

## Convenient Preaching

Christians are being tried and tested for their love of truth. Many are courageously standing for that which they know to be right, while others, not studying the Bible for themselves, are swept away by the pleasant and fair speeches of teachers and preachers who seek only to scratch itching ears with... "great swelling words, showing respect of persons for the sake of advantage" (**Jude 16**).

Myriad of Christians are confusing the difference between convictions and conveniences. They conveniently stand for doctrine which is most popular, receiving the "praise of men," rather than standing for doctrine of Christ by conviction, being rewarded with the "praise of God" (**John 12:43**).

by Robert Harkrider  
Such an attitude is manifested by the failure to teach against worldliness, looseness and laxity in moral living, and by putting emphasis on number and size rather than spiritual stature. Many seem afraid to condemn anything, but stand ready to praise everything.

We have watered down our convictions, sweetened our dispositions, and become so sophisticated with worldly wisdom and intoxicated with our "place under the sun" of prominence in the religious world that we stand powerless in the face of error and evil.



### Classes This Week

<b>Sunday Evening</b> College devo/singing at Jared Johnson's, teacher Kyle Ellison (visiting from Mount Olive)	<b>Monday 7:00 PM</b> Ladies' class at Jordan Holliday's, "Teach Me to Love"	<b>Thursday 8:00 PM</b> Truth Seekers at student center, room 2107
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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)	Anna Price	Betty Bradford	Reba Patterson (Heath Fowler's mom)
Jean Buchanan (Abbie Harrison's grandmother)	Tina Atnip (Orie's cousin)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	Abbie Harrison
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)	Toni Herd	Taina Acuff (Anna's aunt)	Shawn Lauderdale (Larry and Joannetta's son)

### September Birthdays

- 2-Denise Davis
- 3-Trenton Anderson
- 3-Larry Lauderdale
- 4-Kevin Anderson
- 5-Angel Orantes
- 10-BJ Winslett
- 10-Eleanor Weldon
- 10-Matthew Sullivan
- 10-Joel Sullivan
- 11-Sheryl Fowler
- 12-Jared Johnson
- 13-Adam Saylor
- 14-Patsy Ogle
- 16-Sean Ellis
- 17-Laura Weldon
- 18-Daniel Carter
- 20-Eddie Orantes
- 21-Sarah Chandler
- 21-John Berkebile
- 22-Lucy Hartsell
- 22-Violet Hartsell
- 24-Wade Winslett
- 24-Lauren Johnson
- 25-Ashley Collier
- 28-Hallie Hall
- 29-Sandlyn Fultz
- 30-Grant Davis
- 30-Sydney Parris

### News and Notes

- We will have a guest speaker tonight, Kyle Ellison. He will speak on why he left denominationalism. Two years ago he was preaching for the Baptist church.
- Group meetings will be tonight.
- Please remember William Herd as he undergoes heart tests and Toni as she continues to struggle with her health.
- Brooke Perkins' sister, Jana Jennings, had successful spinal surgery on Wed.
- Brooke Perkin's step-dad, George Willock, had a blood transfusion on Thursday.
- Please pray for our expectant mothers: Chelsea O'Dell, Paula Davis, Mallory Randolph and Suzanne Stagner.
- We welcome our new member, Melissa Grant!
- Emma Ulrich's mom, Gay, will be admitted for her chemo treatments this Tuesday to prepare for her bone marrow transplant in Oct
- Larry is preaching in a meeting in Springville, Alabama this week.
- Our new quarter begins October 1!
- All audio is immediately posted to [www.auchurch.com](http://www.auchurch.com)

# The Auburn Beacon



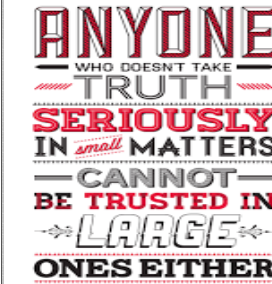
Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (**Matthew 5:16**)

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## Why I Oppose Instrumental Music in Worship

by Jeremy Crump



### Thoughts to Ponder

And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth (**John 17:19**)

**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

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Larry Rouse  
Evangelist and Editor

"Oh, I know about your church, you're the ones who don't worship with instruments!" It's a common response I receive when I tell others I am a member of the church of Christ. As much as I wish we as a group were most distinctive for other things, the absence of instruments in worship is usually the first thing outsiders notice about us. And yes, I admit, it does seem odd for a church to take such an unpopular and seemingly inconsequential position. However, I do not believe that the position one takes regarding this issue is inconsequential at all.

The fundamental question we should be asking when it comes to all our worship practices is, What does God want from our worship to Him? Worship is, after all, directed to Him, not us. That is why arguments made for or against worship practices

To know what God wants from us, we must go to the instructions given to Christians by Jesus and His inspired apostles in the New Testament. These instructions govern not only the personal conduct of individual Christians but also the corporate worship practices of local churches.

based on one's personal preference or what will draw the most people or what best fits our time and culture are not compelling to me. They miss the point. They are not seeking to answer the fundamental question we should all be asking: What does our God desire from us (his worshippers) when we approach Him in worship?

