

What or Who?

“You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?” (Galatians 5:7 NKJV) by Edward O. Bragwell, Sr.

The Apostle Paul’s wording of this question to his brethren in Galatia strikes me as interesting. He did not ask What hindered them, but Who... Do you think he may have recognized that most hindrances were not some impersonal things (kind of like germs) floating around in the air or seeping through cracks in our armor? I suspect so.

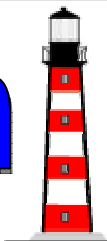
Judging the way that we sometimes address church problems, one would think problems are nebulous entities completely detached from any person. When we learn of a problem, we just kind of naturally ask, “What is

the problem? But, to be more precise, maybe we should ask, “Who is the problem?” In **Romans 16:17**, Paul tells the Romans to mark those causing division among them. They not only needed to identify the division, but also those causing it and deal with them. The manner in which we deal with the person causing a problem may vary according to circumstances, but the person still needs to be dealt with.

So, if the church is being hindered, it is being hindered by someone, not merely something. It is extremely hard to stop a hindrance without dealing with the hinderer.



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)

Volume 9, Issue 2

October 1, 2017

Cannot Be Concealed

by Rick Liggin



Thoughts to Ponder

Some men's sins are clearly evident, preceding them to judgment, but those of some men follow later. (1 Timothy 5:24)

“The sins of some men are quite evident, going before them to judgment; for others, their sins follow after. Likewise also, deeds that are good are quite evident, and those which are otherwise cannot be concealed” (1 Tim.5:24-25).

With some men, it is obvious to everyone that what they are doing is sinful. Their sins are “quite evident” and quite easily spotted. Their actions are, in fact, so obviously sinful that no one can rightly deny it. It is clear to everyone that what is being done here is wrong; and it is equally apparent, even before judgment, that such men stand self-condemned.

But unfortunately, it is not this way with every man’s sin. Some men’s sins are not so obvious. The fruit of their evil is more subtle, less easily detected. It might be that initially we cannot detect the sin at all; or it might be that we suspect “something is wrong here,” but we can’t quite “put our finger on it”; there simply isn’t enough evidence—yet—to con-

And so, we would strongly urge anyone who might be trying to hide a “secret sin” or “get away with” some ugly transgression: correct it! Acknowledge your sin, confess it – to God and to anyone affected by it – and abandon it! God can and will forgive any sin that we will admit and forsake!

vict the sinner. We are watchful of such men – and we must be – because the sins of these men can do great damage to the body of Christ! You see, some men are really good at hiding their sins; they are so good, in fact, that often it is only after the wicked deeds are done and the damaging effects are fully realized that we finally are able to identify the sins and the wicked men who commit them. But please notice that even with these men, their sins “follow after” them.

(Continued on page 2)

Classes This Week

Sunday 5:15 Kids' class at 5:15 p.m. in auditorium	Tuesday 10:00 AM Ladies' class at 10:00 a.m. at Paula Davis' home, "Teach Me to Love"	Tuesday 7:00 PM Men's class at 7:00 p.m. at Walker Davis' house, I Timothy	Thursday 8:00 PM Truth Seekers at student center, room 2107
--	---	--	---

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)

October Birthdays

- 1-Aiden Hahn
- 2-Suzanne Stagner
- 3-Jennifer Hasty
- 3-James Malloy
- 6-Jessica Anderson
- 6-Josh Hartsell
- 7-Molly Borden
- 8-Heath Fowler
- 9-Garrett Pender
- 12-Stacy Norman
- 12-Emily McDaniel
- 17-Abbie Harrison
- 20-Evan Pender
- 20-Keith Bailey
- 21-Zac Slay
- 22-Christopher White
- 23-Maryssa Hill
- 24-Sara Beth Roberts
- 24-Suzanna Roberts
- 25-Bethany Tolliver
- 26-Palmer Daniels
- 26-Esther Biddle
- 27-Tristan Roy
- 28-Will Pennington
- 28-Clay Chason
- 29-Belle Johnson
- 29-Matt Hall
- 29-Julie Britnell
- 29-Madi Luther
- 29-Abby Ambrose
- 31-Kitty Tam

News and Notes

- ☒ - There was a baptism resulting from Kyle Ellison's sermon Monday Night. Coleman Lett was baptized Wed. night in Gadsden.
- ☒ - New quarter begins today!
- ☒ - Brooke Perkins' step-dad is being tested for possible colon cancer. Please pray for him and his family.
- ☒ - We rejoice to have a new Brother in Christ, Ivan Cortez!
- ☒ - Please remember the family of Chris Long in the death of his grandfather, Marvin Hale.
- ☒ - Please pray for our expectant mothers: Chelsea O'Dell, Paula Davis, Mallory Randolph and Suzanne Stagner .
- ☒ - We rejoice with the encouraging news that Lisa Carter received from her scan on Monday!
- ☒ - Emma Ulrich's mom, Gay, began her chemo this week and will continue until Oct 6th when her bone marrow transplant is scheduled to take place.
- ☒ - Please pray for Laura Weldon's dad, Tom Dial, who broke both of his lower leg bones and is recovering from surgery.
- ☒ - Matt Cavender will be deployed soon. Please remember him in your prayers.

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)

In a similar but contrasting way, “deeds that are good are quite evident” (1 Tim. 5:25)! It’s not that those with pure motives are doing their good deeds to be noticed by men! But the point is that good deeds don’t have to be “trumpeted.” Why? Because they are obvious—if not to everyone, at least, to some—and certainly to God. We cannot hide the positive effects of our good works. Good works naturally produce good fruit... fruit that is visible to all who will see.

