

Conscience

by Robert F. Turner

Conscience reveals what each man believes he "ought" to be (Acts 23:1,24; 24:16; 26:9-11). It is indicative of his inward feeling of moral right, of the noble ideal for which he feels he should strive. It is his prod toward his conception of moral heights, and his brakes against doing what he believes is wrong. Conscience is not the ultimate standard of truth, for that must come from God via revelation; but conscience toward God tells the individual's attitude toward God. That is why man must do what he truly believes God wants him to do (Rom. 14).

While one is trying to do what he believes God wants him to do, (1) he may have an erroneous concept of what God desires (that was the case of Saul, in persecuting Christians), or, (2) he may, through weakness of the flesh, act contrary to his good intentions (Rom. 7:22-f). In this case, he is made miserable by his conscience - is humbled before God, and appreciative of forgiveness in Christ. We are all imperfect creatures, and should, at times, feel these pangs.

But what of those who take part in, condone, and support that which is contrary to God's word, or without any

divine authority? They may know no better, and be acting in good conscience before God. In this case, further information from God's word is most welcomed. Because they truly want to do His will, they gladly open their Bible, investigate, and change their conduct to fit the evidence. In this way they maintain a good conscience before God (1 Pet. 3:21).

Sadly, however, we must acknowledge that there are those who have no such noble character (Acts 17:11). They are angered if their practice is questioned. They love the praise of men more than the praise of God (Jn. 12:42-43). If their conscience toward God continues to function, they lead a miserable life, fighting with themselves, overwhelmed with feelings of guilt. Undesirable - yes, but there is yet hope while the battle rages. How terribly sad to see some whose conscience is seared (1 Tim. 4:2), and who can reject God without a qualm.



Classes This Week		
Sunday 5:15 Kids Class in the Auditorium	Monday 7:00 PM Men's class at Walker Davis' on I Timothy	Thursday 8:00 PM Truth Seekers #2107 in student center

Lisa Carter (Luke and Daniel's mother)	Jesse Godwin (Troy's father)	Nell Holcomb (Ben's grandmother, Joannetta'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)	Anna Price	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)	Abbie Harrison
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Arabelle Rich (Joannetta'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)	Shawn Lauderdale (Larry and Joannetta's son)

November Birthdays

- 1-Paulina Zacarius
- 2-Debbi Coleman
- 6-Troy Godwin
- 6-Bridgette Borden
- 7-Amy Godwin
- 8-Ashley Miller
- 9-Darla Hahn
- 11-Andrew Hahn
- 13-Toni Herd
- 13-Emerson Daniels
- 13-Dylan Bartlett
- 13-Ronaldo Henriquez
- 13-Jax Crawford
- 16-Nicole Pender
- 16-Alexander Dunaway
- 18-Alaina Bagents
- 23-Mary Ann Roberts
- 25-Olyvia Winslett
- 25-Silas Weldon
- 27-Scott Fowler
- 27-Ervin Zacarius
- 28-Will Harris
- 29-Tammy Tolliver
- 30-David Simpson

News and Notes

- ☒ - Please pray for Case O'Dell sister, Tori Colvin, who was just diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer. She began treatments this week and expects to have surgery in a few months.
- ☒ - Group Meetings will be tonight!
- ☒ - We are thankful for Matt Campbell's decision to put on Christ in baptism on Tuesday!
- ☒ - Greg Lanier has a new grandchild! William Ashdon Lanier was born on Oct 20. 7lb - 4 oz.
- ☒ - Brooke Perkins' step-dad will have surgery on Monday to remove a mass from his colon.
- ☒ - Emma Ulrich's mom, Gay, is staying in an apt in TN for daily visits to dr. for the next several weeks after her recent bone marrow transplant.
- ☒ - Keith Bailey's brother, Doug, will continue to have rehab to help him walk again.
- ☒ - Please pray for Katie Gentry's 2-year-old cousin, Austin Rush, who was injured by a car recently.
- ☒ - Prayers have been answered on behalf of Vicki Stephens who got a good report this week in her battle with cancer!
- ☒ - Please pray for our expectant mothers: Chelsea O'Dell, Paula Davis, Mallory Randolph and Suzanne Stagner.
- ☒ - Jeremiah's aunt, Kim Locke, was airlifted last Sunday with internal bleeding and they were able to resolve the issue.
- ☒ - Ariah Strickland was admitted to EAMC yesterday to treat a respiratory issue she has been battling this week.
- ☒ - Please continue to pray for Shawn Lauderdale as he continues in rehab in TX and for Larry and Joannetta.
- ☒ - Harold Carswell's sister, Stacy, spent the week in the hospital in Montgomery with heavy seizure activity, but has improved and went home yesterday.

