

A Builder or a Wrecker?

Author Unknown And I thought to myself, as I

As I watched them tear a building down
 A gang of men in a busy town
 With a ho-heave-ho, and a lusty yell
 They swung a beam and the side wall fell
 I asked the foreman, "Are these men skilled,
 And the men you'd hire if you wanted to build?"
 He gave a laugh and said, "No, indeed,
 Just common labor is all I need."
 "I can easily wreck in a day or two,
 What builders have taken years to do."

went my way
 Which of these roles have I tried to play?
 Am I a builder who works with care,
 Measuring life by rule and square?
 Am I shaping my work to a well-made plan
 Patiently doing the best I can?
 Or am I a wrecker who walks to town
 Content with the labor of tearing down?
 "O Lord let my life and my labors be
 That which will build for eternity!"

Classes This Week

Sunday 5:15 PM Kid's Class at the Building	Sunday Evening College Devo and Singing at Craig and Paula Davis's. R. J. Martin teaching!	Thursday 7 PM Ladies Class at the Rouse's on "Giving God Control"	Tuesday 8 PM Truth-seekers in Student Center Rm 2310	Saturday 6-8 PM 1st-5th graders will meet at location TBD	Saturday 6:30-8:30 PM 6th-12th graders will meet at location TBD
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Brad Marshall (Allie Hosey's Cousin)	Jesse Godwin (Troy's father and Mac's grandfather)	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	Louise Pack (Anna and Christopher's grandmother)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)	David Hartsell (Holly and Brad's Father)	Kate Miller (Daughter of Brandon and Erin Miller)
Betty Mcareavey (Mary Ann Roberts' mom)	Audrey Barnett (Joanetta's sister-in-law)	Betty Bradford	Hazel Gilliland and Sherry Carroll (Toni's relatives)
Tom Davis (Walker Davis' Uncle)	Joy Powell (Tori Luther's grandmother)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	William Smith (Ken Sullivan's brother)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	William Herd	Rebecca Davis (Chuck Hahn's Niece)	Ray Humphrey (Seth's dad)
John M. Rhodes and Bonnie Rhodes Kirkley (Toni Herd's family)	Joe Perkins (Scott Perkin's Dad)	Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephew)	Ellie Vaughn (Scott and Genna's baby)

September Birthdays

- 2-Denise Davis
- 3-Trenton Anderson
- 3-Larry Lauderdale
- 4-Kevin Anderson
- 7-Abigale Gilbert
- 10-BJ Winslett
- 10-Eleanor Weldon
- 10-Matthew Sullivanne
- 11-Sheryl Fowler
- 11-Kimberlee Myers
- 12-Jared Johnson
- 13-Adam Saylor
- 13-Rachel LaGrone
- 14-Patsy Ogle
- 16-Brittany Bagents
- 17-Laura Weldon
- 21-Sarah Chandler
- 24-Wade Winslett
- 24-Lauren Johnson
- 25-Ashley Collier
- 26-Ali Ingram
- 28-Katie Pepper
- 29-Preston Loggins

News and Notes

- ☒ - Lets keep in our prayers our expectant mothers, Jessica Anderson and Nicole Pender!
- ☒ - We extend sympathy to April Jerkins and Julie Johnson in the loss of their granddad, Quinton Addison on Friday. The funeral is this afternoon.
- ☒ - Please continue to pray for Joe Perkins, Scott's dad.
- ☒ - Ray Humphrey, Seth's dad, had difficult shoulder surgery on wed and is beginning rehab.
- ☒ - Bathrooms behind college classroom now available for use
- ☒ - Those interested in hosting or teaching a kids' monthly class for 1st-5th or 6th-12th grade can sign up in foyer!
- ☒ - Those interested in participating in a public Bible reading can sign up in foyer!
- ☒ - Sarah Embry and Holly McDaniel have identified with the University church!

The Auburn Beacon



Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

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"By What Authority?"

By Lowell Blasingame



Thoughts to Ponder

Jesus answered them and said, "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. "If anyone wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority. (John 7:16-17)

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

Authority is defined as legal or rightful power; a right to command or to act; dominion; jurisdiction. When one acts with authority, he does so under jurisdiction or at the authorization of one who has legal or rightful power. When he acts without authority, he lacks these to authorize his acts.

