

God's Way

by Sewell Hall

The problem of disinterested people is not new. It existed in some places even in the first century. Paul said it existed in Corinth. "For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness" (1 Corinthians 1:22-23).

Paul had the power to offer signs to the Jews and the knowledge to compete with the Greeks in worldly wisdom. The philosophy described above would have suggested advertisement of a lecture on "The Judaistic Philosophy in the Roman World." Obtaining his audience with this, he could then slip in a little about Jesus and the cross. But this was not Paul's approach, as he told us: "For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2). Human philosophy and human wisdom had no place in Paul's plan for saving the lost in Corinth.

Preaching only the gospel, of course, Paul could have announced himself as "Dr. Paul, graduate of the University of Gamaliel, noted author, world traveler, inspired and dynamic lecturer." Rather, he says, "And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God ... I was with you in weakness

and in fear and in much trembling, and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God" (1 Corinthians 2:1, 3-5).

Worldly appeals simply cannot save lost men. And to attach them to the gospel is to cheapen the good news of Jesus Christ. By such appeals we may increase numbers and even "make waves," but such individuals in the local church are liabilities rather than assets. As materials in God's building they are classified as "wood, hay, and straw." Paul warns against building such material into the church: "According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work" (1 Corinthians 3:10, 12, 13).



Lisa Carter (Luke's mother)	Jesse Godwin (Troy's father)	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 (mom 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 Sullivan's brother)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Arabelle Rich (Joanetta'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)

June Birthdays

- 1-Braiden Jerkins
- 3-Philip Stephens
- 5-Cheyenne Redus
- 6-David Eison
- 7-Spencer Borden
- 7-Mark McKee
- 8-Joanetta Lauderdale
- 9-Kay White
- 10-Joah Green
- 11-Clint Stagner
- 12-Orie Cecil
- 12-Sanaa Strickland
- 14-Jeremiah Johnson
- 17-Brooks Pender
- 17-Sarah Norman
- 18-James Long
- 19-Melissa Grant
- 22-Paul Tam
- 24-Justin Bice
- 25-Corey Hunt
- 26-Katie Gentry
- 27-Ada Owen
- 28-Craig Davis
- 28-Julian Reid

News and Notes

- ☒ - Toni Herd remains in the hospital at EAMC in room 5115.
- ☒ - Ingrid Chavez's baby Jacob, was able to come home from the hospital and is doing well!
- ☒ - Group meetings are tonight!
- ☒ - Jeremiah Johnson's cousin's baby son, Alexander Locke, continues to do poorly. Please keep this family in your prayers.
- ☒ - VBS June 5-8 9:30-11:30 a.m. Register online at www.auchurch.com
- ☒ - Please pray for our expectant mothers: Paula Davis, Xiang Li and Brooke Perkins.
- ☒ - Michael Bassie's friend, Bestina Lyles, had successful eye surgery on Thursday.
- ☒ - Lisa Carter got good news from her scans this week!
- ☒ - Please pray for Heath Fowler's mom, Reba Patterson, who fell and broke her leg last week. She is now recovering from surgery in a rehab facility.
- ☒ - All audio is posted to www.auchurch.com. Audio CD's are made after every service.

The Auburn Beacon

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



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 37

May 28, 2017

All Seek Their Own

By Norman E. Sewell



Thoughts to Ponder

Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. (Philippians 2:4)

It continues to amaze me how often we read the Scriptures and fail to see some of the statements found in them. A few years ago I was visiting in another community and worshipped on Lords day morning with the local church and heard the preacher there read from **Philippians 2:19-24**. Notice part of that with me. Paul wrote: But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. For I have no one like minded, who will sincerely care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus. But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel" (vv. 19-23). Somehow I had missed the statement "for all seek their own," or at least it had failed to register in my mind. Now, having finally seen it I believe there is a powerful lesson taught by Paul in that short statement, especially when combined with other clear statements of Scripture.

All of us have experienced dealings with people who show that they are very selfish. Selfishness in fact seems to be part of being

"...For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus." Those words will make you stop and take a good look at yourself! What about me? Am I self-willed, always wanting my own way and selfishly pushing my plans and thoughts on others?

human unless we train ourselves not to be, and the only reason to so train ourselves is that God wants us, as his children, not to long for pre-eminence, or to think only of ourselves and what we may want, but of what is also good for each other. Earlier in this same chapter Paul told the Philippian brethren: "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others" (Phil. 2:3-4). To the Christians Paul wrote: "Let no one seek

(Continued on page 2)

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

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

(Continued from page 1)

his own, but each one the others well-being" (1 Cor. 10:24). In fact, when Paul wrote to the Corinthians showing the nature of the love that God commands us to have he wrote that love "does not seek its own" (1 Cor. 13:5). So loving one another as God demands would do away with such selfishness.

Yet in spite of this Paul was able to write to the Philippians concerning Timothy, For I have no one like minded, who will sincerely care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus." Those words will make you stop and take a good look at yourself! What about me? Am I self-willed, always wanting my own way and selfishly pushing my plans and thoughts on others? Is this an indictment of all the other men who worked with Paul from time to time? At least it seems that this statement was in praise of Timothy, and suggests that others needed to grow and mature to be more as he was.

