

Things Saul Saw While Blind

While Saul of Tarsus was on the road to Damascus, he was blinded by a light from heaven (**Acts 9:1-9**). During the time that Saul was blind, he saw a number of things that most people today don't see. Let's notice three things that Saul saw while blind.

1) That One Can Live In All Good Conscience And Be In Error. The trend in religion today seems to be, "just let your conscience be your guide." Saul of Tarsus was guided by his conscience, but he was guided into error. Saul was a man who "made havoc of the church, entering into every house, and hailing men and women committed them to prison" (**Acts 8:3**). Tell Me Saul, did your conscience bother you while you persecuted the church? Saul said, "I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day" (**Acts 23:1**). Many today may live in all good conscience in religious matters, but still be engaged in religious error.

2) That A Person Can Be Zealous In His Religion And Be Wrong. Saul revealed to the Galatians that he was a religious man (**Gal. 1:13**). But Saul was not your ordinary religious man. He was zealous in his religion! In **Acts 22:3**, Saul testified that he was "zealous toward God." Furthermore, he announced

by John Isaac Edwards

to the brethren in Galatia, that he was "exceedingly zealous" (**Gal.**

1:14). The Bible teaches that zeal is essential if one is to please God (**Tit. 2:14**). Yet, some today may be in the same condition that Saul was in—"concerning zeal, persecuting the church" (**Phil. 3:6**). It takes more than just being zealous to be pleasing to God!

3) What A Man Must Do To Have His Sins Washed Away. While Saul lay trembling on the earth, he asked, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" The Lord answered, "Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do" (**Acts 9:6**). It must be recognized that whatever Saul was told to do, in the city, that it was imperative if he was to have his sins washed away. Saul was told, "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (**Acts 22:16**). Saul, while blind, saw that in order to have his sins washed away, he had to be baptized.

Saul of Tarsus saw these things while blind. Can you see them?



Lisa Carter (Luke's mother)	Jesse Godwin (Troy's father)	Nell Holcomb (Ben's grandmother, Joanetta's aunt)	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)	Ruth Addison (gmom of April and Julie)
Madeline Morton (Greg Lanier's g'daughter)	Alexander Locke (Jeremiah's cousin's son)	Betty Bradford	Reba Patterson (Heath Fowler's mom)
Jean Buchanan (Abbie Harrison's grandmother)	Tina Atnip (Orie's cousin)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	William Smith (Ken Sullivan's brother)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Arabelle Rich (Joanetta's aunt)	Jane Hunt (Chuck's mother)	Charles Hunt, (Chuck Hunt's dad)
Gay Ulrich (Emma's mom)	Toni Herd	Taina Acuff (Anna's aunt)	John Duke (Jared Johnson's cousin)

June Birthdays

- 1-Braiden Jerkins
- 3-Philip Stephens
- 5-Cheyenne Redus
- 6-David Eison
- 7-Spencer Borden
- 7-Mark McKee
- 8-Joanetta Lauderdale
- 9-Kay White
- 10-Joah Green
- 11-Clint Stagner
- 12-Orie Cecil
- 12-Sanaa Strickland
- 14-Jeremiah Johnson
- 17-Brooks Pender
- 17-Sarah Norman
- 18-James Long
- 19-Melissa Grant
- 22-Paul Tam
- 24-Justin Bice
- 25-Corey Hunt
- 26-Katie Gentry
- 27-Ada Owen
- 28-Craig Davis
- 28-Julian Reid

News and Notes

- ☒ - Group meetings will be tonight!
- ☒ - Anna Price remains in ICU in the Huntsville hospital where she is battling pneumonia.
- ☒ - Please remember Gustavo Moreno, whose father passed away in Venezuela on Thursday.
- ☒ - Please continue to pray for Jeremiah Johnson's cousin's baby son, Alexander Locke.
- ☒ - Please pray for Toni Herd's niece, Amber, who is in the hospital in Montgomery with headaches.
- ☒ - Please pray for our expectant mothers: Paula Davis and Xiang Li.
- ☒ - Abbie Harrison will undergo a series of surgeries/procedures to correct her knee in the coming months, beginning in July.
- ☒ - Toni Herd is recovering at home!
- ☒ - All audio is posted to 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**)

