

## It's Not About You!

“Too many Christians, just like their unsaved counterparts, are impressed by appearances rather than structure; are seeking thrills and excitement rather than substance; are more apt to respond to emotional manipulation rather than to rational discourse... The problem is that the main business of entertainment is to please the crowd, but the main purpose of authentic Christianity is to please the Lord.” (Gary Gilley, taken from ‘This Little Church Went to Market’).

The Lord's church is not in the entertainment business. It's a spiritual relationship (John 18:36; Romans 14:17; Ephesians 1:3, 22-23). It is not wrong to enjoy worshipping the Lord and hearing the message of

by Keith Sharp

Christ proclaimed, but the goals of our public assemblies are to glorify God (1 Corinthians 10:31) and to edify one another (1 Corinthians 14:26) not to entertain. If you don't find the worship assembly to be fun, just get over it. That's not our purpose. It's not about pleasing you or me. It's about pleasing the Lord. "For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ" (Galatians 1:10b). "We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him" (2 Corinthians 5:8-9).



### Classes This Week

<b>Sunday Evening</b> College Devo and Singing. Josh Hartsell teaching!	<b>Monday 7:00 PM</b> Men's Class at Walker Davis' House on "How to change Yourself"	<b>Tuesday 10:00 AM</b> Ladies' class at Becky Daniels' house on "Seasoning Your Words"	<b>Tuesday 8:00 PM</b> Truth Seekers in room 2310 of the student center
--	---	--	--

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 (gmom of April and Julie)
Madeline Morton (Greg Lanier's g'daughter)	Alexander Locke (Jeremiah's cousin's son)	Betty Bradford	Jay Jennings (Brooke Perkins' dad)
Jean Buchanan (Abbie Harrison's grandmother)	Tina Atnip (Orie's cousin)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	William Smith (Ken Sullivanne'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
Gay Ulrich (Emma's mom)	Charles Cecil (Orie's g'dad)	Taina Acuff (Anna's aunt)	John Duke (Jared Johnson's cousin)

**April Birthdays**  
 1-Rachel Hobgood  
 2-Caroline Scott  
 3-Cameron Abernathy  
 4-Julie Henriquez  
 5-Tate Pender  
 5-Oseas Chavez  
 8-Laura Humphrey  
 8-Hannah Morris  
 8-Hayley Wright  
 9-Brooke Perkins  
 12-Becky Daniels  
 12-Austin Adams  
 14-Jesse Roberts  
 14-Anna Price  
 16-Carla Luther  
 16-Carson Fowler  
 17-Cal Sandlin  
 18-Spencer Sullivanne  
 18-Taylor Godwin  
 18-Joel Black  
 20-April Jerkins  
 20-RJ Martin  
 22-Paul Grubbs  
 23-Anna Miller  
 23-Catherine Butler  
 24-Bob Simpson  
 25-Elijah Jackson  
 28-Johnathan Hand

### News and Notes

- ☒ - Our new Quarter starts today!
- ☒ - There is a meeting at Perry hill road church in Mont., Sun-Wed, with Joe Greer
- ☒ - Congratulations to Brad and Fallon Hartsell on the birth of their new daughter, Sinclair Kate on Wed!
- ☒ - Please continue to pray for Luke's mom, Lisa Carter, in your prayers as her news from TX is good in that her cancer has not grown. she will continue her treatments.
- ☒ - Rachel Bobo's cousin, Molly Morris, has improved and is to go home on Monday!
- ☒ - Please pray for our expectant mothers: Brooke Perkins and Ingrid Chavez.
- ☒ - 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](http://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)

## Mind Your Own Business

By Donnie V Rader



### Thoughts to Ponder

I that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, (1 Thess. 4:11)

One of the commands of God that we sometimes act as if we haven't read is the one that tells us to mind our own business. The text says, "that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you" (1 Thess. 4:11, emphasis mine DVR, NKJV). Yes, the Bible actually tells us to mind our own business! Thus, we need to consider some ways we sometimes violate this instruction and just how serious that is.

