

# On Being Fair and Tolerant

by Larry Rae Hafley

One should always be objective, fair, and tolerant. That is understood and needs no further statement or argument. However, there are calls for fairness and tolerance which are ploys for time and pleas for sympathy. This is true in combat and controversy. "Don't be so hard; be more fair and tolerant" is the cry that false teachers wail and whimper in order to bide time and bleed pity: This is especially true in the contentions of the day. The pious, plaintive pleading emanates, not from the opponent of error, but from its exponents and proponents. The tendency of humble and compassionate men is to go the second mile, but one's mercies must not displace meekness with weakness and allow falsity to usurp the throne of truth.

Brethren who have had to bear the brunt of the battle against the new versions of Calvinism and the perversions of grace and fellowship have had to endure the rebukes of those who desire a mellow rather than a militant course. But the only language error understands is the offensive kind. You cannot tickle it; you must tackle it. Tackles raise bruises and throw people in the dirt,

while tickles cause folks to laugh and slap backs. A tackle is not as enjoyable as a tickle, but no football player ever tickled his opponent and stopped him from scoring. Tackling is the least desirable means, but it has one advantage that tickling does not have - it works.

Paul was well schooled in hand to hand in-fighting. He labeled Hymenaeus, Philetus, Alexander, Demas and tolerated them not, "no, not for an hour." Then he turned and urged Timothy to do likewise. That sounds like he was saying, "Fight my kind of fight," and he was! "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering" (2 Tim. 4:2). To certain ones, being fair and tolerant means ceasing to reprove, rebuke and exhort. That is not the definition by the faithful. So, we shall tackle hard and fair, but we will allow no one to run toward the wrong goal line.



**Classes This Week**

<b>Monday 7:00 PM</b> Ladies' class at Denise Davis' home, "Heaven"	<b>Monday 8:00 PM</b> College study on Romans, Crawford's	<b>Thursday 8:00 PM</b> Truthseekers Room 2107 student center
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Lisa Carter (Daniel's mother)	Jesse and Martha Godwin (Troy's parents)	Billy Hunt (Cherri'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)

**April Birthdays**

- 4-Julie Henriquez
- 5-Tate Pender
- 5-Oseas Chavez
- 6-Elsie Crawford
- 7-Bethany Haley
- 8-Laura Humphrey
- 8-Hannah Morris
- 9-Brooke Perkins
- 11-Kristen Diehl
- 12-Becky Daniels
- 13-Ashlyn Crawford
- 14-Jesse Roberts
- 16-Carla Luther
- 16-Carson Fowler
- 17-Amanda Wood
- 18-Spencer Sullivanne
- 18-Taylor Godwin
- 20-April Jerkins
- 20-Hannahlee Weaver
- 21-Timothy Jones
- 21-Connor Campbell
- 22-Katelyn Waddell
- 23-Anna Miller
- 23-Catherine Butler
- 24-Kathleen Parker
- 24-Bob Simpson
- 25-Jacob Chavez
- 29-Andrea Ogles
- 29-Ariah Strickland
- 30-Lili Butler

**News and Notes**

- ☒ - Group meetings are tonight!
- ☒ - Work day next Saturday at the building!
- ☒ - Our new quarter starts next Sunday!
- ☒ - Meeting at Perry Hill Road, Fri-Sun, April 5-7, with Jason Cheney.
- ☒ - Jared Johnson is recovering from successful back surgery.
- ☒ - Pray for our expectant mothers: Kristen Diehl and Nakia Strickland.
- ☒ - Ryan's mother's pet scan showed no spread of cancer. They are awaiting results of biopsy.
- ☒ - Please see Patsy Ogle to contribute to the flower fund which has been depleted.
- ☒ - Laura Humphrey's dad, Frank Hand, was able to go home from the hospital!
- ☒ - Caleb Daniels will have shoulder surgery on April 4th.
- ☒ - Abbie Harrison will have a stem cell procedure on her knee in ATL on Friday.
- ☒ - Maria Williams was admitted to the hospital this week with a blood clot in her right lung.
- ☒ - All audio is posted at [www.aubeacon.com](http://www.aubeacon.com)