While Jesus was in the temple the chief priests and elders came to him wanting to know by what authority he did his things and who had given this authority. Apparently, they thought they could silence him or destroy his influence by showing that he lacked jurisdiction or legal and rightful power. He responded to their questions with a question and promised an answer when he received one from them. In considering his question they saw that either answer that they might give involved them in an embarrassing situation, so they replied that they could not answer. Jesus then told them that he would not, not that he could not, answer their questions that related to his authority (Matt. 21:23-27.)

It, also, needs to be learned by our brethren, who seem to have forgotten that we have no legal or rightful power to engage in any practice, regardless of how good the work may appear to be or how great the results accomplished, if there is no divine jurisdiction for the same. To so do is to act without authority and to act without authority is to invite disaster and ruin.

The need for authority has long been recognized. Along with its need, there must be the means for establishing it and there must be respect for it. This is true in the home, the school, the state and the church. Failure to respect authority in any of these will result in lawlessness, disaster and ruin.

Many have failed to recognize man's need for divine authority in religion. Reliance upon self or upon others may be the cause for this. The danger of relying upon self is seen in man's inability to direct his steps (Jer. 10:23), and in his supposing a way is right when it leads

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to death (**Prov. 14:12**). The danger of relying upon others is shown in the Lord's statement that the doctrines of men render our worship vain (**Mt. 15:9**). This failure of man to recognize his need for divine authority illustrates that he has failed to learn one of the basic Bible lessons governing acceptability with God. Man may go beyond divine jurisdiction but he cannot do so and retain the fellowship of God (**2 John 9**)

This lesson is taught in many of the examples of the Old Testament. Abel acted by divine authority when he walked by faith (**Heb. 11:7; Rom. 10:17**), in offering a sacrifice from his flocks. Cain's substitute was without divine jurisdiction and was rejected. Nadab and Abihu acted without divine authority when they offered strange fire, one which God "commanded them not," and were slain for so doing (**Lev. 10:1-2**). The priests said to Uzzah, "It appertaineth not unto, Uzzah, to burn incense unto the Lord..." (**2 Chron. 26: 16-20**). Uzzah may have thought that since this was a good work that he did not need divine authority but when he acted without it, he was smitten with leprosy.

The New Testament equally as well sustains the lesson that man must have and respect divine authority in his religious acts. Jesus taught the lesson in the parable of the wise and foolish builders (**Mt. 7:24-27**). The wise man heard and did, thus acted according to divine jurisdiction, whereas the foolish man heard and did not as instructed by divine authority. His house fell. The lesson is simple. When we act by divine authority, we build upon a solid foundation. When we act without it, we invite disaster and ruin.

Another thing illustrating man's need for divine authority is the New Testament appeal for unity among followers of Christ. Jesus prayed for it (**John 17:20-21**), and Paul plead for it (**1 Cor. 1:10**). But unity cannot be attained without a rule and this cannot be had

without an authority to establish it. Merchants in our country practice unity in weights and measures. This is accomplished by their abiding by the same rule and there had to be an authority to establish what the rule should be. If each merchant relied upon his feelings to determine the measure of a yard or the weight of a pound, unity of practice would not exist among them. To attain unity in religion there also must be a rule and a recognized authority that establishes it. When we accept this and walk by the same rule (**Phil. 3:16**), unity will exist. Reject the authority for establishing the rule and religious chaos and ruin will follow.

The final things that we employ to show that man must respect divine authority are the passages in the New Testament that forbid his going beyond, adding or subtracting, or substituting for what God has authorized. Such passages as **1 Cor. 4:6 RV; 2 John 1: 9; Rev. 22:18-19** and **John 12:48** show that if we fail to respect the authority of the Lord's word that we forfeit the fellowship of God and our right to the blessings of the heavenly home. Man must speak as the oracles of God (**1 Pet. 4:11**), and he is not at liberty to act in the absence of divine jurisdiction.

