

# Owe No One Anything

by J. S. Smith

In this modern age credit has exploded. Most everyone has a wallet full of charge cards, from banks, department stores, and oil companies. There is nothing inherently immoral about this, and yet to many those little plastic devils are a grave temptation that enables their discontentment and addiction to things. Paul wrote the Romans to "Owe no one anything except to love one another" (**Romans 13:8**). This passage is not outlawing all debt, for other passages seem to regulate the practice. As Clinton Hamilton writes in his commentary on Romans, "One may have incurred a debt which if due in the present must be paid because that is the appointed time for it to be paid. Until that point, it is not due. One must not be in arrears in the payment of a debt" (Romans, page 725). Paul is telling us not to get in situations in which we cannot pay a debt when it is due. Credit cards, mortgages, and car loans have the potential to get

people in exactly that situation. The answer to credit trouble, unfortunately, is usually more credit. Carry the balance; take out a second mortgage, whatever it takes. Revolving credit can be a bottomless pit. The over-extension of credit often leads to bankruptcy, in which a man's creditors are usually paid only a small percentage of what they are owed. This is immoral and a violation of **Romans 13:8**. Yet the vile seeds were sown long before, when we thought we could be happy if we only had more things. The problem is more fundamental than a lack of possessions; it is a lack of contentment. Learn how to enjoy life with what you can afford and when more comes, you will appreciate it better (**Phil. 4:11**). Credit is not always bad, but if it is a substitute for godly contentment, you will regret it all the way to hell.



Rachel Bobo Julie Britnell Ethan Chandler	<b>Graduates</b> Logan Chappell Katie Gentry Connell Hodges	Adam Holliday Erin Fields Jessica Yates
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Lisa Carter (Daniel's mother)	Jesse and Martha Godwin (Troy's parents)	Nell Holcomb (Ben's grandmother, Joannetta's aunt)	Louise Pack (Anna and Christopher's grandmother)
Emery Anne Vest (Patsy's grandniece)	Mary Edwards (Sandra Chason's mom)	Kimzey Simpson	Ruth Addison (gmom of April and Julie)
Tory Colvin (sister of Case O'Dell)	Maria Williams	Barbara Chandler	Robert Collins (child of Walker's co-worker)
Betty Bradford	Amy Call (Seth Humphrey's cousin's wife)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	Abbie Harrison
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Arabelle Rich (Joannetta's aunt)	Matt Bishop (friend of Long's)	Doug Bailey (Keith's brother)
Landon Grace (Seth Humphrey's nephew)	William and Toni Herd	Taina Acuff (Anna's aunt)	Jesse Russell (Ron's brother)

<b>December Birthdays</b>
2-Katelyn Sullivan 3-Christopher Willingham 4-Hector Chavez 4- Austin Hutto 4-Alex Hutto 5-Rusty Weldon 5-Charlie Johnson 5-Allie Hosey 8-Macy Johnson 9-Anna Acuff 9-Kayla Reid 9-Anna Cagle 11-Lily Rogers 13-Dave Hosey 13-Will Bruce Harris 17-Joseph Miller 19-Chase Sanders 20-Meredith Reid 21-Holly Johnson 21-Manna Jones 22-William Herd 24-Jessica Yates 25-Jake Hagewood 27-Stan Tolliver 28-Turner Stephens 28-Gabby Borden 28-Jesse Gibson 30-Douglas Bethea 31-Justin Hinson

<b>News and Notes</b>
☒ - Chuck Hunt's dad, Charles, was released from the hospital showing no heart issues and improved from pneumonia. ☒ - Laura Humphrey's dad, Frank Hand, was taken off the vent this week! ☒ - Please remember the family of Sean and Erin Ellis, who lost their great uncle Chet recently. ☒ - Please pray for Erica Seymore who will have shoulder repair surgery on Thursday in Bham. ☒ - Branson and Maria's son, Jason, has returned home from the hospital after suffering seizures. ☒ - Meloni Birtley passed away unexpectedly, aunt to Hannahlee Weaver, cousin to Erica & Bradley, and Jared Johnson. Please pray for this family. ☒ - There will be a funeral service for Nathan Diehl's father, Denny, on Tuesday in San Diego ☒ - Ron Russell's brother, Jesse, remains in hospice care in Montgomery. ☒ - Pray for our expectant mothers: Cheryl Carthel, Kristen Diehl, Megan Hester and Rachel Simpson. ☒ - Brandon Hester's grandfather, Jackie Richardson, will have quadruple heart bypasses on Wed. ☒ - All audio is immediately posted to <a href="http://www.auchurch.com">www.auchurch.com</a>

