

Necessary Things

by Jack Freeman

"For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things . . ." **Acts 15:28.**

"But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. But that which ye have already hold fast till I come." **Rev. 2:24-25.**

"And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." **Matt. 16:19.**

"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds." **2 Jno. 9-11.**

From these passages we can observe a number of important facts. (1) The Apostles were given the power to

bind and loose. What they bound is still bound today: what they loosed is

still "loosed" today. (2) No man has the authority to bind that which was not bound by the Apostles. (3) Jesus will be pleased with us if we hold fast to that which was bound by the Apostles. (4) All "necessary" things were revealed by the Holy Spirit TO the apostles, and delivered BY the Apostles TO the Church. (5) Thus, it has not been left to men to determine which things are necessary and which things are non-essential. (6) The only burden which the Lord requires us to bear is that bound upon us by the Gospel of Christ. (7) Those things pertaining to religion which are not authorized within the doctrine of Christ are not only non-essential but sinful as well. (8) To transgress and fail to abide in the doctrine of Christ is to be without the Father and the Son. (9) To receive those who teach contrary to the doctrine of Christ is to partake with them in their evil deeds. (10) All the schemes, teachings, and institutions of men which are without the Authority of Christ are both non-essential and sinful.... **Gospel Guardian - April 28, 1960**



Classes This Week

Sunday Evening College devo at Craig Davis, Connor Godwin teaching!	Monday 12 Noon Tyler Crawford will have Bible study on campus.	Tuesday 7:00 PM Men's study at Ron Russell's, book of John	Thursday 8:00 PM Truthseekers in student center room #27
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Quita Wilson (Amy Godwin's mom)	Jesse and Martha Godwin (Troy's parents)	Barbara Hasty (Ryan's mom)	Louise Pack (Anna and Christopher's grandmother)
Howard Vaughan (Mary Ann's grandfather)	Mary Edwards (Sandra Chason's mom)	Vicki Stevens	Ruth Addison (grom of April and Julie)
Danylu Burnett (Joanetta's mom)	Maria Williams	Cletus McGee (Kristen Diehl's dad)	Howard Jones (Timothy's Father)
Betty Bradford	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	Earl & Ann Mitchell (Debbi Coleman's dad)	Abbie Harrison
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	EB & Ara Belle Rich (Joanetta's uncle and aunt)	Bobby Jennings (Brooke's uncle)	Doug Bailey (Keith's brother)
Caroline Campbell (Matt's sister)	William and Toni Herd	Taina Acuff (Anna's aunt)	Mavis Hale (Chris Long's grandmother)

November Birthdays

- 1-Paulina Zacarius
- 1-James League
- 2-Debbi Coleman
- 6-Troy Godwin
- 6-Bridgette Borden
- 7-Amy Godwin
- 8-Ashley Miller
- 8-Wimberly Haston
- 9-Darla Hahn
- 11-Andrew Hahn
- 11-Miles Davis
- 13-Toni Herd
- 13-Emerson Daniels
- 13-Jay Belmont
- 13-Ronaldo Henriquez
- 13-Jax Crawford
- 13-Mitchell Ambrose
- 15-Olivia Tease
- 16-Nicole Pender
- 23-Mary Ann Roberts
- 25-Olyvia Winslett
- 25-Silas Weldon
- 29-Tammy Tolliver
- 29-Allison Bethea
- 30-David Simpson
- 30-Daniel Molina

News and Notes

- ☑ - Singing Night is Tonight!
- ☑ - We are happy to welcome Maura Powell as a new member with her 2 children, Neri and Malachi!
- ☑ - Ryan Hasty's mom, Barbara, got a good report from her PET scan and will not receive further chemo!
- ☑ - Please continue to pray for Abbie Harrison in finding relief from her back pain.
- ☑ - Bob Simpson will see a thoracic surgeon on Tuesday about preventing further fluid in his lungs.
- ☑ - Matt Campbell's sister, Caroline, had a successful bone marrow transplant!
- ☑ - Please pray for our expectant mothers: Chandler Sullivan and Hannah Morris!
- ☑ - All audio is posted to www.auchurch.com

The Auburn Beacon



Volume 11, Issue 6

November 17, 2019

Should I Worry About This?

By Larry Rouse



Thoughts to Ponder

Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. **(Matthew 6:34)**

Over the years I have carefully noted the circumstances surrounding Christians that fell away from the Lord. Some of these I knew very well, with some even being family members. Most of them started believing and professing things they had ardently opposed in the past. As time passed, some became more aggressive and even denied the plain gospel way of salvation calling it "traditionalism." These departures caused me great grief and I became determined to help others avoid this terrible "slippery slope." I often have asked the question: "Why did these departures occur?"

Even though these departures were later characterized by radical doctrinal compromise, I do not know of one individual whose departure came solely from a doctrinal influence. If these individuals had studied and became convinced that these doctrines were true to the scriptures, some of these people would have talked to me with an open Bible. One thing that I found characteristic, but puzzling, about my friends was that they would no longer even talk to me about their change, even though we had good relationships in the past. Again I asked: "What causes a person to act this way?"

The answer that I discovered is the answer the scriptures supply when it

This was the one characteristic I found in the departure of my friends. Some had become embittered by others and refused to let that burden be the Lord's. Others had burned themselves out through the pursuit of things that cannot last.

describes the "works of the flesh," which in essence is the arsenal of Satan. All of these people, I strongly believe, lost control of their hearts to issues such as uncontrolled anger, covetousness, unbridled lusts and other temptations. One of the tools Satan used to destroy their faith and allow the flesh to dominate them was the stressful burden of worry.

