

Left-Handed Compliment

Some years ago when I was still occasionally climbing ladders I fell off one, and in an attempt to break my fall I sprained my left hand. Being right-handed I guess I had taken my left hand for granted, but this educated me as to how much I use my left hand. I found that my left hand does many things to make my right hand more useful. Without the left hand even tying my show was a chore. I even found that there are a few things my left hand was able to do better than my right hand.

Some people are like my left hand. They may not be as dominant as others, but they are still important. A man named Hur never gained fame, nor did he have the abilities of Moses, but he did his part to make Moses' job possible (Ex. 17:12). Likewise, there are no unimportant members in the body of Christ—nor in a local congregation.

Even little things add up to much. Sometimes just "being there" is of value. You may think, "I won't be missed." Think again! Consider Job's friends who, though they had their faults, sat in silence with Job for a whole week during his time of distress (Job 2:11-13).

The Bible is filled with examples of people who were unsung heroes. Did you ever wonder why we don't read of

by Al Diestelkamp

Lazarus as a bold apostle or eloquent preacher? He served his purpose by being a friend—and Jesus loved him for it (Jn. 11:35-36). Simon of Cyrene is known only for quietly bearing the cross for Jesus (Matt. 27:32). Kind of like me and my left hand, the apostle Paul did not fully appreciate John Mark until he had to work without him (see Ac. 15:36-41; 2 Tim. 4:9-11).

Some people who played supporting roles used their experiences as preparation for even greater service. Joseph started as a slave and ended up as governor of Egypt allowing him to serve the brothers who earlier considered him useless. David worked as a shepherd before he defeated the giant, and faithfully served the king he would later replace.

Anyone who "can see through a ladder" can see that it doesn't take much of a man or woman to please God, but it takes every bit of him or her. Do what you can. If you do, you will be sure to please the Lord who honored a woman who "did what she could" by anointing His head with oil. (Mk. 14:1-9).



Congratulations to our Graduates!	Morgan Davidson Patrick Davis Jordan Flatt Caleb Gandy Sarah Grubbs	Ben Holcomb Brendon Kirby Tory Lawrence Tori Luther James Malloy	Kimberlee Myers Alex Nguyen Jordan Oldag Savannah Spohn Beth Zeanah	Masters: Jacob Bradshaw Tyler Cox	Yet School: Blake Bagents
Taylor Bethea Amanda Bertoldi					

Lisa Carter (Luke's mother)	Jesse Godwin (Troy's father)	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)	Jane Hunt (Chuck's mother)	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)

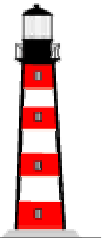
May Birthdays

2-Taylor Bethea
2-Emily-Anne Nguyen
2-Effie Kirby
3-Paula Davis
4-Anthony Horton
7-Isaiah Messer
10-Ian Norman
10-Ryan Hasty
11-Caleb George
11-Scott Perkins
12-Frances Humphrey
12-Patrick Davis
13-Anna Grace Long
13-Jana Hall
13-Peyton Vines
15-Bryce Daniels
16-Chelsea O'Dell
18-Ty Randolph
18-Curran LaChappelle
19-Steven Darby
22-Sarah Bethea
24-Andy Roberts
25-Chuck Hahn
26-Fallon Hartsell
28-Barbara Weeks
28-Candy Long
28-Julian Reid
31-Rachel Tolliver

News and Notes

- ☒ - Toni Herd has been moved to UAB's Spain rehab part of the hospital for therapy.
- ☒ - Sandra Chason's mother and brother suffered strokes recently.
- ☒ - Ingrid Chavez's baby, Jacob, remains in the hospital at Baptist South in Montgomery for treatment of an infection.
- ☒ - Please pray for Abbie Harrison as her knee surgery has failed and she is seeking answers to correcting her knee injury.
- ☒ - Please remember Kay White's dad, Robert Driggers, in your prayers as he has been moved to a rehab facility in Union Springs and is very weak.
- ☒ - Ingrid Chavez gave birth to a son, Jacob, on Tuesday. He is in NICU in Baptist South in Montgomery and improving.
- ☒ - Our VBS will be June 5-8 and topic is "Footsteps of Jesus"
- ☒ - Please pray for our expectant mothers: Paula Davis, Xiang Li and Brooke Perkins.
- ☒ - Please continue to pray for Gustavo as we are seeking to have approval of a work visa so he can continue to preach here!
- ☒ - Meeting in Columbus, Ga on the home May 19-21 with Jeff May, Jeremy Dehut and Roy Brown will be speaking!

