

Am I a Legalist?

by Max Ogden

Webster defines a legalist as one who is strict in adhering to law. I take it that this has reference to the law under which he lives. We should think that if the one who claimed to conform to the demands of the law, yet disregarded it when it did not suit him, would come short of his claim.

There may be many laws that we do not regard as so very important, and few people may know about them. There are other laws that seem so very important and are kept ever before us. For example: traffic laws. We are reminded of them often all along the road. The speed limit differs in states. I have been told by brethren who do not want to abide by it that it is alright to exceed it if you will stay within ten miles of it. I have never yet been told by brethren that it is resisting the power, and withstanding the ordinance of God. **(Rom. 13:2)**

We gather from this that people do what they want to do regardless of the law. I have often wondered how one could successfully teach men to obey God's law while at the same time is disobedient to civil law. I wonder if those who would add ten miles to a civil law, would not add what suited them to God's law. I have heard brethren

reason like this: "Where do we have scripture for a meeting house?" I have tried to figure out why they would make such a statement. I have decided that it is a way of saying that you don't have to stay within the limits of God's law. They do not explain that God commanded His people to assemble, and to carry out the command necessitated a place. I have heard asked: "Where is the passage for a microphone?" When I hear such statements without any explanation, I decide one is trying to practice in the name of religion things not commanded of God. Is not this the argument? If we can use a house to meet in not commanded, why not use something else that is even more effective?

Such reasoning will destroy every command of God. It will place sprinkling for baptism. It will change the worship commanded of God. We would do well to believe God. "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God." **(1 Pet. 4:11)** Mary said of Jesus, "Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it."



Classes This Week

Sunday Evening College devo at Phillip Box's house - he will also teach	Tuesday 10:00 AM Ladies' class at Sandra Chason's "Teach Me to Love"	Tuesday 7 PM Men's class at Ron Russell's house, I Timothy	Thursday 8:00 PM Truth Seekers #2107 in student center	Saturday 6:00-8:00 PM 1st-5th graders at Rouse's house	Saturday 6:30-8:30 PM 6th-12th graders at Norman's house
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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	Ruth Addison (gmom of April and Julie)
Tori Colvin (sister of Case O'Dell)	Austin Rush (Katie Gentry's cousin)	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)	Charles and Jane Hunt (Chuck's parents)	Doug Bailey (Keith's brother)
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

- ☑ - Congratulations to Craig and Paula Davis at the birth of Miles Robert Davis last night! 6lbs. 15 oz, 20 inches
- ☑ - Please pray for Bill Walton who is in critical condition in Chattanooga, TN.
- ☑ - Scott Fowler is planning another work trip to TX Nov 18-25. Volunteers and donations needed.
- ☑ - Please remember Terez Strickland's father, Billy, in prayer as he begins his treatments for bile duct cancer.
- ☑ - Please park in the grass when possible to give room for our visitors!
- ☑ - Emma Ulrich's mom, Gay, continues in TN and will have tests soon to evaluate progress.
- ☑ - Please pray for our expectant mothers: Chelsea O'Dell, Paula Davis, Mallory Randolph and Suzanne Stagner.
- ☑ - All audio is uploaded to www.auchurch.com

The Auburn Beacon



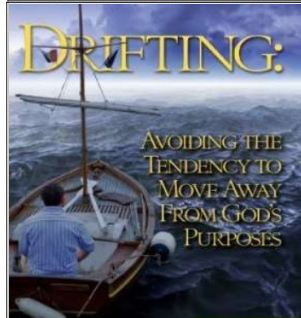
Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. **(Matthew 5:16)**

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November 12, 2017

It Happens Slowly

by Lewis Willis



Thoughts to Ponder

Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. **(Hebrews 2:1)**

It would be a blessing if we were able to see the end of a thing at its beginning. This would be especially valuable regarding moral or ethical behavior. For instance, if a person could see at the time he takes his first social drink that he would end up being an alcoholic, he probably would gracefully decline the drink. If he could see himself as the alcoholic losing his job, abusing his wife and family, the break up of his home, the loss of his self-respect and his respect in the community, the loss of his health, perhaps committing a crime or killing someone in an auto accident - I say, if he could see this as the end of the seemingly innocent social drink, he would not imbibe. However, like so many other things, someone else is always the alcoholic.

The same thing could be said of numbers of other things. When a young person first experiments with drugs, he does not think for a moment he might become a drug crazed addict who commits crimes to support his addiction. The person who sees something

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laying around that can so easily be picked up without anyone knowing, does not consider himself becoming the common convicted and imprisoned thief. If the married man, telling suggestive little jokes to the girl in the office or on the job, could see ultimate adultery and divorce, he would refrain. As I said, if we could only see the end of a thing at its beginning, we would not make so many mistakes and get into the fixes in which we often find ourselves.

