

# A Prevailing Philosophy .....

If "it feels right then go with it" by Edward O. Bragwell, Sr. is the prevailing philosophy of too many in our time. Along with this, we are told by "experts" that it is unhealthy to suppress one's feelings. Folks are encouraged to let it all out. The idea of exercising self-control and discretion to conform to an objective standard of conduct is a joke to more and more folks. Furthermore, society must grant and defend everyone's right to go with it – whatever "it" happens to be. The results: chaos is fast taking over what was once known as the "civilized world."

We only have to look around to see this philosophy at work. If sexual relations feels right to an unmarried couple, they go with it. If an "affair" feels right for a married person, he/she goes for it. If it feels right to divorce and re-marry how ever so many times and for whatever reason, then they go with it.

If by some quirk of nature one's physical gender does not feel right, then he/she is encour-

aged to go with their feeling. If one is attracted to one of the same gender, they go for it. Not only do they go for it, they insist on public recognition and accommodation of their feeling.

We are sometimes asked, "How can a thing so "natural" be wrong?" That is the problem. Many have gotten so far away from God that the unnatural seems to be natural to them. The apostle Paul wrote of the world in his day:

"For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the NATURAL function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error." (Emp. mine - eb) **(Romans 1:26-27 NASB)**



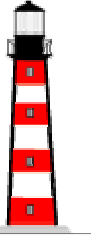
|  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| Lisa Carter<br>(Luke's mother)                             | Jesse Godwin<br>(Troy's father)              | Nell Holcomb<br>(Ben's grandmother,<br>Joanetta's aunt) | Louise Pack<br>(Anna and Christopher's grandmother) |
| Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson<br>(Toni Herd's Sisters) | Don Lanier<br>(Father of Greg Lanier)        | David Hartsell<br>(Holly and Brad's Father)             | Ruth Addison<br>(gmom of April and Julie)           |
| Madeline Morton<br>(Greg Lanier's g'daughter)              | Alexander Locke<br>(Jeremiah's cousin's son) | Betty Bradford  | Reba Patterson<br>(Heath Fowler's mom)              |
| Jean Buchanan<br>(Abbie Harrison's grandmother)            | Tina Atnip<br>(Orie's cousin)                | Danny Weldon<br>(Rusty Weldon's brother)                | William Smith<br>(Ken Sullivan's brother)           |
| Gerald White<br>(Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)    | Arabelle Rich<br>(Joanetta's aunt)           | Jane Hunt<br>(Chuck's mother)                           | Charles Hunt,<br>(Chuck Hunt's dad)                 |
| Gay Ulrich<br>(Emma's mom)                                 | Toni Herd                                    | Taina Acuff<br>(Anna's aunt)                            | John Duke<br>(Jared Johnson's cousin)               |

**July Birthdays**  
 1-Collins Hanners  
 2-Josh Gooch  
 8-David DeFoor  
 8-Angela Fernandez  
 11-Chase Winslett  
 11-Madi White  
 11-Clay Morris  
 11-Kelsey Gallahar  
 12-Tyler Tucker  
 14-Laurel Jenkins  
 14-Megan Hester  
 15-Bradley Seymore  
 16-Katie Martin  
 17-Whitney Sutton  
 19-Jay Borden  
 21-Tori Luther  
 22-Kate Fortenberry  
 24-Haley Gay  
 24-Carla Zacarias  
 25-Betty Bradford  
 25-Yvette Rouse  
 26-Brandon Hester  
 27-Tiffany Green  
 29-Hayden Phillips

**News and Notes**

- ☒ - Group meetings will be tonight!
- ☒ - Please remember the family of Bruce Daniels in the death of his brother, JD, this week.
- ☒ - Anna Price has made progress and expects to have surgery this week to insert a shunt
- ☒ - We rejoice that Julie Henriquez was baptized into Christ on Tuesday night!
- ☒ - Jeremiah Johnson's cousin's baby son, Alexander Locke, has made progress toward going home!
- ☒ - Toni Herd's niece, Amber, is in Baptist South in Montgomery with numbness on her left side. Please continue to pray for her.
- ☒ - Please pray for our expectant mothers: Paula Davis and Xiang Li.
- ☒ - Abbie Harrison will undergo a series of surgeries/procedures to correct her knee in the coming months, beginning in July.
- ☒ - Please remember Eddie and Angel Orantes as they lost their expected child yesterday at 4 months.
- ☒ - The Ashburton Drive church in Montgomery will have Doy Moyer in a weekend meeting from July 6-8.
- ☒ - Toni Herd's niece, Amber, is in Baptist South in Montgomery with numbness on her left side. Please continue to pray for her.