### It Is a Sin

Remember that sin is a violation of the law of God (1 Jn. 3:4). Since the law of God tells us to mind our own business and not another's (1 Thess. 4:11), then it would be a sin to behave contrary.

In the second letter to the Thessalonians, Paul stated that there were some in the church who were "busybodies" (2 Thess. 3:11). A busybody is one who is not busied in his own business, but over busied in that of others' (Vines). If he did not cease his practice, he was to be disfellowshipped (2 Thess. 3:6-15). That tells how serious being a busybody (minding the busi-

Yes, others have betrayed me. They have lied about me. They have shamefully abused my own father in the flesh. But there is not a one of them that I cannot treat decently, nor one for whom I cannot sincerely pray.

ness of other people) can be. God said such a one is "disorderly."

In 1 Timothy 5:13 Paul rebukes those who are idle, wandering from house to house telling things that they should not. He calls them "gossips and busybodies."

Peter wrote that we should not suffer as a "busybody in other people's matters" (1 Pet. 4:15).

### How We Are Sometimes Guilty

**1. In our conversation.** Quite often we find ourselves talking about other people, their money, the things they do, what they buy and what we think about all of that. It may be that

(Continued on page 2)

**Elders**  
 Walker Davis (334) 703-0050  
 Larry Rouse (334) 734-2133

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**  
**Sunday**  
 Bible Class .....9:30 AM  
 Worship .....10:20 AM  
 Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM  
**Wednesday**  
 Bible Classes.....7:00 PM  
 E-Mail:  
[larryrouse@aubeacon.com](mailto:larryrouse@aubeacon.com)

**Larry Rouse**  
 Evangelist and Editor

(Continued from page 1)

the things we talk about are personal which should not be of any concern to us.

Some take it on themselves to meddle by thinking they must tell others exactly what they think about their clothes, their hair, their weight or how they handle their money or children.

We sometimes ask questions about things that are none of our business. We sometimes ask how much someone makes, how much they spend or about conversations that do not concern us.

**2. In family relationships.** It is very easy for parents to mind the business of their children who are married and have families of their own. Some parents treat their grown children as if they were still kids, telling them what to do. When parents feel that they have to make critical comments on their grown children's money, looks, clothes and children they are minding business that is not theirs. Why is it that some parents feel that they need hold the reigns on their adult children and meddle in their affairs?

Some are failing to recognize that a new family has been established and God has established the husband as the head of that family (**Gen. 2:24; Eph. 5:31**).

This sometimes is reversed. Children sometimes try to mind the business of their parents. Because of the close family ties we may feel free to meddle in the affairs of brothers, sisters, grandchildren, aunts and uncles.

**3. Church-preacher relationships.** Sometimes preachers feel that their role grants them the right to mind the business of some of the members of the church where they preach. He may try to tell them his opinion (not bound by the Bible) on how they ought to handle their affairs.

Sometimes members of the church try to mind the business of the preacher. A few will act as if they or the church owns the preacher.

Preachers sometimes have some of their fellow-Christians to tell them how they should

spend their spare time, who they should choose as friends and what his wife should do with her time. I once heard of a church that asked their preacher to bring a financial report of his personal expenses before the men in a business meeting. With tongue in cheek, he prepared one and commended them for the wonderful idea. He said he thought that every man ought to do the same so the men could watch for covetousness among the members. The men quickly decided that their first idea wasn't necessary.

### Be Careful of Extremes

As is true of any Bible principle, it is possible to go to one extreme or another. One extreme has been discussed above: minding another's business. The other extreme is to think that no one should have a right to correct you or say anything critical. When a Christian becomes weak and lets sin hinder his service to God, other Christians are to try to restore him (**Gal. 6:1**). Efforts must be made to convert him from the error of his way (**Jas. 5:19-20**). However, that is not a violation of "mind your own business."

Elders are to watch and rule over the souls of those who are members where they are serving (**Heb. 13:7,17**). They have the oversight of the flock of God (**1 Pet. 5:2**). That will involve talking to some of the Christians about how they live, train their children, treat their mates, etc. That again, is not a violation of "mind your own business." However, a few may cry that it is none of their business.

