowd to do evil.." **(Ex 23:2)**

The spirit of politics comes from the ruler of this world. When the Roman

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and Jewish authorities sent their forces to crucify our Lord, He knew that it was Satan that was coming to try to defeat His cause. "... for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me" (Jn 14:30). Before Pilate, Jesus indicated that His followers were part of a kingdom that does not fight for political causes nor use the carnal weapons that are common to that realm. Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." (Jn 18:36)

The spirit of bitterness, fear, revenge and slander are some of the prime tools men use to gain power over "the crowd." In 1895 Gustave Le Bon wrote about crowd psychology in a book appropriately called "The Crowd." He observed that crowd psychology has:

"impulsiveness, irritability, incapacity to reason, the absence of judgement of the critical spirit, the exaggeration of sentiments, and others..."

Le Bon claimed "that an individual immersed for some length of time in a crowd soon finds himself – either in consequence of magnetic influence given out by the crowd or from some other cause of which we are ignorant – in a special state, which much resembles the state of fascination in which the hypnotized individual finds himself in the hands of the hypnotizer."

Guarding our hearts from the ruler of this world

Satan's game plan has been consistent throughout time – He works to poison the heart through the works of the flesh. Just one individual can spread a terrible leaven within a local church by sharing the "demonic spirit" of bitterness, pride and a learned dishonesty. Most division starts with a poisoned heart that then irrationally fights the spirit of Christ. James wrote: "But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. (James 3:14-16)

Jesus warned against the leaven of both religious and political worldly forces. "Then He charged them, saying, "Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod"" (Mk 8:15). Our recent election and its aftermath is a product of worldly forces fighting for an earthly cause. I beg each of you who love the Lord to back away from the poisoned wells that are daily offered in both the public media and social media. These can destroy your soul.

Once we lose control of our hearts we have lost everything! When we find ourselves making "reviling accusations" about others being "racist, fools, greedy, etc." then we are doing things that Michael the archangel would not do towards Satan himself! "Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" But these speak evil of whatever they do not know..." (Jude 9-10).

When Jesus saw this spirit come within His disciples "He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them." (Luke 9:55-56) How can we know what is our manner of spirit?

Some Questions to consider

1. Do I become stressed about who wins elections and who wins political battles?
2. Do I join in the scoffing and railing of the crowd in personal slander of others contrary to Jesus' teaching about justice and mercy?
3. Am I willing to overlook and even discard moral truths taught in God's word because of my love or hatred towards political figures and movements?
4. Do I find most of my conversation, concerns and associates to be centered on politics and find much less time spent on God and His people?
5. Do I find that in my thoughts I am looking down on and even having anger towards my brethren just because of their political views?
6. Is my love for God and my desire to reach the lost is fading because of a poisonous spirit implanted by partaking of the leaven of politics?



What Does God Value?

By Doy Moyer

And that's where the problem is. It's what we esteem the most that gets us into trouble. We may well be placing great value on that which God detests.

"Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, were listening to all these things and were scoffing at Him. And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God." (Luke 16:14-15)

This passage is enough for us to examine what we highly esteem. If God detests what is highly esteemed among men, and we know what is highly esteemed among men, then that gives us some insight into God's view of these matters.

In context, the love of money is the issue. Has this changed? Money and stuff is still front and center.

When we look at the world, in general terms, what else do we find that is so highly esteemed? Hollywood, stars, musicians, entertainment, sports, outward looks... and what in the world do the constant selfies tell us?

What can you add to the list? What do you value that may run counter to God's wishes?

One might say, "but these are not wrong in themselves." Neither is money. The point is how much we esteem these items. How much relative value are we placing on them? How much are we glorifying our-

selves and our own desires?

Paul tells Timothy to flee those things that end up piercing us through with much grief, among which is the "love of money" (1 Tim. 6:10-11).

Paul also warns about troubling times that would include "lovers of self," "lovers of money," and

"lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God" (2 Tim. 3:1-4).

My dad used to talk about "respectable worldliness"—getting so wrapped up in stuff and things that may not be wrong in themselves, but which end up taking our time and our minds away from God. These are deceptive because on the surface they seem to be okay. They aren't the "really bad" things like drugs, drinking, and fornication. They are those things that are esteemed by others, valued, and so aren't seen to be problems at all.

And that's where the problem is. It's what we esteem the most that gets us into trouble. We may well be placing great value on that which God detests.

God, grant us the wisdom and discernment to see, and the courage to act. Help us to value what You value the most, and keep the world in proper perspective. Forgive us for valuing too highly what you do not, and for belittling what you value.