A weekly publication of the University church of Christ in Auburn, Alabama

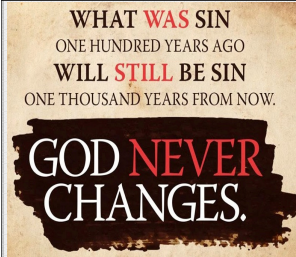
The Auburn Beacon



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

Volume 9, Issue 6

October 29, 2017



Thoughts to Ponder

For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob. (Malachi 3:6)

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

"Our God Does Not Change"

by Jon Quinn

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven " (Eccl. 3:1). We live in a world of constant change. Time changes everything we see and touch. Things that were "in" yesterday are "out" today. I remember when I was a boy seeing all my father's old ties hanging in the closet. They were wide and colorful, full of intricate designs. He never wore them so I asked why. He said no one wears ties like that any more but he expected that if he waited long enough that they would come back in style. I doubted that anyone would every wear anything like those ties again, at least not unless forced to do so at gun point! But sure enough, by the time I was in high school I was able to borrow his old, outlandish ties and let everyone assume that I had paid big bucks for them at the store.

The state of the world is different than it was ten years ago; far different than forty years ago. What will it be like ten years from now? As we read the Bible we see that it has always been so. We see changes in society; apostasy and return; dynasties thought eternal crumble and new ones take their places. Individuals age and grow closer to God, or sometimes grow away from

Our link to Abraham, Moses and Paul is that we serve exactly the same God as they did. We may live in a different time, under a different government, but we build our relationship with the very same God, and for that reason the lessons they learned will find application in our lives today. God does not change

God. We are accustomed to seeing things change.

It seems as if everything changes but such is not the case! Our link to Abraham, Moses and Paul is that we serve exactly the same God as they did. We may live in a different time, under a different government, but we build our relationship with the very same God, and for that reason the lessons they learned will find application in our lives today. God does not change. Let us consider this idea.

God's Existence Does Not Change

"Of old Thou didst found the earth; And the heavens are the work of thy hands. Even they all perish, but Thou

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do not endure, And all of them will wear out like a garment. . . but Thou art the same, and Thy years will not come to an end" (**Psa. 102:25-27**).

God had no beginning nor does he have an ending. Children sometimes ask the question, "Who made God?" The answer is that God did not need to be made because there was never a time in which he did not already exist. He will never cease to be, nor will he ever cease to be what he already is, He is deserving of our trust because "The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms" (**Deut. 33:27**).

God's Character Does Not Change

"And God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM' and He said, 'Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you'" (**Exod. 3:14**).

In the course of human life, events may alter the character of a man. There are things that happen to us that can change us forever. For example, a trusting soul may become cynical when he has been betrayed. But nothing like this happens to the Creator. He will never become less fair, honest, truthful, or good than perfection will allow. The character of God today is exactly as it was in Bible times, and as it will be long after this world ceases to be. Even the name "Jehovah" or "I AM" bears out the eternal changelessness of God. The New Testament describes God as "the Father of lights, with Whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow" (**Jas. 1:17**).

God's Purpose Does Not Change

"And the Glory of Israel will not lie or change His mind; for He is not a man that He should change His mind" (**1 Sam. 15:29**). God does not alter his purpose. He does not go half-way into a job, then realize that he has made a mistake and repent. All his plans are based upon perfect wisdom and knowledge so he never has to! Nothing can take God by surprise. If he were painting a room he would not paint himself into a corner.

The Psalmist declared, "The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the thoughts of His heart to

all generations" (**Psa. 33:11**). Some may wonder about a few passages which seem to indicate that God does repent (**Gen. 6:6; 1 Sam. 15:11; Jon. 3:10; etc.**). However, it must be understood that none of these suggest a change in his eternal purpose, nor do they suggest that God was taken by surprise. They are cases of God's reversal of his prior treatment of an individual or group because the people had changed. If a people grew increasingly wicked, then God's treatment of them changed from what it was before. If a people repented and sought forgiveness, then God would bless instead of punish.

