

# The Truth Sometimes Hurts

How much do you appreciate the truth? The truth is easy to hear when it is flattering, encouraging and uplifting. However, the truth can sometimes hurt. Do you always desire the truth from those around you, regardless of whether it is favorable or not? Do you always demand the truth from those who preach and teach the gospel of Christ?

By Jonathan Perz

The truth pleased the rich young ruler until Jesus told him the one thing he lacked (Mark 10:17-22). Some would call such a declaration of truth unloving, but the Spirit called it love (note verse 21). How do we feel when someone courageously and honestly points out our shortcomings (Prov. 27:6)?

Most of the Jews who heard Peter on Pentecost appreciated the truth, though it indicted them. They chose repentance and baptism (Acts 2:36-40). Whereas, those Jews who heard Stephen speak that same truth hated what was spoken. They responded by stoning Stephen to death (Acts 7:54-60). How do we respond to the truth?

The Galatians loved the apostle Paul—so much that at

one point they were willing to pluck out their own eyes and give them to Paul. However, in the very next verse, Paul was compelled to ask if he had become their enemy because he told them the truth (Gal. 4:14-16). Do we despise those who tell us what we need to hear?

A few reminders should help us to realize the value of truth. 1) Jesus is the truth (John 14:6). 2) God's word is truth (John 17:17). 3) Knowing and abiding in the truth can set us free (John 8:31-32). 4) Those who suppress the truth in unrighteousness will face the wrath of God (Rom. 1:18). 5) We must always speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15). 6) We should always speak the truth with our neighbors (Eph. 4:25). 7) Love rejoices in truth (1 Cor. 13:6).

Simply stated, unless we have a love of the truth, we will never appreciate the truths that hurt (2 Thess. 2:10-12). Unless we are willing to accept painful truths, we cannot know the sanctifying power of truth (John 17:17). Unless we obey the truth, we will be condemned (Rom. 2:8).



## Special Classes This Week

Sunday Night at 8:30	Monday Night at 8:30	Thursday Night at 8:30
College Class will meet at the Rouse's Stephen Rouse will teach on "Singing to one Another"	Men's Class will meet at the Davis's Teacher to be announced	Class will meet at Jillian Petty's home Teacher to be announced

## Sick

Jim and Barbara Kicker	Pam Dial (Laura Weldon's Mother)
Heather (Luke Bridges' Cousin) Adriana Mininno (Haley Chittam's Cousin)	Rose Tate (Toni Herd's Cousin) Dave Bradford, Sr.  To have names added to this list please call Yvette at 734-2134

## News and Notes

- Please pray for the families who recently lost these loved ones: Sarah Anderson (Auburn Student), Lynn Snellgrove, Carl Picognia (Birmingham) and Caleb George's grandmother.
- Let's remember our expectant mothers: Jana Hall, Laura Humphrey, Rachel Bradford and Joy Liu
- Audio CDs of Today's Sermon will be immediately available
- Check out our new website at [www.aubeacon.com](http://www.aubeacon.com)
- Let us be sure to recognize and greet all visitors!
- Please continue to give brother Rouse e-mail addresses for the Beacon mailing list!

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# 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)

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## The Lord's Supper or a Marathon?

By Larry Rouse



### Thought to Ponder

A feeble, nominal Christianity is the greatest obstacle to the conversion of the world.

Do You Have a Bible Question?  
Call (334) 734-2133 or  
E-mail:  
[LarryRouse@aubeacon.com](mailto:LarryRouse@aubeacon.com)

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class .....9:30 AM  
Worship .....10:20 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

### Wednesday

Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

Ask about our home Bible Study Groups!

Larry Rouse  
Evangelist and Editor

On the night of His betrayal and in the very shadow of the cross itself, Jesus called his disciples together and expressed a strong desire of His heart. "Then He said to them, "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." (Luke 22:15-16) What made this particular Passover so important was that Jesus Himself would become the fulfillment of the Passover lamb the very next day as He would shed his blood for our salvation. Also, all disciples in every generation, would remember this event with Jesus as they partake of the Lord's Supper in the kingdom of God. When Jesus instituted this supper after partaking of the Passover, He was giving instructions that all who would ever love the Lord would also observe this supper with a strong fervor.

The early Christians were taught by the Apostle Paul, "For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying,

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"This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." (1 Corinthians 11:23-25)

The occasion was a very serious one. Those who partake of this supper without a heart attuned to the meaning of Jesus' death and the great commitment that it demands, are in fact committing a great act of ingratitude and irreverence towards God, as well as hardening their own hearts during a time where it should have been made tender. "Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of

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the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body" (**1 Corinthians 11:27-29**). You can also show this irreverence in choosing not to attend.

The early church, through the instructions of the Apostles, made the Lord's Supper a centerpiece of their worship. On the Day of Pentecost, after Peter had preached the gospel and 3,000 were baptized, we read about the careful instruction these new disciples were given. "They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." (**Acts 2:42**)

When the apostle Paul came to Troas, he met with the church there on the first day of the week and partook of the Lord's Supper with them. "Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight." (**Acts 20:7**) Sunday, the first day of the week, is the day that Jesus was raised from the dead, the day that the Lord's Church was established (**Acts 2**), and is the day that early Christians assembled to remember our Lord in this supper. As a Christian, when the first day of the week comes around, one should make plans and will give diligence to be with fellow Christians to remember our Lord.