# The Auburn Beacon



## Every Man in His Place

By Irvin Himmel



**Thoughts to Ponder**

And every man stood in his place all around the camp; and the whole army ran and cried out and fled. (Judges 7:21)

**Elders**  
Walker Davis  
(334) 703-0050  
Larry Rouse  
(334) 734-2133

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**  
**Sunday**  
Bible Class .....9:30 AM  
Worship .....10:20 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM  
**Wednesday**  
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM  
**E-Mail:**  
[larryrouse@aubeacon.com](mailto:larryrouse@aubeacon.com)  
**Larry Rouse**  
Evangelist and Editor

In the days of the Judges, God allowed the Israelites to be oppressed by the Midianites for seven years. This affliction brought God's people to their knees in repentance. A deliverer was chosen by the Lord to lead Israel against Midian. The chosen leader was named Gideon.

With 32,000 men, Gideon made preparations to wage war against the Midianites. God told him he had too many men. Large numbers mean nothing as God appraises things. Israel would have been lifted up with pride if the victory had been gained through the use of such a sizeable force. God told Gideon to let all who were fearful and afraid go home. That culled out 22,000!

The remaining force of 10,000 was still too large. God told Gideon to bring his men down to the water and put them to the test. All who bowed down upon their knees to drink were to be sent away. Gideon was told to retain the men who put their hand to the mouth, lapping the water from the hand with the tongue. The water test eliminated all of Gideon's ar-

If one man had dropped his pitcher and broken it before everybody was in position, the scheme would have failed because the enemy would have been alerted. Every man had to know his position, be in his place and ready to act according to the directions previously received, and stay in his place until Gideon was ready for his men to move.

my except 300.

Gideon took the 300 men who remained and divided them into three companies. Each man was told to take a trumpet and a pitcher with a torch inside it. In the middle of the night Gideon's men quietly came close to the Midianite encampment and completely surrounded it. The torches were concealed inside the earthenware pitchers. When Gideon gave the signal, suddenly every man was to blow his trumpet then break his pitcher and hold his torch high, crying out, "The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." The unex-

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pected noise and commotion coming from all sides of the Midianite camp awakened the enemy, and in whatever direction he looked, torches were burning and men were shouting. Panic followed! The Midianites began slaying each other. Through this strategy and with God's help, Israel was delivered from the oppressor.

How important it was that Gideon's 300 men follow instructions. They had to move quickly and silently for the plan to work. The Bible says, "And they stood every man in his place round about the camp . . ." (**Judges 7:21**). If one man had dropped his pitcher and broken it before everybody was in position, the scheme would have failed because the enemy would have been alerted. Every man had to know his position, be in his place and ready to act according to the directions previously received, and stay in his place until Gideon was ready for his men to move against the confused Midianites.

This thrilling chapter of Old Testament history offers a timely lesson. Today, we need to find our place and stand in it. There is a work for which all are suited, but not everyone is capable of doing the same job. Sometimes a person is a good worker, honest, conscientious, dependable, and eager to do his best, but he may never be well-suited for the particular task he is undertaking. Problems often arise in business relationships because someone is out of place. Our ambitions sometimes surpass our abilities. Happy is the person who knows both his powers and his limitations, and who wisely finds the kind of work for which he is best equipped.

A good preacher may not do his best work in every field. Some good preachers are misfits in certain localities. It is fortunate when a preacher finds the kind of place for which he is best suited.

In the church of the living God, everyone needs to recognize his proper place and stay

in that place.

Elders need to stay in their place. The overseers of a congregation are not dictators. Their place is not to make laws. Jesus Christ is the lawgiver. Elders are shepherds, but they are under Christ who is the Chief Shepherd. The oversight of an eldership is limited to the flock over which they are given the charge. Elders have no place meddling in the private business or personal affairs of the members of the congregation.