To know what God wants from us, we must go to the instructions given to Christians by Je-

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sus and His inspired apostles in the New Testament. These instructions govern not only the personal conduct of individual Christians but also the corporate worship practices of local churches.

If we look at what the New Testament says we can see that God has told us exactly what He wants us to bring to Him in worship. Simply, He has told us He wants us to sing:

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise (**James 5:3**).

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (**Colossians 3:16-17**).

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart... (**Ephesians 5:18-19**)

Clearly, God is pleased when His worshippers use their voices to proclaim praises to Him and to teach one another. There are no instructions in the New Testament about instruments in worship. There are no examples in the New Testament of Christians praising God with instruments. In fact, the presence of instruments of any kind in Christian churches was almost non-existent for

the first millennia of the church's existence. Why would the church reject instruments so universally and so rigidly if their presence was a matter of indifference?

It is true that under the old covenant temple worship, the Israelites worshipped God with instruments. This is why we see, for instance, certain psalms that speak of worshipping God with "sounding cymbals" (**Psalms 150:5**). Yet the psalms also speak of worshipping God with "burnt sacrifices" (**Psalms 20:3**) and no one is arguing for the renewal of burnt sacrifices in Christian worship. When the New Testament writers spoke of the new covenant in Jesus Christ they made clear that the practices of the old covenant have been abolished (**Romans 7:1-6; Galatians 3:23-25; 5:1-6; Hebrews 8:13**). That is why one cannot justify Christian worship on the basis of the temple worship of the old covenant.

Our concern as worshippers of God should be to offer Him what He wants instead of what is convenient or preferable to us. God's swift punishment of Nadab and Abihu for the crime of offering "unauthorized fire before the LORD, which he had not commanded them" (**Leviticus 10:1-3**) should serve as a warning to us. God is not pleased when we act presumptuously and "go beyond what is written" (**1 Corinthians 4:6**). Let us be content to let God guide our actions in the church and let us offer Him the praise He deserves! "Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name" (**Hebrews 13:5**).



## Bearing Burdens

By Lawrence Kelly

Sin is a reality of life in a fallen world. Christians, of all people, should not be caught off guard when others become entangled in sin. Instead, God teaches us how to respond, and urges us to watch our own hearts as we reach out to restore our struggling brother to help him carry his load.

**The Situation** is described in verse one, Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin. This happens when someone's sin becomes known to you: a friend spent the weekend with a woman not his wife, a young man is hanging out and getting drunk on weekends, a damaging lie has been traced to its source. Here is the basic image: Satan has laid a trap, a brother has stepped in it and is caught. Now, you come upon the scene. What are you to do?

**The Task** is found in verses one and two. You are to restore him and help him carry his burden. The word restore means to set in joint, like a doctor sets a fracture or slips a joint back into its socket. We are not told to stand there and say, "How could you be so stupid?" or "Get out of it your self." We are to help him get out of the trap and we are to tend to his wounds. This may take on many forms and will often involve confronting them about their error, praying for them to overcome it, provide ongoing encouragement and accountability. This means we must be willing to get involved in the situation, which explains why this task is so seldom done. We don't want the trouble. But where would you and I be if Jesus had taken this attitude toward us in our sin?

**The Qualification.** Not everyone is suited to the task of restoring the fallen. This is why verse one adds the qualifying phrase, You who are spiritual. This means, only those who are living under the influence and control of God's Spirit are in a position to help others. In particular, we should be characterized by the fruit of the Spirit found back in **Gal**

Make sure you know how to swim before going in to rescue someone about to drown. A lot of people have gone in after a brother in sin only to end up joining them at the bottom of the pool.

**5:22-23** where Paul wrote, the fruit of Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness & self-control. The people most eager to correct others are often least qualified. We must do this to help the fallen, and not out of anger or to give ourselves a sense of moral superiority over those we are helping.

**The Warning** is also found in verse one. Watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Make sure you know how to swim before going in to rescue someone about to drown. A lot

of people have gone in after a brother in sin only to end up joining them at the bottom of the pool. Above all, we need to watch our attitude as we help the fallen. Arrogance and pride are always ready to creep into our hearts as we stoop to help "those foolish saps who were led astray."

**The Motive** is in verse two, In this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. The expression, law of Christ is the commandment to love each other as Christ loves us. We find this in **John 13:34,35** A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. Christ is a burden lifter. It is important that we be like Him in this regard and not be like those to whom Jesus said, woe to you, because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them. I have seen countless situations where people, already laboring under the burden of sin, have had religious friends come to them and the only thing they have to offer is another weight, another burden, another rock to put in the backpack. This can't be right. May we follow the example of Jesus and be His hands and feet and back. May we lift and carry the burdens of the weak and fallen and so fulfill the law of Christ.