But we are also assured that deeds “which are otherwise (i.e. anything less than good) cannot be concealed! And right here is the point at which we all need to really sit up and pay attention. You need to know with certainty that if you are involved in some kind of sin – even a more subtle, less obvious kind of sin—it cannot be hidden! As the Bible warns: “Be sure your sins will find you out” (Num. 32:23). “He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper” (Prov. 28:13), and “he who perverts his way will be found out” (Prov. 10:9). Eventually, your sin will be exposed and you will reap what you have sown (Gal. 6:7-8)! You may think you are hiding it now, and you may be...at least from some. But you cannot hide it forever! God knows about your sin. He knows about it now; and soon enough others will know about it, too. So, why not repent and stop it now—before you get caught and before your sin causes any more hurt!

It is much wiser and will be much better for you—and for everyone else—if you will “confess and forsake” your sins altogether (Prov. 28:13). Carnal men may disagree, but the Bible teaches that there is great security in forsaking all sin and in walking uprightly! In contrast to the one whose perverted way “will be found out,” the man “who walks in integrity walks securely” (Prov. 10:9); and in contrast to the one who “will

not prosper” because he “conceals his transgressions,” the man who “confesses and forsakes” his sins “will find compassion” (Prov. 28:13). The man who confesses and forsakes his sin will not only find compassion from our merciful God, who cannot refuse “a broken and contrite heart” (Psa.51:17), but is also far more likely to find compassion from those who have been hurt by his wicked deeds.

And so, we would strongly urge anyone who might be trying to hide a “secret sin” or “get away with” some ugly transgression: correct it! Acknowledge your sin, confess it – to God and to anyone affected by it – and abandon it! God can and will forgive any sin that we will admit and forsake! And most of those who might have been hurt by our sin will forgive us, too! But we have to really “come clean” about the sin (Jer. 3:12-14). We have to admit and abandon it and return to God with a whole heart! We might as well do that, because we simply are not going to get away with it! Our sin “cannot be concealed!”

P.S. When some respected brother in Christ is engaged in a secret sin, and that sin is somehow found out (and it will be...eventually), please know that this is not biblical Christianity! It is hypocrisy! So, don’t let it discourage you! This man’s hypocrisy, is in fact, an attempt by the enemy (our diabolical adversary, Satan) to defile many! He is not just trying to defile the one practicing sin but also any who might be discouraged by this sinner’s evil example. Biblical Christianity deals with sin in biblical ways. It exposes the sin (Eph. 5:11-12); and, in love, it seeks to correct the sin (Matt. 18:15-17), and to purge it out of the group (1 Cor. 5:1-13). Believe me: I know it can be disappointing – and downright discouraging— to find out that someone you trusted and respected has been hiding his sin; but don’t let it discourage you and make you give up on trying to do what is right. If you do that, then the adversary has really won.



A Jealous God

By Jim Jonas

The Old Testament scriptures speak several times of God’s “jealousy.” The Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament says this family of words “expresses a very strong emotion whereby some quality or possession of the object is desired by the subject. ... It may prove helpful to think of ‘zeal’ as the original sense from which derived the notions ‘zeal for another’s property’ = ‘envy’ and ‘zeal for one’s own property’ = ‘jealousy’” (Vol. 2, p. 802).

When applied to God, the idea is that God is “jealous” for what rightfully belongs to Him. In explaining the first and second commandments (no other gods or images), God says, “For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me” (Ex. 20:5). God is the only true Supreme Being and as such deserves all reverence, glory and honor. It is a travesty against His nature and existence to have men invent gods with their own hearts and hands and offer to them what God alone deserves.

God promises to display Himself accordingly to Israel: “Behold, I make a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation; and all the people among whom you are shall see the work of the Lord. For it is an awesome thing that I will do with you” (Ex. 34:10). Then He warns the people: “for you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God” (34:14).

The Old Testament depicts God as a husband and Israel as His bride. He is the one who nurtured Israel from birth to adult nationhood. He was the source of all blessings, and Israel freely

God is true; all others are products of rebellion and selfishness. This He will not tolerate. In this respect, God is the one holding all the cards; we may decide either to live by His rules or forfeit our right to live at all.

entered into covenant promises to be loyal and faithful to God. Thus, when they forsook Him and went after idols, God considered their behavior as adultery, and He responded in a way that might be expected from a jealous husband: “And I will judge you as women who break wedlock or shed blood are judged; I will bring blood upon you in fury and jealousy” (Ezek. 16:38).

The divine rationale for the creation of man is a desire for

fellowship and to share His goodness with cognizant, responsible beings. There is no justification within ourselves for our existence; God unilaterally decided to create us to satisfy His own purposes. When men thus reject that purpose and think they can justify their existence on other grounds, they are rejecting the very source of life itself.

God is true; all others are products of rebellion and selfishness. This He will not tolerate. In this respect, God is the one holding all the cards; we may decide either to live by His rules or forfeit our right to live at all. There is no third choice.

But the jealousy of God works for us as well. If we are faithful to Him, He will jealousy defend us, protect us and provide for our needs.

Of those who had humbled and plundered Israel God says, “Surely I have spoken in My burning jealousy against the rest of the nations. ... Therefore prophesy concerning the land of Israel, and say to the mountains, the hills, the rivers, and the valleys, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Behold, I have spoken in My jealousy and My fury, because you have born the shame of the nations”” (Ezek. 36:5-6).

Our God is not to be trifled with.

