

Division Must Come

Division in the churches is painful. It wrings the heart with anguish. But, God asked: "Can two walk together except they be agreed?" (**Amos 3:3**). This is a strong declaration that they cannot. It is true as applied to both God and man. Can you walk with God unless you agree with Him? He claims to be the Lord, the only ruler of the universe. Can you walk with Him while you insist on making laws and changing His order? It applied to man. Can two walk together when one insists on going another way?

Often those we love must force us to the choice as to whether we will cling to God or go with them. If we love God better than we love them, we will cling to God and His ways. If division must come, let it come along the lines of love and loyalty to God. If we separate from others and do not walk with God, another separation must come. Separation after separation must come until the lines of cleavage

by David Lipscomb run with the line of loyalty to God. Until division along this line is reached, divisions must continue and multiply. As soon as, and not until, divisions along this line is reached, the union with God and among those true to Him will be permanent.

God is directing these things and does all things well. All we have to do is to stand true and firm to God and His word all along the line, and leave results with Him. We can do nothing else. We are poor and foolish and weak; God is wise and strong. Our only hope is to walk with and be true to God in all things. "For there must be also heresies (divisions) among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you" (**1 Cor. 11:19**). Divisions must come until we are all willing to be led by God.

Truth Magazine - July 1960



Classes This Week		
Sunday 5:15 PM Kids Class in the Auditorium	Tuesday 8:00 PM Truth Seekers in room 2227 of the student center (Note changing room number!)	Thursday 7:00 PM Ladies' class at Abbie Harrison's house on "Seasoning Your Words"

March Birthdays			
Lisa Carter (Luke's mother)	Jesse Godwin (Troy's father and Mac's grandfather)	Nell Holcomb (Ben's grandmother, Joannetta'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 (Mmom of April and Julie)
Madeline Morton (Greg Lanier's g'daughter)	Alexander Locke (Jeremiah's cousin's son)	Betty Bradford	Hazel Gilliland and Sherry Carroll (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 (Joannetta'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)

News and Notes

- ☒ - Move you clocks forward on Saturday!
- ☒ - Brooke Perkins' dad, Jay Jennings, had hip replacement surgery on Wed.
- ☒ - Please continue to pray for Fallon Hartsell as she recovers.
- ☒ - Please remember these family members of Orié Cecil as they battle cancer: his cousin, Tina Atnip, and her son, Caleb, and Orié's grandfather Charles Cecil
- ☒ - Please pray for our expectant mothers: Brooke Perkins, Fallon Hartsell and Jenna Vaughn.
- ☒ - Emma Ulrich's mom, Gay, had a bone biopsy on Friday and should hear results this week.
- ☒ - Please continue to pray for Gustavo as we are seeking to have approval of a work visa so he can continue to preach here!
- ☒ - All audio is immediately posted on www.auchurch.com. Cd's are available immediately after each service!

A weekly publication of the University church of Christ in Auburn, Alabama

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**)



Volume 8, Issue 25 March 5, 2017



Thoughts to Ponder

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. (**1 John 4:1**)

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

Reaction to Heresy

By Irven Lee

Heretics are not good people. There are good and honest hearts that need teaching. These are not the heretics. There are deceived men in error that can learn. These are not the grievous wolves of which we are so often warned.

them to the word and warned them, but later he was leaving Timothy at this very place (Ephesus) to "charge some that they teach no other doctrine." (**1 Timothy 1:3**.) The grievous wolves would speak perverse things to draw away disciples after them, he said. The perverse things may not have been believed by these heretics. They would speak them to get a following "to draw away disciples after them." Believe this! Men may be found who will "speak things which they ought not for filthy lucre's sake." (**Titus 1:11**.) They will make merchandise of the souls of men.

"Heresy must needs come." (**1 Corinthians 11: 19**.) Paul said, "I know this," when he warned the elders that wolves would enter the flock. (**Acts 20:29-32**.) Peter said, "There shall be false teachers among you." (**2 Peter 2:1-3**.) John Said, "Many false prophets are gone out into the world." (**1 John 4: 1**.) What are we to do?

Prevalence of Heretics

It is not so easy to detect the false, to distinguish from the true. It is very easy to be deceived. The Lord knows this, so He has warned more often in the New Testament concerning the sin and danger of heresy than He has of the sine of lying, drunkenness, murders and stealing combined. It must be serious! Are we awake to the danger?

"Many shall follow their pernicious ways." (**2 Peter 2:1-3**.) Will the time ever come when you will stand with a factious man in his evil way? Are you sure? Maybe you have stood there already! Paul knew that good people (disciples) might be led away by these grievous wolves, so he warned night and day with tears at Ephesus. (**Acts 20:29-32**.) He commended

(Continued on page 2)

Find us on the Internet: www.auchurch.com and www.aubeacon.com

(Continued from page 1)

This is true but many follow their pernicious ways. Diotrefes had a following.

Skill of Heretics

Do not minimize the skill of some heretics. Paul marveled at how soon the churches of Galatia were disturbed and how seriously by the perverters. They ran well for a time, and had treated Paul as if he were an angel, but the time soon came when those who "desired to make a fair shew in the flesh" and to avoid persecution were turning them back to the weak and beggarly elements. (**Galatians 6:12.**) Watch for the ulterior motives in heretics. If it happened to the churches of Galatia, it can happen to us. "Beware of false prophets."