In the parable of the sower, Jesus describes the unrelenting war that Satan has waged against a living faith, a faith that must be fed by the word of God. The plant that began by the sowing of the powerful seed of God's word, was made unfruitful by the later choking off of the sustaining word of God. Jesus

(Continued on page 2)

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Sunday
Bible Class 9:30 AM
Worship 10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

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(Continued from page 1)

said: “Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.” **(Luke 8:14)**

Jesus taught about taking on unnecessary burdens when He plainly warned: “Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.” **(Matthew 6:34)** The Greek word that is translated “worry” in this passage has this root meaning: “to care for, be concerned about,” but also can be used in a bad sense where it denotes to “be anxious, be overly concerned about, be worried about.” (Louw-Nida Lexicon) Paul plainly showed that a living faith can overcome worry when he wrote: “Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” **(Philippians 4:6)**

How can we know the difference between the legitimate cares that God wishes us to handle and the burdensome cares that we take on ourselves through a lack of faith? The answer is very simple and very comforting. We need to open our hearts completely to Jesus and let Him sift every thought, priority and goal that is in our hearts and then let Him discard most of them, leaving us with the burdens that we can handle. Do you really trust the Lord? If you do, you can certainly live a worry-free life when you trust God like this. “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” **(Matthew 11:28-30)**

Consider some of the needless burdens we bear:

We cannot control, or even know all of the consequences of every possible choice that we face each day. Those men who think they can actually control “what may happen” are either blinded by pride or are simply foolish. The heart of faith simply asks “What does the Lord want me to do?” The burden of possible consequences is left to the God who sees and knows the very number of hairs on my head. “Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will. ³⁰But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹Do not fear

therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.” **(Matthew 10:29-31)**

We cannot control what people think or how they might act. Some have become slaves of men with heavy burdens to bear because they fear “what others might think.” What burden does God give us? He simply wants us to live for Him and let His power and His word speak to others through us. The apostle Paul knew that he had no power over the will of others but there was one thing he could do. “Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.” **(1 Corinthians 3:5-6)**

What list of unnecessary burdens could you list? Here is a short one to consider:

1. I must not worry about who will be the leader of our country. **(Rev 2:26-27)**
2. I must not worry about how I will pay the bills. **(Heb 13:5-6)**
3. I must not worry about my health. **(Lk 21:16-18)**
4. I must not worry about the well being of my family. **(1 Cor 7:32-35)**

What happens when a person fails to develop a faith that learns to take the light yoke of Jesus? In time, that faith will break down and that person will seek relief. This was the one characteristic I found in the departure of my friends. Some had become embittered by others and refused to let that burden be the Lord’s. Others had burned themselves out through the pursuit of things that cannot last.

My friends ran to Satan with his false promises and his quick condemnation of the way of God as being “too hard.” The sad truth is that the departure from God’s way leads to a path of real hardship and trouble. Satan wants you to close your eyes and pretend that all is well. Many churches today will encourage you to cast off the commandments of God as “burdensome.”

Which burden will you choose God’s or Satan’s? Please see clearly the path of a living faith and stand there! “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. ⁴For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.” **(1 John 5:3-4)**



The Christian’s Relationship to the World

By Doy Moyer

What is the Christian’s relationship to the world? It’s always helpful to review what Scripture teaches us about our involvement in the world, and we want to keep these thoughts before us because the dangers are real. John wrote, “Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever” **(1 John 2:15-17)**.

Jesus told His disciples: “If the world hates you, you know that it has hated me before you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.” **(John 15:18-19)**

In praying for his chosen disciples, Jesus spoke of their relationship to the world: “I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world” **(John 17:14-18)**.

We often talk about being “in the world but not of the world...” But what does that mean? “Of the world” would indicate a mindset that thinks and acts like the world without much effort to change others or to point them toward Christ. “Of the world” means a mind set on the flesh, with the focus being on what pleases us instead of what pleases God. Contrast that with Paul’s admonitions:

“For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God” **(Rom 8:6-8)**.

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” **(Rom 12:2)**.

We can try to understand our relationship to the world through God’s lenses. This is what God would have us do. Our filter for understanding the world is Scripture instead of trying to understand Scripture through the lenses of the world.

What are our options when it comes to living in this world?

1. We can fully accept it and live in it (like an atheist). In this case we have completely given up on trying to live as Christ would have us to live. We have given ourselves over completely to the world, which is a mind that is hostile to God **(cf. James 4:4)**.
2. We can fully reject it and live “out of it” (in total isolation). In this case we have given up trying to convert others and have a positive influence on those around us.

Christ sent His disciples into the world to make a difference and let their lights shine **(Matt 5:14-16)**.

3. We can try to accommodate Christianity to the world. In this case we hold onto an unbiblical form of “Christianity” without trying to buck against the world very much. We call ourselves Christians, but we won’t really try to reach out with the gospel. After all, we don’t want to offend the people of the world with something like a crucified savior **(see 1 Cor 1:18ff)**.

4. We can try to accommodate the world to Christianity. In this case we are bringing in more of the world to affect more of God’s people **(cf. 1 Cor 5:6-7)**. We make Christianity look more like a worldly endeavor rather than a spiritual relationship with God.

5. We can try to understand our relationship to the world through God’s lenses. This is what God would have us do. Our filter for understanding the world is Scripture instead of trying to understand Scripture through the lenses of the world. We see the world as lost and in need of Jesus, whereas the world sees “religion” as lost and in need of more worldliness. Yet the only hope we have of understanding our relationship with God is by understanding our lost condition without Him. Then we can begin to have a proper perspective of the world.

“Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth” **(Col 3:1-2)**.

