

Friendship with the Lord is Conditional

In **John 15:14**, the Lord Jesus says, "You are my friends, if you do whatever I command you." Amazingly enough, one word within this phrase causes much difficulty. It is the word "IF." Though only two letters long, it is one of the most powerful words in scripture. Why? Because it implies a condition that must be met for the statement to be true. In order to maintain a friendship with the Lord, one must do whatever He commands. Jesus states this in plain language in **John 15:14**.

Many people try to claim an intimate friendship with God while at the same time maintaining an intimate friendship with the world. While proclaiming to be Christians, they partake of the very things the Lord commands Christians to abstain from. This is not being a friend to Christ.

Regarding friendship with the world, James writes in **James 4:4**, "Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with

by Jonathan Perz

God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God." When we befriend the world, we make an enemy of God.

Many claim to be friends of Jesus Christ yet do not obey His words. In **Mark 16:15-16**, Jesus commands men to be baptized, yet many claim it is not necessary. Not only do they disobey the Lord, they contradict Him. Is this an example of friendship with the Lord? Remember what the Lord said in **John 15:14**, "You are my friends, if you do whatever I command you."

Let us become friends with God on His terms. Let us be like faithful Abraham. As it is written, "and Abraham believed God... He was called a friend of God" (**James 2:23**). Don't incur the punishment of one who is not a friend of the Lord (**2 Thess. 1:8-9**). Obey the Gospel today!



Classes This Week

Monday 7:00 PM ladies' class at Joannetta Lauderdale's home, "Heaven"	Monday 8:00 PM College study on Romans, Crawford's	Thursday 8:00 PM Truthseekers Room 2107 student center
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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 (mom 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 (Joannetta'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

News and Notes

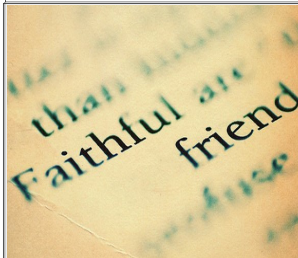
- ☒ - Ashley Miller's grandfather, Max Carter, has still not awakened from his surgery last week, but remains stable.
- ☒ - Abbie Harrison will have a new procedure performed on her knee in Atlanta on Monday, April 29th.
- ☒ - Cheri Russell's brother, Bennie Hunt, is in the hospital with issues related to congestive heart failure.
- ☒ - Carmen Herd's aunt, (Toni's sister), Gloria Detmer, is in the hospital after suffering a seizure and fall.
- ☒ - Pray for our expectant mothers: Kristen Diehl and Nakia Strickland .
- ☒ - Please see Patsy Ogle to contribute to the flower fund which has been depleted.
- ☒ - Please continue to pray for Maria Williams who is still suffering with pain but was able to go home from the hospital.
- ☒ - All audio is posted to www.auchurch.com

The Auburn Beacon



Few There Are That Will Endure A True Friend

By Jimmy Tuten



Thoughts to Ponder

Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful. (**Proverbs 27:6**)

Someone has said that there are three friendships which are advantageous and three that are injurious: friendship with the upright, friendship with the man of much observation and friendship with the man who is courteous. These are advantageous. However, friendship with the man of specious airs, or one who is insinuatingly soft, and friendship with the glib-tongued, these are injurious.

No hurt is greater than that hurt derived from deception and abuse of one thought to be a friend. A friend is someone to have in time of need and when adversity tries them. A bold foe may prove a curse, but a pretended friend is worse by far. There is an English proverb that says: "God save me from my friends; I can take care of my enemies." The irony of this is that there is some merit to it as far as some friends are concerned. Friendship must not be taken too lightly. Also we should be cautious in choosing friends, and even more cautious in changing them. Of course, the best recipe for making friends is to be one yourself.

"I often find myself," said Thackeray Ritchie, "going back to Darwin's

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saying about the duration of a man's friendship being one of the best measures of his worth." The reckless handling of friendship is a true mark of a foolish man who will never know what true friendship is. No friendship should begin that has no intent of being lasting in nature. No one is more dangerous than a friend who isn't quite sure whether he's for you or against you.

I am thankful for my friends. They have been a source of great strength in time of need and I am glad that I made them friends before I needed them. Experience

(Continued on page 2)

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
E-Mail:
larryrouse@aubeacon.com
Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor

(Continued from page 1)

teaches us that a real friend warms you by his presence, trusts you with his secrets and remembers you in his prayers. He is one who is there to care!

Why Some Friendships Fail

Friendship has a price tag on it and some are not willing to pay the fee. To be a true friend one must be willing to do so under trying circumstances as well as in the good times. "A friend loveth at all times," said Solomon (**Prov. 17:17**). A friend is closer than a brother, as affectionate and trusty as one connected by the closest ties of relationship (**Prov. 18:24**). The Greeks had a saying that went like this: "the crisis tests a friend as fire the gold." What are some of the costs of friendship that some are not willing to pay?

(1) The Cost of Time. True friendship is a life-long experience. It is never temporary. This is why faith in friendship is so rare. Truly we have made the word "friend" common and robbed it of its depth of beauty. We need more friends who will joyfully sing with you when you are on the mountain top and silently walk beside you through the valley. But this takes time and some friendships cannot tolerate the wear and tear that constant use sometimes give it. One must be more deliberate in friendship knowing that it is not the promises of friendship that are lasting but the performance of it.