# The Auburn Beacon

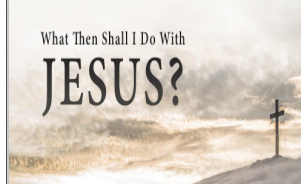


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## Do We Delight to Do His Will?

By Wayne Jackson



### Thoughts to Ponder

Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, "What shall we do? For this Man works many signs. (**John 11:47**)

In his letter to the church in Ephesus, Christ warned that they had left their first love (**Rev. 2:4**). Though they had maintained the truth, their delight in Christ had lost its shine. No longer did they possess a child-like wonder and faith for the Master (**Matt. 18:2ff**). And so the Lord begged them to "repent and do the first works" (**Rev. 2:5**).

How can we rekindle a love for God? How can we renew our dedication to his blessed Son?

Perhaps we might ponder that question as we consider a little gem tucked away in **Psalms 40**. The Psalmist declared, "I delight to do your will, O my God; Yes, your law is within my heart" (**Psa. 40:8**). What a marvelous exclamation!

The Hebrews writer declares by inspiration that this passage is fulfilled in the perfect obedience of Jesus Christ (**cf. Heb. 10:7ff**).

### Jesus: Our Example of the Delightful Servant

Christ was ever involved in the things of his Father (**Lk. 2:49**) He once confessed with amazing frankness, "I always do the things

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that are pleasing to him" (**Jn. 8:29**). And when vicious Jewish leaders so desperately sought to find in him something worthy of condemnation, he challenged, "Which of you convicts me of sin?" (**Jn. 8:46**). Befuddled, they could only mumble the absurd charge that he was demon-possessed.

John the baptizer introduced Jesus as "the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world" (**Jn. 1:29**). He was a Lamb, which Peter affirmed to be without blemish or spot (**1 Pet. 1:19**). Yes, Jesus "did no sin, neither was guile found in his

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<b>SCHEDULE OF SERVICES</b> Sunday Bible Class .....9:30 AM Worship .....10:20 AM Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM Wednesday Bible Classes.....7:00 PM E-Mail: <a href="mailto:larryrouse@aubeacon.com">larryrouse@aubeacon.com</a> Larry Rouse Evangelist and Editor
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mouth” (1 Pet. 2:22).

That perfect obedience he maintained unto death, hence “without blemish” he offered himself to God (Heb. 9:14). Truly, Jesus delighted in doing Heaven’s will.

### **Do We Delight to Do His Will?**

One of the great tragedies of our time — of all time — is this.

How many really delight in doing the will of their Creator? The answer is sad — fewer than should.

Do we meditate day and night upon heavenly oracles (Psa. 1:2)? Do we long after, even pant for, the commands of our God (Psa. 119:131)?

“How sweet are your words to my taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth!” (Psa. 119:103). “I love your commands above gold, yes, above fine gold” (Psa. 119:127).

How many of Jehovah’s children can genuinely express these sentiments today? The answer might be frightening!

### **Christianity: A Blessing or a Burden?**

It takes only a casual observer to note that religion as practiced by some members of the body of Christ seems more of a burdensome drudgery that is but painfully tolerated.

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These poor souls do not scruple to absent themselves on Sunday evening or from a mid-week Bible study. Once a week is sacrifice aplenty!

Do they ever talk of spiritual matters? No, more often their interests are confined to the worldly. Social media is proof enough of what

their heart treasures most. And their financial support of the Lord’s work wouldn’t even pay for the communion bread they absent-mindedly consume.

