

Your Wreckage Can Be Repaired!

“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life” (1 Timothy 1:15,16).

by Gary Henry

Under the influence of the gospel, Saul became a radically different man. The change was not superficial or temporary; it was deep and lasting. And later, writing now as Paul the apostle, he could offer himself as an example to prove just how sinful a person can be and still be saved by the gospel: “I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.” If the prosecutor’s charge is that a truly wicked person can never change, Paul is “Exhibit A” to the contrary. He is a courage-giving example to anyone who has ever worried that they might be a hopeless case or a lost cause.

Most people, if they’re honest, know what it’s like to struggle with deeply ingrained character flaws. As we struggle to remove these flaws, we become frustrated. In time, we may come to doubt that real change is even possible. Sometimes we start thinking that way because we’ve been influenced by

a determinism which says that at birth we are already “determined” — i.e., whatever we are, that’s what we’ll always be. At other times, we may be plagued with a victim mentality. We see ourselves as the victims of circumstances and influences that are more than we can handle.

My suspicion, however, is that most of the time our problem is just plain discouragement. The devil fights against us with a war of attrition; he keeps coming back, coming back, and coming back, trying to wear us down. After a while, our cause looks like it’s lost. But the great hope of the gospel is that, while life lasts, none of us is a lost cause. Our defeats need not be final. Our failures need not be fatal. Real change for the better is always possible.

Whoever you are, my friend, believe this: your wreckage can be repaired. If God can turn a fire-breathing, murderous Pharisee into the great apostle of grace, he can surely help you get pointed in the right direction. Your fate is not fixed, and you’re not just a victim. You are a living person capable of great growth.



Classes This Week				
Monday 7:00 PM Ladies' class at Sarah Dickinson's, "Heaven"	Monday 8:00 PM College study on Romans, Crawford's	Thursday 8:00 PM Truthseekers Room 2107 student center	Saturday 6-8 PM Grades 1-5: Pender's home 6-8 p.m.	Saturday 6:30-8 :30 PM Grades 6-12 at Bryce Daniels home 6:30-8:30

Lisa Carter (Daniel's mother)	Jesse and Martha Godwin (Troy's parents)	Billy Hunt (Cherry's brother)	Louise Pack (Anna and Christopher's grandmother)
Howard Vaughan (Mary Ann's grandfather)	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	Donna Jackson (Kristen's aunt)
Betty Bradford	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	Earl Mitchell (Debbi Coleman's dad)	Abbie Harrison
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	EB & Ara Belle Rich (Joanetta's aunt)	Bobby Jennings (Brooke's uncle)	Doug Bailey (Keith's brother)
Helen Andrews (Susan's sister)	William and Toni Herd	Taina Acuff (Anna's aunt)	Mavis Hale (Chris Long's grandmother)

March Birthdays

- 2-Maddie Norman
- 2-Chase Harrison
- 2-Bryan Golden
- 2-Joy Powell
- 3-Shaun Oliver
- 4-Morgan Cavender
- 5-Sophie Bordan
- 5-Cameron Stabler
- 6-Hunter Miller
- 7-Josh Pender
- 8-Carmen Herd
- 8-Jaci Marshall
- 9-Richard Zacarius
- 9-Austin Bartlett
- 10-Pepper Humphrey
- 10-Parker Godwin
- 10-Amelia Franzen
- 11-Ava Stabler
- 12-Brad Hartsell
- 17-Susan Sullivan
- 17-Emersyn Sullivan
- 17-Kadyn Bell
- 18-MaKenzie Anderson
- 19-Amanda Bishop
- 20-Jimmy Roberts
- 21-Carter Hunt
- 23-Belinda Hartsell
- 23-Sarah Embry
- 25-Sawyer Hall
- 26-Brooke Zeleny
- 27-Shelby Freeman
- 27-Cheri Russell
- 28-Jacob Hagewood
- 29-Rachel Simpson
- 29-Blair O'Dell
- 30-Amanda Stephens

News and Notes

- ☒ - Tonight is singing night!
- ☒ - Sandra Chason's mom, Mary Edwards, came home from the hospital and is making progress.
- ☒ - Toni Herd had seizures this week that they think are related to her medication.
- ☒ - Pray for our expectant mothers: Kristen Diehl and Nakia Strickland .
- ☒ - Pray for Ryan Hasty's mom, Barbara, who has been diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer.
- ☒ - Please see Patsy Ogle to contribute to the flower fund which has been depleted.
- ☒ - Brooke's aunt, Jane Barilone, was taken to the hospital this week for heart issues.
- ☒ - Ken Sullivan was taken to hospital this week and treated for gastritis and esophagitis. He is home now and wants your prayers.
- ☒ - Brandon Hester's grandfather, Jackie Richardson, was taken to Brookwood hospital on Monday. He is home now and improved!
- ☒ - Susan Sullivan's sister, Helen Andrews, is making progress in her healing from a recent fall.
- ☒ - Laura Humphrey's dad, Frank Hand, went to the hospital this week with blockages.
- ☒ - Cheri's brother, Billy Hunt, was in hospital this week, but has returned home to Cheri's sister's with a heart monitor. Also Cheri's sister-in-law, Dee, has returned home from surgery on her neck.
- ☒ - Patsy's great-niece, Emery Anne Vest, born early, is almost 8 pounds now and doing well!

The Auburn Beacon



You Choose



"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will NOT suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able, but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." 1 Corinthians 10:13

Thoughts to Ponder

God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

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

Choices

By Jeffery Kingry

A wise man once said, "A man's character is the sum of all the decisions he has made in his life." When we discuss character, and what makes people what they are, we overlook this simple fact. Have you ever wondered why some people are nothing while folks from the same background somehow turn out to be just the opposite. I believe the answer lies not in man's environment or his genetic makeup, but in each man himself.