(2) The Cost of Need. It is cruel and harsh to be a pretended friend until the time of need. But need is a sure proof of friendship or often the proof of the shallowness thereof. Siracides said: "A friend cannot be known in prosperity; and an enemy cannot be hidden in adversity. In the prosperity of a man enemies will be grieved; but in his adversity even a friend will depart." How demonstratable is this when one considers the lamentable cry of Job in his great misery: "All my inward friends abhorred me: and they whom I loved are turned against me" (**Job 19:19**).

(3) The Cost of Abuse. Friendships are

abused. For example, a good friend is one who can tell you all his problems, but doesn't.

The problem is often the result of a failure to observe that all men have their frailties and all have feet of clay. If one looks for friends without imperfections, then he will have no friends. It is sad to see insult added to injury in the area of human imperfection. One's failure to understand a particular problem is not necessarily an expression of a lack of appreciation. A friend is one who will allow the leverage of one's imperfections to express itself, and love him at the same time. I think Thomas Jefferson said it well when he said, "I never considered a difference of opinion in politics, in religion or philosophy, as a cause for withdrawing from a friend." One does not have to agree on all points to be a friend. Never injure a friend, not even in jest. Folks who are friends are usually people who have the same virtues, the same enemies, or the same faults.

(4) The Cost of No Profit Or Gain. Some will be friends if there is personal gain involved. "You pat my back and I'll pat yours" seems to be the motive involved all too often. But a friend that must be bought is not worth what we pay for him. If we can buy such a person, someone else can too. Friendship is to be valued for what there is in it, not what can be gotten out of it. To seek friendship for personal gain is as futile as seeking the end of a rainbow for the bag of gold. Too many are looking upon friends as a mutual benefit association with periodical demands and threats of suspension for non-payment. This should not be. Let us think not of what friends can do for us, but what we can do for them.

Conclusion

How sad to see friendship thrown away in a world where friendship is so rare. In times like these we need the comfort of friends. Whatever the gain, it is never so much that we can afford to lose a friend. Wise is the man who fortifies his life with friendships. To have the joy of friendship one must share friendliness. Happiness was born a twin.

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The Tragedy Of Prejudice

By Robert Wayne LaCoste

Prejudice is tragic! It is one of the most dangerous and insidious states of mind among men today. It is a sin against the God of Heaven, a destroyer of its victims and a hindrance to the cause of truth, wherever it is found. Every person has some prejudice to some extent, regarding some things. He may have a preference for some items such as food, clothing, colors, books, etc. These prejudices may not endanger his soul eternally speaking or hurt his influence with others, but it could deprive him of something he might otherwise enjoy in this life.

Prejudice does not always mean that an individual is wrong in his views, but it always does mean that he does not hold the views out of conviction from real evidence, otherwise it would not be prejudice.

It is perhaps good at this time to inquire just what prejudice means. Our English word is from two Latin terms: prae meaning before, and iudicium meaning judgment. Webster accordingly defines it as "prejudgment, an opinion of mind without due examination." So we can see that prejudice is a conclusion before and without examination of the real facts!

The attitude and action of the scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees and elders among the Jews toward Jesus is a perfect example of prejudice and its consequences. How they could witness His miracles and not believe in Him is amazing indeed! The apostle Peter said on Pentecost, "Jesus approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by Him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know" (**Acts 2:22**). But these Jews were not convinced at the time Jesus was here of these truths. His perfect life did not prove anything to them. Why? In fact Jesus asked the Jews, "Which of you convinceth me of sin?" (**Jn. 8:46**). The fact that they could not find anything wrong with Jesus did not erase their prejudice and the hardness of their hearts!

Their attitude is like one expressed and heard many times, "Don't confuse me with the facts, my mind is made up." This is exactly the position of the prejudiced person.

His teaching was far superior to any other teacher they had ever heard, "For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes" (**Matt. 7:29**). Yet His superior ability to teach proved nothing to them either.

The Scriptures which they claimed to revere and esteem told of Christ. "Search the scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are that which testify of me" (**Jn. 5:39**). They were not convinced from their own law and that was

a revelation from God! Why? Simple, they were prejudiced!

People in this present generation have seared their consciences, hardened their hearts, and turned away with many a deaf ear. Their attitude is like one expressed and heard many times, "Don't confuse me with the facts, my mind is made up." This is exactly the position of the prejudiced person. Such an attitude can only lead to eternal separation from God (**2 Thess. 1:7-9**!)

It is just as wrong for me to be prejudiced toward you, as it is for you to be prejudiced toward me. Many in the Lord's church are certainly prejudiced about many things. Prejudiced about denominations; prejudiced about names, practices, etc. The love of Christ cannot abide where and when a heart is governed by prejudice. Let each of us search our hearts and make sure we have the facts and all the facts before we draw any conclusions and make any decisions! Most of all, let's make sure our decisions are governed by Divine Writ, not by human, uninspired dogma and tradition. The former, not the latter, will "judge us in the last day" (**Jn. 12:48; 2 Cor. 5:10**).

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