The Auburn Beacon



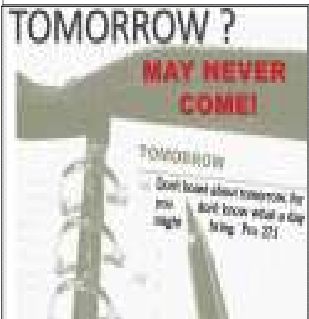
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Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

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Seeing the Road Ahead

By Alan Jones



Thoughts to Ponder
Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth. (Proverbs 27:1)

A few years ago I was traveling south on 1-69 in northern Indiana when I encountered a traffic slowdown. Soon I found out why we had slowed to a crawl. There was a horrible accident on the northbound side.

Everyone was slowing down to look. The accident involved two semis. One was turned on its side with all of the glass gone from the tractor. The nose of the other tractor was shoved in like an accordion.

Immediately I prayed for the welfare of the drivers and the comfort of their families. Their lives had been suddenly and unexpectedly changed. As the drivers left the terminal for the highway, they did not know what awaited them on the road ahead. The backup caused by the accident was five miles long and was still growing. Motorists caught in it had a certain timetable in mind to get to work or to get home from work, to get to a vacation destination or to return home. But, they, too, did not know what awaited them on the road ahead. Their timetable went out the window. They were making good time when suddenly and unexpectedly they were forced to stop and wait, and wait, and wait.

Man can't see the future. Solomon wrote, "Do not boast about tomorrow. For you do not know what a day may bring forth" (Prov 27:1). A humble person will plan accordingly. James admonished, "Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow, we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there

Do you trust God? Is it seen in your respect for God's Word? Is it seen in your peace concerning both blessings and trials yet unseen? Do you trust in God who sees the road ahead or in yourself - you who cannot even anticipate an accident or traffic jam?...

and engage in business and make a profit.' Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little time and vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord will, we will live and also do this or that.' But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil" (James 4:13-16).

Yes, far be it from us to boast of what we're going to do in the future when we can't foresee a traffic tie up on the interstate or even on the bypass as we try to get to the mall or to Wal-Mart and back home again...

Trusting in God Who Sees the Road Ahead

(Continued on page 2)

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Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM
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Bible Classes.....7:00 PM
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Our future is subject to the will of the Lord who sees the future before it happens. God proved to Israel that He is God because He knows the future. He predicted their coming destruction by a ruler from the north (Assyria) so that when it happened they would say, "He is right!" (**Isa 10:5-6; 41:25-26**). God even foretold what would happen after He had used Assyria and Babylon to judge His people. He would bring His sheep home by His shepherd Cyrus, calling this king of Persia by name before He was ever born (**Isa 44:27-45:3**). History verifies that all of these things happened as predicted by God through His prophets and hundreds of other fulfilled predictions could be added to them to confirm that there is a God who sees the road ahead.

Commenting on the Lord's infinite knowledge, David wrote, "Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O Lord, You know it all" (**Psa 139:4**). He marveled that God could see the end of his life from his beginning in the womb, "Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; and in Your book were all written the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them" (**Psa 139:16**).

When we, as David, meditate on God's far-reaching thoughts, we will value them- "How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them!" (**Psa 139:17**). We will trust His thoughts above our own. As the wise man Solomon wrote, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight" (**Prov 3:5-6**).

If we trust God, we will not worry about the future. If God looks ahead and provides for the birds who do not store up for the future, He will feed us. If God clothes the lilies of the field without their toiling or spinning, He will clothe us. Instead of being of little faith and anxious, we will turn every care into a prayer, with the confidence that He who looks ahead will provide for tomorrow. Knowing that God will take care of us on the unseen road ahead, we experience a peace that surpasses all comprehension (**Mt 6:25-34; Phil 4:6-7**).

If our confidence is in the One who holds the future in His Hands, we will realize that, if we love Him, God will use even the tragedy and suffering that may lie ahead on the road to accomplish His purpose in us- to help us to be conformed in our character to the image of His Son and to get us home to glory in heaven (**Rom 8:28-30**). We need not live in fear and dread of unseen sorrows, trusting that God will discipline us for

our own good, so that we may share His holiness (**Heb 12:10**).