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When Good Men Do Nothing

By Wayne Greeson



Thoughts to Ponder

In the day that you stood on the other side - In the day that strangers carried captive his forces, When foreigners entered his gates And cast lots for Jerusalem -- Even you were as one of them. (**Obadiah 11**)

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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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Evangelist and Editor

"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." - Edmund Burke

So much of the history of the struggle between good and evil can be explained by Edmund Burke's observation. Time and again those who profess to be good seem to clearly outnumber those who are evil, yet those who are evil seem to prevail far too often. Seldom is it the numbers that determine the outcome, but whether those who claim to be good men are willing to stand up and fight for what they know to be right. There are numerous examples of this sad and awful scenario being played out over and over again in the scriptures.

When good men do nothing, they get nothing good done. To be good, one must do good. The Lord commands His people to do good (**Lk. 6:35; Eph. 2:10**). Christ "gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works" (**Tit. 2:14**).

They Get Nothing Good Done

In the parable of the talents, Jesus described a man who did nothing. When he received his Lord's money, he "went and digged in the earth, and hid his Lord's money" (**Mt. 25:18**). When his Lord returned, he returned to the Lord just what he had been given (**Mt. 25:25**). Notice, the servant did not do any outright evil, such as stealing the money, but then neither did he do any-

thing good. He did nothing and he got nothing good accomplished. His Lord condemned him as a "wicked and slothful servant" (**Mt. 25:26**)

Jesus rebuked the church at Laodicea for doing nothing. "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked" (**Rev. 3:15 17**).

Too many Christians and too many churches are do nothing. They are standing idly by, they are mere spectators. They sit on the sidelines in stead of actively participating and working for the good. If good wins, they join in the celebration though they did nothing to produce the victory. If evil wins, they will complain long and loud though their own apathy helped produce the undesirable result.

When Jesus found a fig tree with "nothing thereon, but leaves only" he cursed the tree and "presently the fig tree withered away" (**Mt. 21:19**). What will he do with those, who claim to be good and yet who do nothing? John the Baptist warned, "And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire" (**Mt. 3:10; Jn. 15:2**).

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They Help Evil To Triumph

When good men do nothing, evil triumphs. Evil, sin and sinful men must be opposed. God commands those who are good, not just to avoid evil but actively oppose it.

Christians are to not only to "have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but (also) . . . reprove them" (**Eph. 5:11**). Those who do nothing about sin and evil, help the sin and evil to prevail. One who is silent when there are those around him in sin becomes a partaker with them (**Eph. 5:7**).

In the days of Elijah, the silence of many had allowed the evil of Ahab and Jezebel to prevail throughout the land of Israel. "And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word" (**1 Kgs 18:21**). The silence of the people spoke volumes of their indecisiveness and inaction. Their failure to stand up, speak up and speak out and permitted evil men to run rampant.

Jesus told of a traveler who was robbed and beaten left him half dead. The men who did this were wicked and did a very wicked thing. But the Levite and priest allowed this evil to continue unanswered by doing nothing but they each "passed by on the other side" (**Lk. 10:31-32**). Fortunately for the traveler there was one man who was willing to stand up for what was right (**Lk. 10:33-36**).

Jesus warned "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad" (**Mt. 12:30**). In the fight against evil there is no middle ground, no gray area, no neutrality. Those who are not actively and vigorously working and fighting against evil are helping evil to triumph.

They Are No Longer Good

When good men do nothing, they are no longer good. Many have the mistaken notion that good is merely the absence of doing that which is wrong. Not so! One is good not merely because he does no evil, but because he is actively working for what is good. "Let him eschew evil, and do good" (**1 Pet. 3:11**). James explained, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (**Jas. 4:17**).

The eldest of Israel, Reuben, knew his brothers' murderous plot against their younger brother Joseph was wrong. He started an attempt to deliver Joseph, but as he hesitated and vacillated, the other brothers sold Joseph into slavery. When Reuben heard what they

had done, he realized his failure to act had helped to bring about this evil result.