God's Son Does Not Change

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, yes and forever" (**Heb. 13:8**). Jesus loves us as much today as he did on the road to Calvary. There is a story of someone asking him, "How much do you love me?" Jesus answered, "This much" and he stretched his arms out wide, and died. Certainly the gift Jesus has given us shows us that his love is eternal. His death proves that his love is undying. Jesus is "the Living One, and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore" (**Rev. 1:18**). Jesus is "able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them" (**Heb. 7:25**). He is our absolutely trustworthy friend. What a friend we have in Jesus!

Conclusion

What is the difference between our relationship with God and those in Bible times? We worship the same God, not a new one. His character remains the same, we can know what he is like now by observing what he was like then. His purposes remain unchanged. The Messiah we accept is the same Son of God who they looked for, welcomed, and accepted.

We may live in a different age. We may rejoice that we live under a new covenant. We may have a complete written revelation and therefore a more accurate picture of God's eternal purpose, character and nature. But God remains the same. By all means, place your eternal spirit in his hands.

Guardian of Truth - March 1, 1990



The Lord My Shepherd Is

By Dee Bowman

The entire meaning of service to Christ is understood in whether or not we follow Him. His is our leader, the One we must follow. In the 10th chapter of John's gospel, verses 1-16, there is a beautiful picture of what is involved in following Christ. It is shown by comparing Christ—our Leader—to the Palestinian shepherd.

The main part of Judea is a central plateau region, stretching about 35 miles from Bethel to Hebron, and is about 11 miles wide. The soil in this area is shallow, rocky and the weather of the semi-arid variety. It is more a pastoral than an agricultural region, and so is far more suited for sheep and goats than for crops of cotton, corn, or grains. At the time of Jesus' parable the shepherd was a central figure in the Jewish economy and, as such, was a familiar sight in the uplands of Judea.

The shepherd's duties were almost never-ending ones and were performed in both summer and winter, regardless of the inclemency of the weather. There was also the ever-present danger of thieves (who "crept in unaware" and stole), robbers (who took the sheep by force), and the ravenous wild animals who invaded the flock and took their toll also.

To be a good shepherd required courage, vigilance, patience, and above all, and abiding love for the flock.

The shepherd became so intimately acquainted with his sheep that he called them by name. Contrary to some areas, the Palestinians raised sheep primarily for wool, not for meat. Such being the case, the sheep stayed with the shepherd for sometimes a number of years. They came to know the voice of their leader and would respond to no other. In fact, when a stranger spoke to them they would oftentimes bolt off in alarm and scatter around until such a time as their own master's voice brought them back together again. They knew His voice.

The sheep were totally dependent on the shepherd. Sheep, you know, are led, not driven. It is to the shepherd they looked for food, for it is his responsibility

Notice how He is imminently qualified to wear such a title. Notice His love, His watchful care of us, His voice sounding out to us. Notice how He constantly feeds and nurtures us. Notice His loving chastisement, as He causes each of us to "pass under the rod."

to "pastor" (cf. "pasture") them. Without his leadership and provisions, the flock would become scattered divided, sickly, and separated. His provisions also included the sheep fold in which there was protection, safety and security.

Furthermore, the shepherd carefully and lovingly looked after his sheep. He became constantly concerned and interested in their welfare. Each day the sheep had to "pass under the rod" (**Cf. Ezekiel 20:37**) as they entered the sheep fold. At that time each sheep was carefully examined to ascertain whether or

not injury or harm had been sustained during that day's activities.

The sheep were constantly chastised by the shepherd. He would call sharply to them from time to time. This did two things. First, it kept them together in the same general area and prevented them from absent-minded straying to some place where harm might come to them. Secondly, it reassured them of the continued presence of their leader, this giving them confidence. In this way, they learned to put their complete trust in him.

Now that we have given the antecedency to the occasion of John's account, turn and read again **John 10:1-16**.

What a picture! How true it is that Jesus Christ is the true Shepherd! Notice how He is imminently qualified to wear such a title. Notice His love, His watchful care of us, His voice sounding out to us. Notice how He constantly feeds and nurtures us. Notice His loving chastisement, as He causes each of us to "pass under the rod."

Yes, He is the True Shepherd of our souls (**Matthew 8:11-12; Mark 14:27; 1 Peter 2:25; Hebrews 12:20-21**). It is by His voice that we are directed, fed, corrected, assured.

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters..."