They are listless, lukewarm and lifeless. They grumble and actually, are just plain miserable. The question is — why?

### **How to Delight in the Will of God**

The answer lies in the very text with which this discussion was begun, Psa.40:8.

The Lord delighted in doing Jehovah’s will because the law of God was in his heart!

Many brethren know the truth from an intellectual standpoint, but their hearts are far from their Master. The heart, as well as the head, needs conversion.

In other words, service needs to be motivated from love as well as a recognition of duty. It is this love, this fervor, this passion for daily serving God, that makes life delightful. And legions know it not!

The world, like an octopus, tries to get its deadly tentacles around the hearts of God’s children. It is as quicksand that would suck us into the destruction of hell.

If the Christian is to survive, he must store the word of God into his heart daily.

“Your word have I laid up in my heart, that I might not sin against you” (Psa. 119:11). “The law of God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide,” (Psa. 37:31).

Every facet of Christianity is designed to strengthen the disciple of the Lord, to prevent the erosion of his soul by the world. Praise, prayer, Bible study — these and other spiritual things are sources of divine strength.

Regretfully, however, we often neglect to give attention to spiritual things. It is possible to be lulled into a spiritual numbness and thus be forever lost.



## **Jonah’s Salvation Message**

By David Hartsell

You know the story of Jonah; he tried to run from God’s command to preach to Nineveh, the capitol of the Assyrian nation. Running from God was futile. The Lord caused a great storm in the Mediterranean Sea to prevent the ship Jonah was on from making any progress. Ultimately Jonah was thrown into the sea and was swallowed by a large fish prepared especially for Jonah. For three days he lived, frightened out of his wits, inside of the great beast and he prayed fervently that his life would be spared. God heard Jonah’s prayers and caused the fish to spit him up on dry land with a renewed message to go preach to Nineveh. This time Jonah complied with God’s will and the result was remarkable. There are a few things about The Lord’s message for salvation that we will explore from Jonah chapter three.

**First, Jehovah’s plan for delivering the message was simple.** He instructed Jonah to go and deliver His clear warnings. Jonah might have considered forming a Nineveh Evangelic Society (NES) to find the best qualified and most talented preachers to go to Nineveh. Would this have been acceptable to God? No! But why wouldn’t it have been? The answer is simple: God told Jonah to deliver the sermon. Today, many “societies” are erected to do the work The Lord gave local churches to do. We are not talking about a “way” to do God’s work but a “who” is to be doing the work. The gospel is to be supported and spread by churches and individual saints. This work is not to be turned over, in part or in whole, to human organizations or even another church.

Some today use carnal means to draw people “to church.” (Some make appeals based on sports, plays, or meals.) However, our Lord teaches us to draw souls by the simple, but powerful, gospel message. (Jn.6:44-45)

**Next, God gave Jonah a simple message. The prophet was to preach, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” (Jonah 3:4)** How can anyone make the message any clearer? It is impossible to misunderstand! The same can be said for Jesus’ gospel. After Jesus’ resurrection and just before His ascension, our Lord told His disciples to preach the gospel to the world. “He who

believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.” (Mk.16:16) Later Peter preached this very sermon in Jerusalem and about 3,000 were baptized for “the forgiveness of their sins.” (Acts 2:38-41) Notice that Jonah’s message was centered in God’s Word not Jonah’s personal story. Can you imagine what his message might have been? “Come see the man that spent three days inside a fish.” Some today use carnal means to draw people “to church.” (Some make appeals based on sports, plays, or meals.) However, our Lord teaches us to draw souls by the simple, but powerful, gospel message. (Jn.6:44-45)

**Finally, Jonah’s message brought repentance. The Ninevites repented wearing sackcloth while they fasted. (Jonah 3:5-7)** The changes in their lives reflected the change in their hearts. The same is true today. “Godly sorrow” produces genuine repentance. (2 Cor.7:10) And repentance causes us to obey The Lord in everything – including baptism. One warning is also given in this passage: “the sorrow of the world produces death.” God is full of mercy but He is not foolish. The Lord wants us “fighting the good fight” not talking one.