The apostle to the gentiles had occasion to warn the good church at Philippi. In their case, he reminded them of his example, and warned them with tears as he mentioned these enemies of the cross of Christ who minded earthly things. Their appetites were their god. They gloried in the things of which they should have been ashamed. Are there people like that now? The answer is an emphatic yes! (**Philippians 3:17-19.**)

Some at Ephesus said they were apostles, but they were liars. This blunt word is found in the Lord's special message to the Ephesian church after He was in heaven. (**Revelation 2:2.**) Such men are called false teachers, grievous wolves, enemies, of the cross, heretics, and deceitful workers. These are not pretty words. No wonder He asked that we withdraw ourselves from every brother that walks disorderly. (**2 Thessalonians 3:6.**) Even the deceived man who is in error must not be allowed to lead the church into error. The "disorderly" were those who manifested an insubordinate spirit. (See definition in Vine's Dictionary of New Testament Words.)

Heretics are not good people. There are good and honest hearts that need teaching. These are not the heretics. There are deceived men in error that can learn. These are not the grievous wolves of which we are so often warned. All should know of the "sleight of men, and

cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive." (**Ephesians 4-14.**) These men are given to trickery and unscrupulous conduct. Having their conscience seared, they speak lies in hypocrisy. (**1 Timothy 4:2.**) Preachers have not said enough of this evil group.

Precautions to Take

The deceitful workers were of the contrary part, watching through their desire to find occasion against Paul (**2 Corinthians 11: 12.**) The Lord's servants need to be as harmless as doves so that those of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say (**Matthew 10:16; Titus 2:7; Philippians 2:15.**) It is evident that all need the whole armor and the skill in discernment to fight the good fight (**Hebrews 5:12-14; Ephesians 6:10-17; 2 Corinthians 10:3-6.**) "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works." (**2 Cor. 11:13-15.**)

Many follow their pernicious ways, but if the blind lead the blind both shall fall. Some who know the truth may lack self-control, so these who are using cunning craftiness may set on fire the whole course of nature and provoke them to railing. The heretic may cause men who mean well to behave so as to destroy their good influence.

Churches that have gone through great struggles in fighting errors of doctrine may then be destroyed by men who sow discord. The root of bitterness brings the envy and strife which can lead men to bite and devour one another. Faithful brethren are often falsely accused and abused by men who plan division for personal advantage. Heresies must come so we should do all that is possible to be prepared to stand. The heretics may use "good words and fair speech," and appear as ministers of righteousness. Are you prepared to recognize the factious man, and are you willing to take the proper steps to stop his mouth?

TRUTH MAGAZINE - December 3, 1970



The Peace That Passeth All Understanding

By Gil Holt

Could it be possible that in our effort not to be overly emotional in our service to God, and for fear of being accused of converting lost souls to Christ with an emotional appeal that we sometimes fail to appreciate how wonderful the blessings are that God has given us, or at least do not show property to the world how great and precious these things are?

The peace of God that passes all understanding is that which gave the apostle Paul the ability to say, with confidence, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Phil. 1:21).

One such blessing we have that I would like to mention is the peace that we have as children of God that passes all understanding. In Paul's epistle to the Philippian brethren he said, "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (**Phil. 4:7**). This peace is defined as "the harmonized relationships between God and man, accomplished through the gospel" (Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, W. E. Vine). Paul illustrates in the preceding passage that this peace is that which keeps our hearts and minds right with God through Christ Jesus.

Because of the great and precious promises that we have in Christ Jesus, we know that if we do the will of the Lord, we will be saved with God in Heaven. This gives us security. People are searching for security, but in all the wrong places. They look for it in money and in high paying jobs. But they seldom look where real and lasting security can be found.

The peace of God that passes all understanding is that which gave the apostle Paul the ability to say, with confidence, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (**Phil. 1:21**). He is saying that to live at this point would further the cause of Christ, but to die was gain for him. He had confidence that inasmuch as he had obeyed the com-

mandments of the Lord, he had nothing to fear. In fact, he had a certain desire to depart. "For I am in a strait betwixt the two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better" (**Phil. 1:23**).

I am reminded of the confidence of those Christians whom I have known in the past who realized the threat of death in their lives and the courage with which they faced

it. It must certainly be due to that peace, which they had, that passes all understanding. I can remember being by the side of a dear friend who spoke with such certainty of walking those streets of gold and eating of the fruit of the tree of life and drinking of the waters of life. I will never forget my father, Gilbert Holt, the morning before he passed away as he was about to be taken to by-pass surgery. A preacher friend came in expressing his wishes that all would be all right. Dad's reply was, "I believe that it will turn out all right, but if it doesn't, that will be all right, too." These words were saying in effect what the apostle Paul said to the young preacher Timothy, "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (**2 Tim. 4:6-8**). This type thing is brought about by that peace of God that passeth all understanding. Every Christian can view eternity with this same confidence if he is doing as the word of God directs.

Guardian of Truth - September 20, 1984

