

What Do You More than Others?

Probably one of the most penetrating and thought provoking questions Jesus asked was, "if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?" (Matt.5:47). The Jews had a very low opinion of tax collectors because they took money from them, pocketed a high amount for themselves and gave the rest to the Roman government occupying their land. But, even the lowest kind of character greets their brethren only. In other words, we have not mastered the high principle of love if we greet a small circle of brethren only, and leave others outside any consideration for kindness and welcoming greetings.

Jesus tells us that we must love everyone including those who make themselves your enemies. Love does not allow us to make ourselves

by Terry Benton

an enemy, but we can't evade the fact that others will not practice love, and therefore they think nothing of making themselves an enemy to each of us. Jesus tells us to be nice, kind, and hold good will, expressing it in "greeting" them when they will let you. Jesus said "if you love those who love you, what reward have you?"

Dig deep down in your heart, your character, and make room for being kind and welcoming, with good will for even those who don't seem to care for you. Who knows but what over time they might become one of your best friends because your kindness awakened some self-examination and change in them? Let that question, "what do you more than others?" stir around in your conscience today!



Classes This Week

Sunday Evening Devo/singing at Pender's house, Connor Godwin teaching!	Monday 8:00 PM College study on Romans, Crawford's	Monday 7:00 PM Ladies' class at Denise Davis', "Heaven"	Thursday 8:00 PM Truthseekers, Room 2107 of student center
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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)	Earl Mitchell (Debbi Coleman's dad)	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)
Tim Tucker and Kendal Decker (Brooke's friends)	William and Toni Herd	Taina Acuff (Anna's aunt)	Jesse Russell (Ron's brother)

January Birthdays

- 1-David Ogle
- 2-Chuck Hunt
- 4-Phillip Box
- 6-Erica Seymore
- 7-Charles Painter
- 9-Jordan Oldag
- 9-Liseth Aragon
- 11-Spencer Hall
- 11-Shepherd Hall
- 12-Rosita Chavez
- 16-Preston Perkins
- 17-Anna English
- 17-Sarah Cicero
- 18-Scott Vaughn
- 18-Nakia Strickland
- 21-Jacob Jerkins
- 22-Britton Stagner
- 23-Connor Godwin
- 23-Cristin Chavez
- 25-Caleb Daniels
- 25-Tucker Mills
- 27-Hannah Slay
- 27-Terez Strickland
- 28-Julianna Anderson
- 28-Regan Wiginton
- 31-Jennifer Daniels

News and Notes

- ☒ - Ron Russell's brother, Jesse, passed away on Thursday. The burial will be Thursday at Greenwood Cemetery in Montgomery with a memorial later this year.
- ☒ - Cheri Russell's brother, Billy, is in the hospital in Columbus after suffering a stroke and heart attack.
- ☒ - Laura Humphrey's dad, Frank Hand, was moved to Lakeshore Rehab.
- ☒ - David Simpson's sister, Laura Matlock, had successful surgery to remove cancer and got an excellent report!
- ☒ - We welcome Will Reaves and Olivia Tease as new members!
- ☒ - Pray for our expectant mothers: Cheryl Carthel, Kristen Diehl, Megan Hester, Rachel Simpson and Nakia Strickland.
- ☒ - Baby Emery Anne Vest was able to go home from the hospital!
- ☒ - Please continue to pray for Erica Seymore as she recovers from her shoulder surgery.
- ☒ - Please consider parking on the grass!
- ☒ - Sandra Chason's mom, Mary Edwards, is in the hospital and will move to rehab floor on Monday.
- ☒ - Please continue to pray for Abbie Harrison as her back doctor has delayed her appointment.
- ☒ - Gospel meeting at Prattmont, Bill Hall teaching Sun-Tues, Jan 27-29

The Auburn Beacon



Bitterness, Meaningless, or Healing?

By Doy Moyer



Thoughts to Ponder

We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death. (1 John 3:14)

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

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Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor

"See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled; that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal." (Hebrews 12:15-16)

Others have said that bitterness is like drinking poison and wishing the other person would die. There is truth in that.

