

# A Little Dating Advice for Singles

Now in all Israel there was no one so much to be praised for his handsome appearance as Absalom. From the sole of his foot to the crown of his head there was no blemish on him. **(2 Samuel 14:25)**

By David Maxson

murderous, lying, manipulating, prideful, power hungry young man whose lack of character ultimately led to his own premature death.

How much stock do you put into appearance?

To some, it's the first (and only) thing they see, especially when looking for a mate. For them, Absalom would stand out as a good catch. His was wealthy, powerful, good looking, and apparently a smooth talker **(see 15:1-6)**.

But you wouldn't want to date a man like Absalom. He was a rebellious, vengeful,

So to all the singles out there looking for a husband or wife, I encourage you to be discriminating and careful about who you date. Don't be deceived by externals. A good marriage is built on common faith in God and solid character. A marriage built on appearance alone is doomed to fail.

Father, please give wisdom and discernment to our singles who are looking for a mate!



**Classes This Week**

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Tuesday 10:00 AM</b><br>Ladies Class at Candy Long's on "Giving God Control" | <b>Tuesday 8:00 PM</b><br>Truth-seekers Campus Study in Room 2310 in Student Center | <b>Tuesday 7:00 PM</b><br>Ladies Class at TheRouse's on "Giving God Control" |
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|   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| Brad Marshall (Allie Hosey's Cousin)                          | Jesse Godwin (Troy's father and Mac's grandfather) | Virginia Box (Sarah Norman's grandmother) | 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)  | Terri Sams (Erica's friend)                           |
| <b>Terri Moore (Joey's aunt)</b>                              | Artina Hunt (Esther's friend's sister)             | Betty Bradford                            | Hazel Gilliland and Sherry Carroll (Toni's relatives) |
| <b>Ricky Tucker (Tyler's cousin)</b>                          | Ermogene Laxson (Sara Lail's grandmother)          | Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)     | William Smith (Ken Sullivan's brother)                |
| Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)          | Bernice Martin (Will Harris' great-grandmother)    | Brian Myers (Kimberlee's cousin)          | Eva Jean Cavender (Matt's grandmother)                |
| John M. Rhodes and Bonnie Rhodes Kirkley (Toni Herd's family) | Howard Vaughan (Mary Ann's Granddad)               | Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephew)         | Ben Raine (baby of Rachel Hobgood's friend)           |

**April Birthdays**

- 1-Rachel Hobgood
- 2-Kelli Loggins
- 3-Jessica Shaver
- 3-Cameron Abernathy
- 4-Julie Henriquez
- 5-Tate Pender
- 5-Caleb Hodges
- 8-Laura Humphrey
- 8-Hannah Morris
- 9-Brooke Perkins
- 12-Becky Daniels
- 12-Austin Adams
- 14-Jesse Roberts
- 16-Carla Luther
- 16-Carson Fowler
- 17-Cal Sandlin
- 18-Spencer Sullivan
- 18-Taylor Godwin
- 18-Joel Black
- 20-April Jerkins
- 20-RJ Martin
- 23-Anna Miller
- 24-Bob Simpson
- 27-Bree Robinson
- 28-Johnathan Hand

**News and Notes**

- ☒ - Lisa Carter got good news last week from her scan! She will continue to receive chemo treatments.
- ☒ - Our VBS will be June 6-9, on the "journeys of Paul."
- ☒ - Please remember John Burns and his family in the recent loss of his mother, Joyce.
- ☒ - Preston Loggins broke his wrist this week and is recovering in a cast.
- ☒ - Jamin Hymel (Chad's son) had surgery this week to put in shunt.
- ☒ - Tyler Tucker's mom, Theresa, will have knee replacement surgery on Tuesday.
- ☒ - Please pray for Toni Herd's sister, Carol Dickerson, who has cirrhosis of the liver.
- ☒ - Prayers have been answered on behalf of Terri Sams (Erica's friend) who is now in remission!
- ☒ - The flower fund is depleted, please see Mary Ann Roberts to contribute.
- ☒ - We will have a work day on Saturday, April 23rd, 8-12.
- ☒ - Audio Cd's are in the foyer after each service on Sunday. All audio is immediately uploaded to [www.auchurch.com](http://www.auchurch.com)

# 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)**

Volume 7, Issue 30

April 10, 2016

## Excuses Are Not Reasons!

By Dee Bowman



**Thoughts to Ponder**

If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. **(John 15:22)**

**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

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**Larry Rouse**  
Evangelist and Editor

The difference between a reason and an excuse should be obvious. If a person has a reason for his conduct or behavior, he will certainly use it, and legitimately. A person who gives a "reason" that is actually not a reason but an excuse, has a problem. I can find little difference—if any—between an excuse and a lie.

In fact, if a thing is presented as a "reason" when it's not actually a reason, how else would you describe it? A reason is the ground, motive, or cause for which a thing is done. It gives an answer that actually justifies some action, belief, or event. On the other hand, an excuse, given ostensibly to explain the facts in a case, in reality hides the truth and so is merely a pretext or subterfuge.

If folks who are constantly giving excuses for their lack of participation knew how ut-

Do you not know the difference between a reason and an excuse? If the person who constantly uses this "reason" were sick every Thursday in the same way they are every Sunday, they would go see the doctor about it.

terly foolish are some of their "reasons," they would likely desist from their usage right away. Let me illustrate. These are a few of the more common excuses for people's lack of involvement and particularly for their lack of attendance at the services of the church.