How should we as Christians treat other events that would cause us to miss an assembly with Christians? Let me share with you a story. In the summer of 2001 I attended a very public news conference in downtown Birmingham where it was announced that a new Marathon was to be held in my hometown, the Mercedes Marathon. Running is my favorite sport and I had always wanted to be able to run a marathon in Birmingham but was unable to, since in the past, previous marathons were run on Sunday. I approached the man who would be in charge of the event and asked him on what day would the marathon be held. He replied that it would always be on a Sunday in February. My heart dropped and I knew that any future marathons for me would have to be in another town on a Saturday.

Did I make the right decision?

I have always believed that in serving the Lord, the priorities in my life are shown in decisions like these. In the Sunday morning assembly I am not only meeting with the saints for my edification, but the Lord Himself is there as well. He is the unseen presence when I sing, pray and partake of that sacred supper. Could I miss this occasion to participate in any sporting event? I cannot imagine any faithful Christian allowing worldly things like these to take a greater priority.

In the early 1980's there was a movie called "Chariots of Fire" that depicted a true story of a man who qualified to run in the Olympics, but discovered on the boat to the event that he would have to run a race on a Sunday. Under enormous pressure and public scrutiny, He refused to participate. While his reasoning that "Sunday is the Sabbath" was wrong, I did agree that his stand was correct. The world did not understand his stand and subjected him to ridicule and scorn, but those today who understand the nature of faith can identify with his stand.

Are those who wear the name of Christ today becoming ashamed of such a stand?

It is becoming more common to hear of Christians missing "just one service" to participate in local races, soccer games and other voluntary events. Sometimes they are raising money for a worthy cause and sometimes they are there to be with friends. Often family members and friends are invited to watch the game or assist in some other way. Those who are raising money often have websites, e-mails and handouts proclaiming what they are doing in advance and asking those to contribute money and to be in partnership with them.

Could not these things be done on another day? Going to another city to run a race on another day, or simply asking friends to donate to the cause without running the event are easy solutions among others. Our Children need to be taught the importance of priorities and miss games that conflict with the "Lord's team."

One thing is for sure, your decision makes a statement. The more public that decision means the more public your statement is. Let this be what you proclaim "For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes." (**1 Corinthians 11:26**)



# Isolationism

By J S Smith

While we are studying Romans 14 and deciding whether to sound the warning about all the error swirling around it, it might be wise to focus a little on verse 7: "For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself." Isolationism is a fantasy, an illusion. You can never isolate yourself from having influence on the souls around you. But what influence will you have?

Since the advent of the space and information ages of modern history, there has been a parallel neo-Luddite movement against the progress of science and society. The Survivalist movement (made infamous by the Unabomber) is a reaction to change and cultural digression that moves people to live in cabins in the wilderness, trying to survive by the fruit of their own hands and labor. Such people are fleeing modern society and isolating themselves from human contact. I will have to admit that when I read the latest abortion statistics or hear of another high school shooting, I almost want to pack my knapsack and follow their lead. Once called hermits, they are now isolationists.

Among Christians, and especially it seems, preachers and elders, there is a new spiritual movement in the same direction. The apostasy racking the American church from coast to coast is just as repulsive as abortion to all of us. How we deal with error and false teaching is an important consideration.

Many churches are operating on a "See no evil; hear no evil; speak no evil" precept. The brethren are praying that what they don't know can't hurt them. I wish the devil were so considerate as to excuse the ignorant from his perdition, but it is not so. Rather, he exploits them (**Acts 3:17**).

Many have chosen to ignore the current controversy over divorce and remarriage, turning a blind eye to the false teacher and a deaf ear to the warnings about him. Men have crossed their fingers and are hoping that his doctrine won't walk through the front door one day. And it probably won't, for false teachings tend to creep and seep under that door like sludge. "For certain men have crept in unnoticed...who turn the grace of God into lewdness (**Jude 4**)..." "For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captive gullible women (**2 Tim. 3:6**)..."

An isolationist ignores warnings like these and offers none of his own. This elder handles poorly the pas-

toral responsibility to protect the flock from grievous soul-snatching wolves (**Heb. 13:17**). He fails to watch and cry out like Ezekiel and the spirits of men are misled because of his self-imposed muteness.

Proverbs tells us that "A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment (**18:1**)."

Surely, no man should go looking for fights. "He who passes by and meddles in a quarrel not his own

is like one who takes a dog by the ears (**Prov. 26:17**)." But, is there not an occasion to, like David, ask, "Is there not a cause" to stand like a man and contend for the faith when it is assaulted with error?

The problem with isolationism is that it is a decision of convenience and is alterable when it suits the man. It is alarming how many isolationists are selling Bible class materials, holding gospel meetings all over the country and writing for fraternal journals. For whatever motivation, the isolation is incomplete. It is an impregnable fortress when unpleasant duty calls but the cracks appear when the prospects become more palatable.

This is no request for the appointment of "brotherhood directors." We shall be directed by the Chief Shepherd alone in the universal church (**1 Peter 5:4**). This is a plea for elders to pastor the flock that is among them. That involves keeping and eye on the horizon where lupine false teachings slink and plot. This is a plea for preachers to mark and expose error by the gospel light (**Eph. 5:11**), so that precious souls are not ditched (**Matt. 15:14**).

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