Those who scorn the need for divine authority in doctrine and practice overlook one of the basic lessons taught in both the Old and New Testaments. This lesson needs to be learned by our religious neighbors who have inaugurated ways of salvation and practices in worship for which no divine jurisdiction exists. It, also, needs to be learned by our brethren, who seem to have forgotten that we have no legal or rightful power to engage in any practice, regardless of how good the work may appear to be or how great the results accomplished, if there is no divine jurisdiction for the same. To so do is to act without authority and to act without authority is to invite disaster and ruin.



Barriers

By Matt Adams

"...you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all." (**Col.3:9-11 NKJV**)

How often do you and I put up barriers in our lives? How often do we read God's word, nod our heads, perhaps even audibly confirm our agreement, and then go about our days with little concern for others, choosing instead to cast off the manner and spirit of our Savior we call ourselves after? I'll admit that this has been the case in my own life, perhaps more often than I've realized before.

How often do we allow prejudices to guide our lives rather than casting down those walls which we build up? For instance, we deem someone unworthy: whether that be of our time, our courtesy, our good will and common decency, simple kindness, or most tragically we deem them unworthy of the gospel. And for what? Because of some arbitrary or subjective reservations we've created in our minds to justify our ignorant prejudices? It happens, and sadly it happens among God's people; it happens with each other within churches and it happens with our attitudes toward those in the world who need to render obedience to the gospel's call. This tragic reality happens in your life and mine.

Now, before we go any further, there is a clear difference in not keeping company with those engaging in sin and escaping temptations to sin (so as to keep ourselves unspotted from the world; **Ps.1; 2Tim.2:22; Rom.13:14; 1Thess.5:22; 1Cor.10:12-13**) and with us just being too stuck up, being more concerned with what other people think, or too stuck on ourselves in our own prejudice to get outside of our comfort zone. Monumental difference!

Consider for a moment the account of Jesus speaking with the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4. A people whom it was reported that the Jews wouldn't even so much as buy bread from since they were considered lower than dogs. Yet, Jesus speaks with this woman when He is weak and tired and as a result of this exchange causes a whole city of Samaritans to believe in Him - interesting to note that He performed no miracles here but rather just spoke with them and at His word they believed.

How we treat those whom the world casts off, makes fun of, deems unworthy of their time says a lot about us. When someone is an outcast by the rest of the herd - in whatever circle you find yourself, whether that be at work,

school, or just out in the world among other people - how do you or I treat them? Do we have compassion like our Savior (true compassion, not being patronizing) or do we join in with the rest of the herd mentality and laugh, deride, and otherwise make them seem or feel lower than dirt. Sounds a lot like what those around the cross did to our loving Savior, doesn't it (**Matt.27**)? Christ calls on us to follow Him, the very source of all love and compassion, not the crowds.

Regardless of where the treatment of others takes place - be that in our hearts, in our conduct, or in our words - the offense or compassion still exists. What would our Lord think of our treatment of those He gave His life for? Oh yes, let's not forget that fact...these are exactly who these people are, we didn't get exclusive rights to the blood of Jesus Christ. He died for all sinners, you, me, those people we deem "worthy" and yes even those whom we deem "unworthy". Let's we be puffed up, let's consider and recall what many sins the Lord has forgiven us of. That's the reality, friend.

The first century Christians had the same problems we do, just in a different form. They had the issue of race/nationality relations (Jew vs Gentile), rich vs poor, slave vs free, slave vs master, heathen vs non-heathen, high-minded vs lowly. It's always been an obstacle, but it's one we, through the Lord, can break down; the Lord did, so why should we attempt to futilely build up a partition He Himself struck down?

I've been shamed through my own study of God's word, the realization of what the account of the Samaritan woman at the well teaches about that nature of my Savior, and the comparison with how I have lived my life up to this point. It's truly humbling when we measure ourselves against our Savior and see the areas where we lack. It is my prayer that others may take a lesson from John 4 and change their conduct as I have sought to do. The world and our lives will pass away, but God's word remains (**Matt.24:35**). That word gives life to its hearers and salvation to those who obey it, so are we going to obey it fully or will we continue on in our own prejudices stubbornly claiming we have a right to them when our Savior clearly showed us otherwise?

Follow Christ, or stubbornly put up walls to keep others from hearing the truth? Our choice. Which of these will please the Lord? Now, which are we going to actually do?

