

Never Give Up

by Les McGalliard

Sometimes in this old world, we may begin to sense that we are being overwhelmed and that we are helpless in our attempt to call men back to God and to his eternal will. Let me encourage all of us to remember some basic truths that should motivate us:

- 1) God is still God! He has not left us; He has not changed! His blessings, expectations, promises and warnings remain firm.
- 2) It is not our job to force people to accept the truth, but, rather, it is our task to keep preaching the truth. The only way that truth is ineffective is if we allow the world to silence the voice of righteous-

ness, or we begin to timidly question it. God demands loving but fearless messengers.

3) Make up your mind that no matter what the world does, you will not compromise with evil.

Light dispels darkness. The only way darkness dominates is when we hide our lights. Remember!

The Bible still says, go out from their midst, and be separate says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you.” (2 Cor. 6:17).



Classes This Week

Monday 8:00 PM College study on Romans, Crawford's	Tuesday 10:00 AM Ladies' class at Anna Millers', "Heaven"	Tuesday 7:00 PM Men's study at TBD, Book of John	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	Frank Hand	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)	Mavis Hale

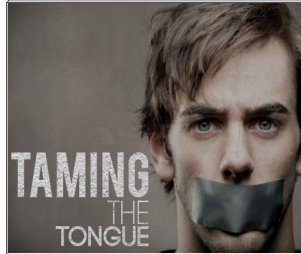
February Birthdays

- 2-Ken Sullivanne
- 2-Wesley Herd
- 3-Chris Long
- 5-Jude Hosey
- 5-Jimmy Owen
- 5-Chase Counsell
- 6-Jackson Fowler
- 8-Bruce Daniels
- 11-Blake Tolliver
- 13-Leslie Freeman
- 14-Leighton Daniels
- 15-Ella Miller
- 16-Seth Humphrey
- 17-Emmy Cantrell
- 17-Camden Crawford
- 18-Caralise Hunt
- 18-Wyatt Boyd
- 18-Sadie McIntyre
- 18-Elio Gomez
- 24-Jeff Jerkins
- 24-Thomas Peek
- 25-Carly Beth Stephens
- 27-Julie Johnson
- 28-Chandler Sullivan

News and Notes

- ☒ - We welcome Mark and Andrea Ogles as new members!
- ☒ - Cheri Russell's brother, Billy Hunt, was moved to Phoenix City Rehab after suffering a stroke and heart attack.
- ☒ - Sebastian Molina, son of Yovani and Emilsa, will have surgery for a cyst in his abdomen on Monday.
- ☒ - Laura Humphrey's dad, Frank Hand, was moved to Brookwood Hospital with pancreatitis and ulcers. He hopes to return to rehab soon.
- ☒ - Please pray for Paula, the granddaughter of Nester and Clara Bermudez, who is recovering from a head injury she suffered in a car accident in Dec.
- ☒ - Pray for our expectant mothers: Cheryl Carthel, Kristen Diehl, Megan Hester, Rachel Simpson and Nakia Strickland .
- ☒ - Nestor and Clara Bermudez have been invited to move to our area to work with the Hispanic community here!
- ☒ - Chris Long's grandmother, Mavis Hale, finished her inpatient rehab and is staying with her daughter in TN for outpatient therapy.
- ☒ - Please consider parking on the grass!
- ☒ - Sandra Chason's mom, Mary Edwards, is in the hospital and will move to rehab floor on Monday.

The Auburn Beacon



Thoughts to Ponder

“I said, I will guard my ways, lest I sin with my tongue; I will restrain my mouth with a muzzle” (Psalm 39:1)

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

Mouth Sins

By J. R. Bronger

“The LORD my God will enlighten my darkness.” (Psalms 18:28) Believe it or not the tongue is the most used muscle in the body. In a typical week the average person will speak enough words to fill a 500 page book. Often many of these words spoken would fall into the category of sin. “If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one’s religion is useless,” (James 1:26). The idea being expressed by James is that of controlling the tongue. “I said, I will guard my ways, lest I sin with my tongue; I will restrain my mouth with a muzzle,” (Psalm 39:1).

Christians must be very careful in how the tongue is used. If our language is out of control then we are hypocrites and our professed Christianity is useless. Sinning with the mouth (mouth sins) is not a trivial matter. Sins committed with the tongue are equal in destruction to sins committed through the lust of the flesh. Consider where Paul placed whisperers (gossipers) and backbiters (badmouthing) in **Romans 1:28-32**. He places these in the same class with homosexuality, adultery and even murder.

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Gossip (the revealing of personal or sensational facts or rumors) has been condemned by God for thousands of years. Under the Law of Moses we read: “You shall not go about as a tale-bearer among your people” (**Leviticus 19:16**). Also, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit” (**Proverbs 18:21**). The prophet Jeremiah pictures a gossip as a two-faced back shooter (**Jeremiah 9:8**). Paul writes of some women who “. . . learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not" (**1 Timothy 5:13**). Gossip is idle talk revealing intimate details of another's life. It wounds, it hurts, it destroys relationships and reputations, and gossip is sinful! It cannot be justified under the guise "well it's the truth." The very definition of gossip tells us that the tales we carry, even if true, is still gossip.

Gossips are often like stalkers. They lurk in the shadows watching, listening so they can find out some scandalous bits of information and then tell it to as many as will listen. "An evildoer gives heed to false lips; a liar listens eagerly to a spiteful tongue" (**Proverbs 17:4**). Friends have become enemies, family relationships broken and churches have split because of gossiping tongues. "A perverse man sows strife, and a whisperer separates the best of friends" (**Proverbs 16:28**).