Instead of correcting his error, Reuben sought to cover his guilt by agreeing with his brothers to lie to their father about Joseph's disappearance (**Gen. 37:18-35**). Reuben had "good intentions" and he was not even present when Joseph was sold into slavery, but he knew his inaction and absence made him just as guilty as the rest of his wicked brothers. This guilt continued to haunt him through the years (**Gen. 42:21-22**).

The prophet Obadiah severely condemned the Edomites for doing nothing when evil was befalling their brethren, the Jews. When Jerusalem was invaded by her enemies, the Edomites "stood on the other side" doing nothing but watching the slaughter as spectators. God said by their failure to act and to help "even thou west as one of them" (**Obad. 11**).

Today, there are preachers and Christians who fail and refuse to meet the real foe, refute error and fight the enemy. Instead, they have turned to viciously savaging their own brethren. They are filled with bitterness and hatred and they maliciously attack, slander and misrepresent other Christians and gospel preachers.

Paul warned about such men and behavior among those professing to be Christians, "But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another" (**Gal. 5:15**). Those who engage in such behavior are spiritual cannibals.

While the conduct of these so called Christians is shameful, what about those supposedly "good" men who do nothing? Those stand on the other side and do nothing but watch as their brothers are being slandered, slaughtered and devoured, they cease being innocent bystanders and idle spectators. Their failure to act not only allows evil to triumph, but makes them just as guilty as the spiritual cannibals they refuse to reprove and rebuke. In God's words, "even thou west as one of them" (**Obad. 11**).

Conclusion

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (**Gal. 6:7**). Those who fail or refuse to do good in the face of evil are sowing some dangerous seeds. They are doing nothing good as Jesus commanded them to do; they are helping evil to triumph and they have ceased being good themselves and they have become partakers of the evil they did nothing to stop.

Do not allow evil to triumph. Do not do nothing. Stand up and be counted, speak up against evil and speak out against evil men and their sinful deeds.



Three Views of Modesty

By Bill Hall

Three women face the problem of modesty. All three recognize the teaching of **I Tim 2:9**, "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array." However, their attitudes toward modest dress differ considerably.

And is this not what **I Tim 2:9** is teaching? The verse says that we are to dress with modesty, shamefacedness, and sobriety. When we all develop these three qualities in our hearts, then -- and only then -- will our problems of dress vanish.

The first woman takes the "Where do you draw the line?" view. If someone could draw the line for her (at the knee? ankle? calf?) and prove by the Bible that it was the line separating modesty from immodesty, she would abide by it (she says). But, meanwhile, until someone comes up with the Bible line, she wears what she wants to. If anyone approaches her about her immodesty, she justifies herself with one question, "Where do you draw the line?", followed by one observation, "Grandma wore her dress at the ankles, you know."

The second woman takes the "follow the dress code" view. She has listened to sermons on modesty, and has established for herself a code of dress by which she lives religiously: no shorts, no halters, no swimsuits, skirt below the knee, high neck, etc. She is a good woman and is to be commended for her conscientiousness, but it has never "dawned" on her that a woman can dress by her code and still be worldly, suggestive, and immodest in appearance. She would be shocked to learn that reasonable people consider her to be immodest at times.

The third woman is concerned about dress, but is more concerned about the character of which dress is a reflection. Recognizing Bible teaching concerning purity and chastity, she has become genuinely pure and chaste, not only in conduct, but in heart and disposition. She is pure "through and through," "inside out," and her clothing reflects that purity. Decency of dress is

not a mechanical, "follow the dress code" type of thing with her. It is a natural outgrowth of her modesty from within. While other sisters in Christ grope with **I Tim 2:9**, and wonder why the Lord would be so restrictive in their dress, she sees that teaching as being perfectly natural, an obvious supplement to Bible teaching concerning purity and chastity of heart and life.

Her dress reflects her character in other areas. For instance, she seeks to be lady-like in heart and demeanor, and this attitude is reflected in her dress. She remembers the warnings in the scriptures concerning pride, and has become truly "poor in spirit." This is also reflected in her dress. Her dress in every way is a true commentary on her character. One glance reveals that here is a woman who is pure, lady-like, humble, and genuine.

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