"I've just not felt very well lately." This "reason" is one of the most commonly used. Actually this "reason" is given by

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some who are not very interested in the work of the church, but just don't want to openly admit it. The person who uses this "reason" never uses it in regard to his work, or the Friday night lights, or his presence at the golf course. Shame! Do you not know the difference between a reason and an excuse? If the person who constantly uses this "reason" were sick every Thursday in the same way they are every Sunday, they would go see the doctor about it. Or if they felt bad every Tuesday evening they would want to know why. Now it is certainly so that some people—some older folks, some who are chronically ill, can't be out. But to them—don't you see?—the statement is a reason, not an excuse. **(Hebrews 10:23-25)**

"I've been real busy with my job lately." I've seldom known a person who makes this excuse who didn't have time to take off from his business for his golf, for his fishing, for a football game, the kids baseball game, or some other interest. We all have the same amount of time. It's with its management that we encounter the difficulty. Let me say something to those who give business "reasons" for not attending or being otherwise involved in the work of the church. If you're too busy to engage yourself in serving God— you're too busy! If you're too busy to attend the worship services—you're too busy! You need to back off and take a look at where you're headed. You're not having trouble with your job, you're having trouble with the world and it's about time got your time-priorities straight-

ened out. **(Matthew 6:33; Ephesians 5:6; Colossians 4:5)**

"I have to take care of my family." This is tantamount to saying, "I love my family so much that I don't have time to serve God." Listen to this: "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross and followeth after me, is not worthy of me" **(Matthew 10:37-38)**. Hear me carefully—the worst kind of child abuse is to bring a child into this word and give him little or no spiritual guidance. If you want to genuinely care for your family, what better thing than to take them to worship God? I don't care what your child becomes, how popular he becomes, or how much money he makes, without God he has failed, miserably failed. **(Ecclesiastes 12:13)**

"People there just aren't friendly to us." It's one of the most oft used "reasons" for not attending. 'Tis a foolish excuse. Don't you see that in order to expect friendliness, you must yourself be friendly? Folks who give this "reason" very often run toward the door when the last "amen" is said, hit the parking lot, and speed off home or to the restaurant. Consider this: it's hard to be friendly to folks who are running for the door. What do you expect? That they should trip you, run you down, and hug your neck? Let's be serious. What kind of "reason" is that? **(I John 4:7-12; Romans 12:19)**

We better be careful that we don't try to excuse ourselves with some "reason" that's not really a real reason. Think it over.



## What Those "Steps" Mean

By Robert F. Turner

Baptism is neither a church ordinance nor a "sacrament" that, per se, dispenses grace. It is only for believers (Mk. 16:16, Acts 8:36-37), so that the burial of an infant in baptism — and certainly the bogus act of sprinkling a few drops upon its head — can have no religious significance whatsoever.

It was less than 150 years ago that Walter Scott devised a simple way to impress his hearers with the relation of obedient faith to the blessings in Christ. He taught children to count on their fingers: Believe, Repent, be Baptized, Remission of Sins, Gift of Holy Spirit. Then, and now, it is obvious that children and adults could learn those "steps" without understanding salvation in Jesus Christ. How sad that some have made this almost the whole of the gospel of Christ.

Although believing (trusting) in Christ can have meaning only when it follows an intelligent grasp of divine testimony **(Rom. 10:17)**, it is far more than an acceptance of historic facts. The learning must have become apart of us, so that we make decisions upon its base. We not only "believe that He is" but also that "He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him" **(Heb. 11:6)**. The heart purified by faith **(Acts 15:9)** is the center of ones thoughts, emotions, and will cleansed from its previous self-centeredness and now given unreservedly to Christ. We act, seeing the unseen. Our sinful condition before God and the certainty of judgment are so real to us that we recoil from them. We are so convinced that Christ is the sole and gracious solution for our condition that our heart leaps with joy as we reach out for Him.

In the process of arriving at such a faith we realize that our former ways were our downfall, separating us from God. We are humbled in shame, overwhelmed by sorrow **(Rom. 2:4, 2 Cor. 2:7)** and turn about, change the direc-

tion of our life. This is repentance **(Matt. 21:28-f)**. It is "toward God" in that it recognizes that our old life was an affront to our Maker; and it involves a genuine determination to "sin no more." Now, and only now, are we ready to be "buried with Him" no more to live as before.

And that burial of the former life with the subsequent ris-

ing to walk in a new life is the spiritual significance of baptism **(Rom. 6:3-18)**. Beautifully recalling the death, burial and resurrection of Him who became a curse for us, immersion in water has been commanded by our Lord **(Acts 10: 48; 2:38)**, and those who would come to Him submit to this figure; in fact, can not have a good conscience without it if they have been properly instructed in His will **(1 Pet. 3:21)**.

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The faith that saves does not stop here — in fact, this is the beginning of the life of service in the Lord's vineyard, growing in grace and knowledge **(Acts 2:41-47, 1 Pet. 2:1-3)**. Gentle reader, can you be serious about heaven, and ignore God's word **(Jn. 12:48)?**