The irony of all this is a Gossip will often appear to be a friend and flatter us in order to learn some piece of information to tell. "He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets; therefore do not associate with one who flatters with his lips" (**Proverbs 20:19**).

However, gossip is not the only mouth sin that proves our lives are out of control and our Christianity is a fraud. Lying is another such sin! God says that a lying tongue is like a deadly weapon. "A man who bears false witness against his neighbor is like a club, a sword, and a sharp arrow" (**Proverbs 25:18**). Furthermore, God hates a "lying tongue" (**Proverbs 6:17**).

Lying is sternly forbidden under the gospel of Christ. "Therefore, putting away lying, let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another" (**Ephesians 4:25**). And the New Testament is equally clear as to the final address of all liars. ". . . all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death" (**Revelation 21:8**).

Occasionally people behave as if they do not know what a lie is. A lie is asserting something known or believed to be untrue with the intent to deceive.

But a lie is also an untrue statement that one may or may not believe to be true. Let's see if we can clear this up. One might know he is telling a falsehood and that is a lie. But a lie also might be pass-

ing on some false information I might genuinely believe to be true. For example, I might have been told that "Ralph" is guilty of adultery. I might have confidence in the source who told me that Ralph was an adulterer. As a result I genuinely believe that Ralph committed adultery against his wife and I tell you: "I know for a fact Ralph committed adultery." However, in truth Ralph did not commit adultery—I lied! This is why it becomes imperative that we have our "facts" right before proceeding. ". . . by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established" (**Deuteronomy 19:15**). "By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established" (**2 Corinthians 13:1**). "Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses" (**1 Timothy 5:19**).

Also a lie would be giving misleading or incomplete information. Information that might in fact be true but not complete. For example I might have a car for sale and I don't tell you about a mechanical problem I know it has. I withhold from you vital information under the mask of "buyer beware." I lied! I led you to believe something that was false!

Another mouth sin is filthy language. "But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth" (**Colossians 3:8**). This kind of mouth sin can be subdivided into two groups, and both are equally sinful.

One is profanity. Profanity is a form of the word profane, which means "to treat something sacred with abuse, irreverence or contempt." It would be what we normally call taking the name of the Lord in vain. I will not be giving written illustrations of this but I think we understand how this might be done. Anytime we use the name of Jesus, or God or anything sacred in a way other than holy is profane.

Another would be corrupt language (**Ephesians 4:29**). Corrupt speech is speech that is disrespectful or dishonoring. Telling someone he/she is fat, ugly, stupid or any other humiliating term. But it would also include speech that is vulgar, rude or offensive. This is usually done by referencing bodily functions, or what might be called "bathroom humor."

Mouth sins are serious because they actually reveal a deeper problem—a heart problem. Vulgar words reveal a vulgar heart; "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (**Matthew 12:34**).



The "One True Church"

By L. A. Stauffer

An expression that is anathema among Protestants today is "the one true church." In the universal or general sense they agree that there is only one true church, and that its members are known only to God who adds them to his family. In this sense they accept the Biblical teaching that "there is one body" (**Eph 4:4**). And to this we agree. But few, if any, believe there is "one true church" that is identifiable on earth.

Even many of our brethren have abandoned the idea of "restoring" the first-century church on earth. They scoff at the idea of studying the scriptures, identifying the church's nature and character, and establishing it in every city throughout the world. They have given up on "restoring" the ancient order of things and are speaking of "updating" the church to meet twentieth century needs.

To them, talk about getting back to the first-century church and its practices is arrogant and they often arrogantly respond: "which one"—Corinth and its factional, immoral character; Ephesus and its departure from love and its first works; or Thessalonica and its controversial views of the second coming? Their rationale is that churches at the beginning had problems and practiced error and God accepted them. By this they rationalize error today and plead for the acceptance of all churches. And, of course, that's where the premise of their plea leads.

The ultimate conclusion and foundation of their view is that no man can study the Bible and determine truth—therefore all men are doomed to accept error. What they ignore is that the teaching of what was later written in scripture was considered the standard of righteousness and these churches were all condemned and urged to correct these errors. And what they further ignore is that God not only condemned churches who practiced error, but He also threatened to remove the lampstand of any church that refused to repent (**see Rev 2:5**).

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Jesus and the apostles again and again stressed the importance of truth: that the truth shall make man free; that one is sanctified by truth; that those who pervert truth will be accursed; that anyone who goes beyond truth is cut off from God; and that people who love not the truth and believe a lie will be condemned (**see John 8:31-32; John 17:17; Gal 1:6-9; 1 John 9; 2 Thess 2:11-12**). If Bible students cannot determine truth from error, then all are condemned to eternal damnation.

There is, for example, a way of worship that is in "spirit and truth" and there is a way of worship that is based on the doctrines of men and is vain (**see John 4:24 and Matt 15:1-9**). Since the word of God is truth and the scriptures are the basis of righteousness, one must as the Bereans search the scriptures daily to see what is true. Those that do will learn that brethren in the first century spoke to one another in hymns and spiritual songs, assembled on the first day of the week to observe the Lord's Supper, gave into a treasury as they were prospered, continued steadfastly in prayer, and taught and edified one another by the teaching of God's word (**see Eph 5:19; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 11:23-26; 1 Cor 16:1-2; Acts 2:42; 1 Cor 14**). Is there anyone who would affirm that any of these practices are not based on truth?

We learned these practices from the scripture and we can learn also from scripture what the "work" of the church is, how churches were "organized," "how believers became members," what "name" they exalted and honored, and what "purity" and "holiness" demanded of them.

What God taught and approved of in these matters is what we are devoted to and if we practice them we will be identified with the practices of the "one true church" that Jesus built through the work and preaching of the apostles. This we are committed to and invite all men to join us in these practices.