# 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 42 July 2, 2017

## Is It Wise and Good to Begin Drinking Alcohol?

By Doy Moyer



### Thoughts to Ponder

Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup, When it swirls around smoothly; At the last it bites like a serpent, And stings like a viper. **(Prov. 23:31-32)**

**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

**Larry Rouse**  
 Evangelist and Editor

Will anyone defend this: "The wise and good thing to do today is to start drinking alcohol?"

If one says, "But the Bible doesn't condemn all drinking," I will respond by asking that question again.

If one says, "But there are passages in the Bible that speak of fermented drinks in a more positive light," I will respond by asking that question again.

If one says, "The Bible condemns drunkenness, not all drinking," I will respond by asking that question again.

If one says, "But Jesus made water into wine," I will respond by asking that question again.

If one says, "But there are other issues, too, like gluttony," I will respond by asking that question again. If one wishes to start another thread on sugar and candy, he or she is welcome to do so. Not here. Not now.

If one asks, "Are you saying it is a sin and one will go to hell for touching alcohol to the lips at

Looking at the question from a strict "where does the Bible specifically condemn or allow it" perspective completely overlooks the wisdom question for today's world. ... Today, the consequences are far more reaching and costly than ever before. Is it the wise thing to do?

all?" I will respond by asking that question again.

Until the above question is answered, I will continue asking it. None of those responses grapple with the wisdom of the issue of drinking alcohol today; they only look at legal technicalities of a culture very different from ours. None of the responses consider the cultural differences between then and now or the reasons for drinking between then and now (e.g., the need to add it to water then where that need doesn't ex-

(Continued on page 2)

Find us on the Internet: [www.auchurch.com](http://www.auchurch.com) and [www.aubeacon.com](http://www.aubeacon.com)

(Continued from page 1)

ist now). They don't look at the issue of discernment and wisdom at a time when the problem of alcoholism continues to plague millions. Are you sure the prime reasons for drinking then are identical to now? Are you so certain about it that you will promote modern drinking at the risk of influencing another in a way that could well result in severe consequences? Are you aware of what those risks, today, are?

Just remember that holiness and sobriety go hand in hand (**1 Peter 1:13-16**). Think wisdom. Be discerning.

As a parent, would you tell your child, "You know, I believe it is okay to drink alcohol, that the Bible doesn't really condemn it, so let me give you this wise advice. Go ahead and drink. Don't overdo it, but you really should start drinking some. It will be good for you."? If you will tell your child that, I beg you, don't give any advice to mine.

Let's get some perspective on today. More than 16 million people over 18 years old had some form of alcohol use disorder in 2013. In that same year, from ages 12-17, nearly 700,000 had some form of alcohol use disorder. Ages 12-17.

According to the CDC, over 88,000 deaths per year occurred due to alcohol-related incidents from 2006-2010. Over 10,000 alcohol-related deaths occurred in automobile accidents in 2013 alone. Within this very hour, at least one or more will die due to alcoholic-related driving. Alcohol misuse problems cost billions of dollars every year. Billions. Many of the problems are due to binge drinking. Yet, all it takes is that one time. Just one time.

In 2012, over 3 million deaths globally were attributed to alcohol consumption. Alcohol contributes to over 200 diseases. Globally, alcohol misuse is the fifth leading factor in

premature death or disability; among those aged 15-49, it is first. First!

Each year, some 1,800 plus college students die from alcohol-related incidents (including vehicle crashes). Nearly 700,000 students between 18-24 were assaulted by another student who had been drinking. Nearly 100,000 report alcohol-related sexual assault or date rape. About 20 percent of college students meet the criteria for alcohol use disorder. Shall we go on? (See [www.niaaa.nih.gov/.../overview-a.../alcohol-facts-and-statistics](http://www.niaaa.nih.gov/.../overview-a.../alcohol-facts-and-statistics) for more).