Do you trust God? Is it seen in your respect for God's Word? Is it seen in your peace concerning both blessings and trials yet unseen? Do you trust in God who sees the road ahead or in yourself - you who cannot even anticipate an accident or traffic jam?...

What God Tells Us Is on the Road Ahead

When I passed by the exit following the end of the traffic jam and saw cars and trucks streaming along at 70 m.p.h., I thought, "I sure wish I could warn them of the five mile backup ahead so they could exit and try to find an alternate route." There was nothing I could do but let the unsuspecting travelers run right into the delay, but I can warn you about the things God tells us as on the road ahead. But, I must tell you also, there is no escaping them. There is no alternate route.

Death is on the road ahead of you. God says, "It is appointed for men to die once" (**Heb 9:27**). This is an appointment we must all keep (unless we are alive at the coming of Jesus - **1 Thess 4:15**). Jesus told the story of a rich farmer who made big plans with no thought of this appointment. The farmer had more harvest than he knew what to do with. He planned to tear down his barns and build bigger ones and then sit back and enjoy life for many years to come. But, he didn't have many years left to live. In fact, God required his soul that night (**Lk 12:16-20**). Are you living like your life on earth will be forever or are you looking down the road?

Judgment is on the road ahead of you. God continues His sentence, "It is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment." John described a vision he saw of this day, "And, I saw the dead, the great and the small standing before the throne, and the books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds" (**Rev 20:12**). God will pronounce sentence on you based on how you lived compared to His Word and whether or not your name is in the book of life, His record of those who have a relationship with Him.

Heaven or hell is on the road ahead of you. At the Judgment, Jesus will hand out to you either the sentence of eternal life or eternal punishment (**Mt 25:46**). The eternal punishment is hell, the torment of the eternal fire that God has prepared for the devil and his angels (**Mt 25:41; Mk 9:43-48**). Eternal life is never-ending fellowship with God and His Son in heaven, being honored as His children. God will wipe away all the tears of earth life and its sorrows will never be experienced again (**Rom 8:19; Rev 21:1-4**).



Making Choices

By Frank Jamerson

Man has no choice but to choose! We are by nature creatures of choice and there is no way to live in this world without making choices.

Joshua challenged the Israelites to "fear the Lord, serve him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord! And if it seems evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (**Josh 24:14,15**). Some kind of choice was inevitable. Joshua did not say "make a choice or remain neutral," for that was impossible. Furthermore, Joshua could not make the choice for them. He really could not make it for his family, but he could lead them in making the right choice.

When people try to get us to make right choices they are not taking away our power to choose. Ultimately, each one must answer for himself. God said, "The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself" (Ezek. 18:20). In verses 5-13 of this chapter, Ezekiel discussed the fact that a righteous father may have a wicked son; then in verses 14-18, he discussed the wicked father having a righteous son. In both cases, the blame or credit was given to the one who made the choice. Others may influence our choices but each is accountable to God for his own decisions.

In man's determination to pass the blame, he

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may say, "I couldn't help it; I had no other choice," but that is not the truth. A person who is tempted to drink has at least three choices. He may submit to the temptation, refuse to drink, or tell others that they should not be drinking and urge them to stop. The person who is tempted to commit fornication has several choices. He can flee the scene. (While I was in Romania, a young man said that if you are alone with a girl in her

home and she begins to take off her clothes, that is not a good time to preach to her! It is time to get out!) He can tell the person that he "cannot sin against God," as Joseph did (**Gen. 39:9**), or he can give in to the temptation. Every temptation demands a choice.

Before we choose, we should also consider the possible consequences of that choice. The power to choose does not mean that we have the power to choose the consequences of the choice! A person who jumps from an eight story building has very little choice about the consequences. When Moses looked at the choices and consequences, he choose to suffer with God's people (**Heb. 11:24-26**). When Joseph considered the consequences of adultery, he chose to run. I am sure that Moses' mother would have been proud of her son's choice, and surely Joseph's parents would have been pleased with his choice, but each had to make his own choice. Parents cannot make moral choices for their children, neither can children make the choices for their parents.

The power of choice is a God-given right. No man can take it away from us. We may hurt, or please others by our choices but ultimately the choices as well as the consequences are personal.