Experience has shown me that there is often a correlation between bitterness and godlessness. I have noticed many times that when one gives up on God and becomes dedicated to the world, he also becomes bitter toward believers and God. He may consider himself "enlightened," having learned that God is a sham and the church has held him down and enslaved to a hypocritical and evil religious system. Every encounter with

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those among whom he formerly walked is laced with his sarcastic rebuke and acerbic rhetoric. He now hates what he perceives what he once was, and he makes no apology in letting everyone else know about it. He now knows the true meaning of care and love, you see. Yet how tragic that he cannot understand that the root of bitterness has clouded his judgment. He cannot see that the very attitude he despises has become embed-

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

ded in his own personality. And he now has, for his authority, nothing greater than himself. And with this authority he proudly pronounces all who hold to that outdated, superstitious view of religion to be the bane of all society.

Bitterness, you see, perverts our view of all that is good and right, and forces our thinking into a futile, darkened world where the only thing left to grasp is meaninglessness.

Sadly, "A man who hardens his neck after much reproof will suddenly be broken beyond remedy." (**Proverbs 29:1**)

Others may not completely give up on God and His people, but may still harbor resentment and bitterness in their hearts. This, in turn, affects all of their relationships. They won't allow themselves to enjoy life, to be happy, to find the real joy of the Lord. There are days we may feel a connection to Job's words: "My spirit is broken, my days are extinguished" (**Job 17:1**). "When the heart is sad, the spirit is broken." (**Proverbs 15:13b**)

Life is broken and needs a renewal.

"Bring Christ your broken life, so marred by sin. He will create anew, make whole again."

I understand disappointed. I understand angry. I understand depressed. I understand sinful. I understand hateful. I have experienced these and more.

What I don't understand is allowing these to govern our future. Being disappointed or mistreated in the past is not an excuse to show ill will and hateful feelings toward others now. Being angry about your personal past is not an excuse to lash out in

anger at those who are in your present and future. "But you just don't understand. You wouldn't say this if ..." Stop. Yes, I do. More than I wish to say. In fact, many, if not most, understand this. Choices have to be made. Decisions need to reflect that we will seek out what is honorable and right. How we proceed from here, while influenced by our past, can demonstrate wisdom in overcoming our past.

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my affliction." (**Philippians 4:13-14**)

I couldn't have done it without God. I cannot continue to do it without God. No one can overcome permanently without God.

No, it's not a matter of just saying, "Get over it." Very little is so simple. I'm not a psychologist or counselor, but I know that the human psyche is quite complicated (and here I'm not even discussing true physical and mental issues that need professional attention). I am saying that getting "over it" is possible if we will allow the Lord into our hearts and minds.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your body And refreshment to your bones." (**Proverbs 3:5-8**)

"The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen." (**2 Timothy 4:18**)



Are You Upset and Concerned? Have Questions?

By Greg Gwin

Do you wonder why things are done the way they are done? Do you have questions about the work, worship or operation of the congregation?

Does it seem that there are things going on that you don't understand? Are there issues floating around that trouble you? Are there times when you don't really agree with the decisions that are being made?

If so, join the club! We all face the kind of questions and concerns that we've just described.

The big question is not: Will such issues arise? The question is: How will YOU deal with these things when they happen?

Let us offer some do's and don'ts for handling these potentially difficult situations.

DON'T...

- Don't get angry and upset before you have gathered all the facts.
- Don't gossip or backbite. This doesn't help, and it is a sin (Proverbs 6:19).

Don't immediately assume the worst about your brethren. Too often we hear harsh judgmental words about the elders, the preacher, or other member's before the facts have all been sorted out. True love demands better than this (2 Cor. 13:4-7).

- Don't complain if you don't intend to get busy correcting the problem. Typically, churches have way too many fault-finders, and not enough problem solvers.

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DO...

- Ask for information. Very often any disagreement or controversy can be quickly cleared up this way.
- If there is a problem, go directly to the source. Speak to the one(s) involved and work for a solution.
- Pray for wisdom in dealing with the problem, asking for God's help to do and say the right things (**Jas. 1:5**).
- Maintaining sound doctrine is the highest priority (**Gal 1:8,9**), but maintaining peace must also be an important goal for every member (**Eph. 4:1-3**).