This isn't a matter of having little choice in drink, of needing to dilute the water, or of drinking naturally fermented juices that are diluted. Alcoholism is devastating, and there are far too many cases of it not to be prepared to deal with the effects of it. If you will promote taking that first drink to enough people today, will you be prepared to deal with what may well happen to some of them? Shall we bury our heads and think, "oh that won't happen to my family"?

Looking at the question from a strict "where does the Bible specifically condemn or allow it" perspective completely overlooks the wisdom question for today's world. Today, it isn't necessary at all. Today, the consequences are far more reaching and costly than ever before. Is it the wise thing to do?

I repeat, is it the wise thing to do?

Without contradiction, we may say that no non-drinker becomes a problem drinker.

This may frustrate some people. Some will dislike this form of argument. So be it. I'm perfectly fine with not being liked over this issue. When all the dust settles, I will be right back asking this question.

Will anyone defend this: "The wise and good thing to do today is to start drinking alcohol"?



## Planned Repentance

By Cloyce Sutton

Several years ago I met a man who was planning to repent. He had been a Christian for some time, but worked a job that prevented him from attending services virtually all of the time. Eventually he quit trying at all, and fell away altogether. At the time he was part of a class-action lawsuit against his employer and was awaiting the outcome of the case. If the plaintiffs prevailed, they would receive a handsome sum of money, and then be released from their job duties to pursue other careers. He explained that whenever this lawsuit was settled, he would find a different job that would permit him to resume his relationship with the local church.

When I asked him if he had considered finding another line of work, he said, "No. I'm going to see this through." I asked if it occurred to him that he might die before his plans were realized, and he said, "That's the chance I'll just have to take." He was planning, some day, to repent.

His version of repentance and the biblical version are two different things. When Peter urged his audience to "repent and be baptized" (**Acts 2:38**), he was not addressing men and women who were in some vague way contemplating the remote possibility of a commitment of some sort in the indeterminate future. They saw the urgency of their spiritual crisis and begged, "What shall we do?" (**v. 37**). On that day, 3000 obeyed Jesus as Lord. They did not plan to repent; they responded according to their convictions and the need of the moment.

The repentance of the Corinthians was marked by earnestness, vindication, fear, longing, and zeal (**2 Corinthians 8:11**). They had wronged a fellow Christian and were anxious to make the necessary corrections and to prove themselves "innocent in the matter." Theirs was not "the sorrow of the world" that "produces death," but the "sorrow according to the will of God" that produced "repentance without regret." They could no more delay their repentance than they could delay their breathing.

When John the Baptist preached repentance, his audiences demanded, "What shall we do?" (**Luke 3:10, 12, 14**). Luke's account tells us that they came to him and

When I asked him if he had considered finding another line of work, he said, "No. I'm going to see this through." I asked if it occurred to him that he might die before his plans were realized, and he said, "That's the chance I'll just have to take." He was planning, some day, to repent.

repeatedly questioned him (**v. 10-14**). They wanted to know how to fix their spiritual breakdown. They were deadly serious about solving the problem of sin in their lives. Repentance was urgent enough that they could not stop thinking about it.

The counterpoint to these examples of true repentance is Felix, the Roman procurator of Judea. When Paul appeared before Felix and his wife Drusilla, he took aim at Felix's self-serving, wicked heart when he spoke of

"righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come" (**Acts 24:25**). Paul's powerful message brought Felix to the brink of repentance. Felix held in his hands the keys to the kingdom, but, instead, closed the door. He planned on repenting (**v. 25**), and continued to plan for another two years (**v. 27**). After this, he was recalled to Rome, where he died soon afterward. I suspect he was still planning to repent.

The problem with planned repentance is NOT that our plans may not work out the way we intend. That is true enough. You might plan to repent in September, but die in August. You may plan to repent when you retire, but never get around to retiring. You may plan to repent "someday" — but when "someday" arrives, you may be just as indifferent as you are now.

No, the real problem with planned repentance is that we put our relationship to God on our own terms, not on his terms. Planned repentance is nothing more than excuse-making for the sake of disobedience: "Lord, I will repent, but first let me..." Our Lord's response is plain: "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me" (**Luke 9:23**). Whatever planned repentance may be, it is certainly not what Jesus wants.

Are you planning to repent? Can you so easily undo months or years of neglect, indifference, or rebellion? Why will some other time, some other place, or some other circumstance be better than today? Do you think that continuing in habitual sin will make repentance easier? Now is the time to repent!