Deacons need to stay in their place. Deacons are qualified servants, not overseers of the church. In some congregations there is not a particle of difference between what the elders do and what the deacons do. While elders and deacons should work together closely, the differences in their qualifications and functions should not be ignored.

Preachers need to stay in their place. It is disgusting to me that some preachers seem to feel that they should oversee the flock. Although we cry out against the denominational "pastor system," it is just possible that some of us accept it in effect. Preachers are to preach and teach, not set themselves over the elders, nor act as if having pontifical authority. This is not to say that a man could not be both a preacher and an elder if qualified and if chosen to be an elder, but I am saying that being a preacher does not entitle a man to usurp the eldership.

Women need to stay in their place. The Bible puts limitations on women as to their work in the Lord. A woman is not to exercise dominion over the man (**1 Tim. 2:12**). Women are not authorized to be public proclaimers of the gospel. They cannot be elders in the church. Woman has a noble and glorious work in God's kingdom, but she must stand in her place.

May we all study to find our place and recognize the importance of staying in our place. We find true happiness ourselves and we contribute to the joy of others by standing in our place.

Truth Magazine - October 23, 1975



## Two Men Become Deacons

By Greg Chandler

Two men become deacons. The first man enjoys the honor of titles and has longed for the day when the congregation finally recognizes the contribution he has made to the group. He realizes that, at long last, he can now begin having more of an influence in decision making for the church. Though he knows the word deacon literally means "servant," he has little interest in the more mundane expectations of his new found duty. There are others who can repair the building, check in on the sick, take care of the widows, and such like. His goal is to show the congregation that, in all reality, he is on the fast track for the eldership as soon as his children are baptized.

The second man is humbled by the trust the congregation has placed in him, though his work will change very little. For years, he has quietly sought out the needs of others, been a faithful participant in every scheduled "work day" at the church building, and taken his place in the teaching program of the church. Though a "pat on the back" might be encouraging to him, his goal has never been nor ever will be to receive the praise of men. While he hopes to one day serve as an elder, he realizes the importance of the work he is currently doing. The words of Paul to Timothy bolster this attitude each time he reads them: "For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 3:13). With great humility he brings up his family, seriously contemplating his fatherly task of bringing up his children in the "training and admonition of the Lord." His gentle spirit of service is evidenced by not only his physical family, but his spiritual family as well.

We certainly hope that no man displays the spirit as seen in our first deacon, yet it is necessary to realize the temptations that can overtake a man if

A man who seriously contemplates the work of deacon does not fall to the temptation of seeking to rival the elders within a church. He realizes his work is that of servant to his brethren, also encompassing service that he can provide for the eldership.

he allows the devil a foothold. For this reason, the Apostle Paul clearly identified the attributes that a man must possess to serve in this godly work. In general, a man who desires to serve as a deacon first has himself under control and has given his life to the Lord. Because of this, he can easily see the needs of others and provide for them accordingly. His family also illustrates the spirit of godliness. His children respect his position as

head of the house and his godly wife realizes the sensitive nature of some aspects of his work; she faithfully helps him carry out his duties and never discusses with others what must remain private.

A man who seriously contemplates the work of deacon does not fall to the temptation of seeking to rival the elders within a church. He realizes his work is that of servant to his brethren, also encompassing service that he can provide for the eldership. He does not grow resentful when suggestions are made by the eldership to relieve some of their burden so that appropriate time can be spent in their godly work of overseeing the congregation. In every way, he shows himself a "team player" because he realizes the entire congregation, including both elders and deacons, are working for the same goal of pleasing the Lord.

A congregation is truly blessed when their deacons show the spirit of our second man. Work will be done quietly and often go unnoticed because of the humble spirit of these servants. May God bless any man who is recognized by his congregation to serve in this work and who willingly takes on this godly task. In so doing, he will not only gain a good standing in the sight of his fellow Christians, but also in the sight of his Lord Jesus Christ.