When I was a child a next door neighbor had a Japanese "pinball" machine. A lever was cocked and released and a small steel ball the size of a pea was launched up in the air to come clattering down, bouncing and careening off hundreds of little pins that changed the direction of the ball-till finally it came to rest in one of several cups placed about the interior of the machine. The object of the game was to hit the "jackpot" cup: the hardest cup to reach, right in the middle of the board,

But the loss and sorrow he saw years later when his substance was destroyed, his wife dead, his sons and daughters gone, his youngest daughters corrupted and pregnant through incest, started when he made that first selfish decision to take the "best part" from Abraham.

guarded on all sides by the pins of destiny. The "way" into the cup was barely large enough for the steel ball to pass. It would be no accident if the ball went in. We used to sit for hours, fascinated with the infinite variety of ways the ball would find to bounce down. On the rare occasion that the ball would hit the "jackpot" cup, we would painstakingly try to recreate the way that we had done it.

In a way, this is how life is. Only it is not the law of probability that

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determines whether we reach the "jackpot," but the either-or choices we make day by day. The response we make to each decision we must make determines which way we are going to "bounce." Every soul receives the same initial shot into the arena of life. All are confronted with the same "pins of destiny": decisions that must be made. Life is lived a second at a time. Every man is confronted with choices-the responses of man to those choices makes him what he is. Lot chose him all the plains of Jordan" (**Gen. 13:11**). Lot's character was not fully formed when he stood with his uncle surveying the land seeking to make a choice where to pitch his tents. But the loss and sorrow he saw years later when his substance was destroyed, his wife dead, his sons and daughters gone, his youngest daughters corrupted and pregnant through incest, started when he made that first selfish decision to take the "best part" from Abraham. He chose the plain-he chose to pitch his tent towards Sodom-he chose to live in Sodom. Lot's character developed in the opposite direction of Abraham.

Joshua knew the power of the right choice in determining character, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve" (**Josh. 24:15**)! Our day by day choices make us what we are. So often we see a young person who walks the edge of what is right. She begins to wear her skirt shorter, her makeup thicker, her sweater tighter. The choices are made, the character is formed and before long she is lost to the Lord and her-family. Any who have eyes to see have witnessed it. The young man who is silently sullen, who uses "little deceits" to conceal his actions from those who might rebuke him. His parents and brethren might jokingly chide him about his long hair or the hickey on his

neck. They are hurt and wonder "why?" when he grows to be a man that has no use for morality or godly living.

Responsibility Is Respond-Ability

Jay Adams in his book *Competent To Counsel* noted, "What is responsibility? Responsibility is the ability to respond as God says man should respond to every life situation, in spite of difficulties." God declares that every man will be judged according to his deeds whether they be good or evil. This implies respond-ability in man. Man cannot approach God with his sins and seek to justify them by minimizing them, by imputing them to others, by blaming environment or circumstances. Man is responsible. He doesn't have to sin. Every man has the ability to make right choices according to God's word. "There hath no temptation taken you but such is common to man: But God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able: but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (**1 Cor. 10:13**).

Each time we make a decision to do evil we step away from God and bend our character in the direction of Satan. Very many steps in the wrong direction produces a character more like the Devil than God. In the church we see brethren that ignore such passages as **Matt. 5:23, 24 and Matt. 18:11-17** and let their brethren die in sin. The responsible Christian goes to his brother to change his behavior. Brethren who ignore sin in their own lives or the lives of others will reap the eternal consequences. What we are, and what we will be is determined by the choices we make now. Do we stand with God, or do we stand alone. What is your choice?

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Soul Nourishment

By Irvin Himmel

Few of us miss feeding our bodies three times daily. Sometimes we slip in snacks between meals, and we usually register no objection to an extra big feed now and then, such as a holiday dinner or supper at the house of a relative. In most households mother has no problem getting the attention of the rest of the family when she announces that the food is on the table.

The soul, like the body, needs food. But a lot of us have starved ourselves spiritually while overeating physically. Some expect the Sunday morning diet to provide them with adequate spiritual nourishment for a whole week. Others come back on Sunday evening for another spiritual feed, and some return on Wednesday evening for a mid-week feed. Of course, there are a few who take time each day to feed on the good word of God at home.

Alas! it is no wonder that some are weak and sickly. It is no marvel that they are beset with various spiritual ailments. Their malnutrition has made them susceptible to many diseases, and they have lost their appetite. They are too feeble and sickly to come in time for Sunday 'morning Bible classes, and in some cases the food distributed at the worship hour is too rich for their stomachs! If fed at all, they must be fed from a bottle!

Paul found some brethren like these in his day. He wrote, "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able" (**1 Cor. 3:1-2**). Again he wrote, "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk

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is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil" (**Heb. 5:12-14**).

Spiritual growth and development necessitate wholesome spiritual food. To be, spiritually healthy we must keep the soul supplied with sound doctrine. Classes, sermons, and study periods are, but spiritual meal

times. When the family of God come together for a spiritual feast, are you as anxious to join them as you are to get to the dining table at home? Which has priority with you-feeding the body or feeding the soul? Have you ever missed a meal for the physical man in order to feed the spiritual man? I have noticed that some folks get in a hurry to end the Sunday morning spiritual feast so they can run home and feed the body.

Jesus said, "Labor not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life . . ." (**John 6:26**). Again he said, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever . . ." (**John 6:51**). We are partaking of Christ as the bread of life when we read, study, and digest his words. ". . . The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life" (**John 6:63**). When Christ's words are received through study and digested by belief, meditation, and obedience, the soul is built up.

We urge you to give more consideration to the needs of the spiritual man within you. May God grant you, "according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man" (**Eph. 3:16**).

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