### Some Questions to Ask Yourself

Before we get too carried away asking questions, telling what we know or passing on our advice let us ask ourselves the following questions: (1) Is this really any of my business? (2) Have I been invited into this matter? (3) Will my action of asking or telling possibly do more harm than good? (4) Will others think that I am minding other people's business?

Though our text (**1 Thess. 4:11**) is easy to violate, it is a text that we can obey. Let's try!

**Guardian of Truth - February 17, 1994**



# Godly Sorrow

By Tom Moody

Are you overweight? As in my case, the answer may depend on when you ask. I know just what to do in order to get my weight where it ought to be, and sometimes I succeed. You know the secret as well as I. Don't eat "junk" food. Eat the right food moderately. Good eating habits combined with even minimal exercise will, for most people, maintain a reasonable degree of fitness.

Two things are in my favor. I enjoy exercise and I like good food. A meal of peas, greens and carrots, with a little cornbread to "sop it up," appeals to me. Most any kind of fruit is delicious and refreshing. Yet, alas, a major fault besets me. I also like the bad stuff hamburgers, french fries, candy bars and cake!

Now I can truthfully say that I enjoy eating those good healthy things more than the junk. If only I could somehow learn to detest hamburgers, develop a revulsion for ice cream and completely lose my appetite for cookies, chips and chocolate, the battle of the bulge could be won easily.

The same applies to the much more serious matter of sin. Genuine repentance from sin involves more than just wanting to do what is right. We must also learn to hate the wrong!

One of the dangers of the current popularity of emphasizing the "positive" and toning down the "negative" in our preaching is that we may be persuaded to try embracing the good without learning to let go of the worldly. Most can appreciate the attributes of love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance. This is good fruit, the fruit of the Spirit. There is, after all, no law against these (**Galatians 5:22-23**). Oh, yes, I like good things. The hard part is learning to hate, detest and disdain evil. The devil will be very content with our love of the good as long as we retain an appetite for evil. In fact, we might even prefer that which is good, and Satan will be happy as long as we keep a little sin in, just for dessert.

Such a spiritual diet will not please God. For repentance to take effect, there must be a remorse, a grief over sin. When he agonized over sin, the Psalmist offered the "sacrifices" of "a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart" (**Psalm 51:17**). In 2 Corinthians 7:10, Paul wrote,

Oh, yes, I like good things. The hard part is learning to hate, detest and disdain evil. The devil will be very content with our love of the good as long as we retain an appetite for evil. In fact, we might even prefer that which is good, and Satan will be happy as long as we keep a little sin in, just for dessert.

"For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of." He went on to note the effect that their godly grief for sin had had among the Corinthians: "For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what avenging!" (**7:11**).

Godly sorrow over sin arises from the hatred of sin - hatred of its source, hatred of its end results. When we develop a true revulsion for sin, there will be wrought within us sorrow for our transgressions

which will compel us to repent.

### How Do We Learn To Hate Sin?

1. We need information. Just as proper nutrition is not determined by our personal tastes, neither is right and wrong determined by our feelings and opinions. We must learn the will of God. David said: "Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee" (**Psalm 119:11**). Those who diligently study the word of God will "have their senses exercised to discern both and evil" (**Hebrews 5:12-14**).

The Bible not only defines sin, but is replete with information about its serious consequences. From the sin of Adam and Eve to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, the Bible teaches us that every injustice, every slight, all suffering and all death can be traced directly or indirectly to sin. Sin breaks up families, ends friendships, extinguishes the bright promise of youth, reduces the old to hopeless cynicism. Sin damns souls for eternity. The only escape from sin was the price which had to be paid by the sinless Son of God. Surely, any serious contemplation of the cost of sin must make us hate every sinful act with desperation.

2. We need transformation. **Romans 12:1-2** concisely states the whole process we are discussing. Do not be conformed to the world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Repentance is a turn-around, a change of heart. There must be, not mere reformation of action, but transformation of mind. When, out of that transformed mind, we learn to hate sin for what it is and what it does, we will come to recoil in penitent grief at its slightest touch. "Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good" (**Romans 12:9**).