There are examples in the Scriptures of men who sought their own self and their own way first. The rich young ruler, as he is often called, exhibits this attitude of selfishness and unwillingness to put anything on a higher level of importance than his wealth. Since this young man lived under the Mosaic law Jesus told him to keep the commandments in order to have eternal life. But he seemed to want to know more because he had already kept the commandments from his youth. But Jesus told him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions" (Matt. 19:21-22). There is no doubt that Jesus did not come first with him, or that he loved his wealth more than he loved God -

Then there are men like Epaphroditus who was sent by the Philippian brethren to carry support to Paul. Apparently he stayed with Paul for some time as a fellow worker and fel-

low soldier (Phil. 2:25). When Paul sent him back to the Philippians he asked them to receive him with gladness and hold him in esteem, "because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life to supply what was lacking in your service toward me" (Phil. 2:30). We need not think that one must be a preacher to put the kingdom first as Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 6:33). Toward the end of the Roman letter Paul mentions Priscilla and Aquilla, "my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who risked their own necks for my life" (Rom. 16:3-4) and a great many people who in one way or another labored with Paul for the Lord. Every one of us faces the choice as to whether we will "seek our own" or "the things which are of Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:21).

What is involved in being less self-willed, and less selfish with our lives? Truly following after Jesus requires self-denial. Jesus told the disciples in Luke 9, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me" (v. 23). In fact, in the following verse Jesus went on to say that this might include giving up your life for his sake. "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it" (v.24). No one denies that this is hard, but think of those John saw in the vision recorded in Revelation 12 who "overcame him," that is Satan, "by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death" (v.11). There was, and there is, something more important than life here on this earth. Recognize that if you are a Christian then you do not own yourself. Paul told the Corinthians "For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are Gods" (1 Cor. 6:20). The Macedonians, apparently recognizing this, "first gave themselves to the Lord" (2 Cor. 8:5).

Look into your own heart. Are you more like Timothy and seek the things that are of Christ, or more like the others and seek your own? I'm afraid such an inner look may be painful. It was for me.

Guardian of Truth - August 5, 1993



The Tragedy of a Lost Soul

By R. J. Evans

One of the striking things about the teachings of Jesus is the way He gets to the heart of every issue. There is no better illustration than the following: "For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matt. 16:26). According to the context, Jesus is talking about the value of the soul of a person, not his physical body. In reality, man is a soul. In the beginning, God said, "Let us make man in Our image, according to our likeness...And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being (a living soul, KJV)" (Gen.1:26; 2:7). The questions Jesus raised in Matthew 16:26 have some sobering implications:

1. Humans possess an eternal, immortal nature.

Mankind has a physical body and a soul or spirit. When a man dies, the spirit leaves the body (Jas. 2:26). Observe that James said "the body without the spirit is dead," not the spirit without the body is dead. The word of God teaches us that "the spirit will return to God who gave it" (Eccl. 12:7). Jesus speaks of "both soul and body" in Matthew 10:28. Such false philosophies as atheism, humanism, and evolution deny this truth---that man has a soul or spirit. This makes man merely a physical creature with no more soul or spirit than a rock.

2. The soul is our most priceless possession. It is worth more than all material things combined. It is of divine origin (Eccl. 12:7; Heb. 12:9), eternal in duration (Matt. 25:46; Mk. 9:43-46), and can transcend earthly relationships (Jn. 4:24). Concerning the soul, the Apostle Peter stated: "...you were not redeemed with corruptible things...but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot...Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit...having been born again not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the

The damnation of the soul is a multiple loss: the beauties of heaven are forfeited and the agonies of hell must be endured forever. A lost soul in hell is everlastingly abandoned "from the presence of the Lord" (2 Thes. 1:9); there is no help or hope for such a horrible condition.

word of God which lives and abides forever" (1 Pet. 1:18-23).

3. The soul can be sold or exchanged. Some people exchange their souls for pleasure (2 Tim. 3:4). Others sell out for popularity, loving the approval of men more than the praise of God (Jn.12:43). Many exchange their souls for the love of the world (1 Jn. 2:15-17). Then there are those who trade their souls for error and the false philosophies of men (Col. 2:8). Others trade their souls for material prosperity (Lk.

12:16-21).

4. Whatever the exchange, it is foolish and costly.

The world and all that is in it can never satisfy the deep, vital need of the soul in order to be at peace with God. This world and all its material contents will ultimately be destroyed by fire (2 Pet. 3:10). At death we must leave everything behind. The Apostle Paul stated: "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out" (1 Tim. 6:7).

5. There is no loss as tragic as that of the soul.

The loss of health, of a child, of one's family, of one's life in attempting to gain the "whole world" would be tragic enough, but they are not comparable to the losing of one's soul. The damnation of the soul is a multiple loss: the beauties of heaven are forfeited and the agonies of hell must be endured forever. A lost soul in hell is everlastingly abandoned "from the presence of the Lord" (2 Thes. 1:9); there is no help or hope for such a horrible condition. A soul in hell is lost for all eternity!

What could possibly be more important to us than to obey "the gospel of Christ...the power of God to salvation" (Rom. 1:16) and do whatever the Lord commands and teaches in the New Testament for our soul's eternal salvation. Jesus, while on earth, stated: "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Lk. 19:10).