But this is not an article about moral issues as such. I intend it as

(Continued on page 2)

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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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(Continued from page 1)

an article on spiritual concerns. I have been teaching a class on Wednesday night, studying the book of Luke. We are now at that point where we have just studied the betrayal of Jesus by Judas. We see him in company with the Lord and the other apostles. Next we see him leading a mob through the darkness of Gethsemane, coming to Jesus, betraying him with a sign of deep affection - a kiss. I read this statement recently: "It is a sad little line that tells us of Judas slipping away from holy company to betray his Lord. No truer statement was every penned than the few words in **John 13:30**: Judas went out '...and it was night.' It was night and the darkest night of Judas' life. What was the poor man thinking of? The Lord himself called him a friend; surely Judas loved this wonderful man with whom he had companied for 31/2 years. Was it the money? Was there some sort of personal notoriety he longed for? I doubt that we can know the whole of it; only that he was motivated by the Devil. But his night did not come suddenly. There is always a certain twilight preceding such a dark hour" (Jerry Johnson, *The Light* [Vol. 20, No. 2] pg. 15). Judas is the classic example of the point I seek to make. Would he have done what he did had he known the end that would befall him? Would the story have been the same if he could have envisioned his own disgrace and suicide? His fall did not happen in a moment - it happened slowly!

I preached a sermon recently in which I looked at some of the ideas and actions now found in Churches of Christ. It is hard to imagine that these things are the result of a decision several years ago to send \$25 a month to some human institution doing what was considered to be such a good thing, or the decision to have an innocent little congregational dinner in the classroom section of the building. How could this possibly lead

to some of the things we now see in liberal churches? It happens slowly!

Well, as Christians, most of us could hardly imagine that we might fall away completely from the Lord. We would never consider just getting up and walking out of the assembly, never to return again. However, the sad truth is that some do walk away, never to return. You see, it happens slowly. We may not really know all of the factors that entered into it. Perhaps they seem so small and imperceptible at the time. Perhaps it was the demands of our job, school activities, or, something that needed to be done around the house or on the car. It really does not matter what it was. The sad truth is, the troubles and cares of life were given priority over the things of God so many times that suddenly we realize that God has slipped from our lives. Did we intend it? No! It just happened - slowly. We missed a few Wednesday nights. Then it was all Wednesday nights. Then, a few Sunday nights - then all Sunday nights. Lo and behold, then it was a few Sunday mornings until it became all Sunday mornings. It happens slowly but we wake up one day to realize that we have fallen away from the Lord. Had we seen this end when we started this process months before, we would have stopped it immediately. Now there is not enough faith left to even care. Apostasy is the sad and tragic end to a handful of small, seemingly meaningless little carelessnesses.

One has to remember the words of Paul at all times: "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (**1 Cor. 10:12**). Is it not the course of wisdom to pause occasionally and ask ourselves: "What is more important than God and our service to him?" If anything comes before God, the twilight of ultimate darkness has set in around us. It is time for alarm!

Guardian of Truth - May 3, 1990



Pressure

By Dee Bowman

Pressure is everywhere. A certain amount of it is necessary for the proper function of the universe as well as society.

It's all around us, actually. There's a certain amount of pressure in every conversation, a certain amount in every business deal, a certain amount in entertainment, the arts, a certain amount of it on the playground; it's just everywhere. Your car won't run without a certain amount of pressure at proper places.

There are large amounts of it in some places. Take mass media for an example. Television has large portions of pressure in everything it does. It not only reflects our morality in this age, it shapes it as well. Newspaper ads, radio commercials, magazine advertising -- they're all filled with pressure. You can't escape pressure; it's part of life.

There are pressures to buy. Pressures to conform. Pressures to change. Pressures to participate. Pressures to perform. There are subtle pressures, obvious pressures, elongated pressures. And without the right blood pressure you can be in serious trouble in just a matter of a few seconds.

Some pressures are good. The gospel message has as one of its purposes to put pressure on people. It convicts with the word. For instance, "faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God" (**Rom. 10:17**). Faith is produced when someone comes under the pressure of evidence. John said, "many other signs truly did Jesus in the midst of his disciples which are not written in this book, but these are written that you might believe..." (**John 20:30-31**). The evidence is strong enough to bring people to conviction. That's a fine pressure.

There is good pressure in good influence. That's what pressure is all about. It's the continual action of a weight or force. Good, properly exerted as an influence, is a fine use of pressure. When morality works best is when its weight is brought to bear on

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the hearts of people so that they feel compelled to be good.

Truth, properly used, will be pressed. "Preach the word. Be instant (urgency is a kind of pressure) in season and out of season. Reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and doctrine" (**2 Tim. 4:2**). This preaching is motivational; it has as its design to storm the will in the strongest sort of way. It is to be done so that there is no doubt about it. This kind of urgency brings pressure to bear

on the sinner.

Personal pressure is important, too. Paul said, "...forgetting the things which are behind and reaching forth to the things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (**Phil. 3:14**). Paul said, "I press." That's the place from which our English word pressure is derived. It's hard work, this business of going to Heaven. It takes putting a goodly amount of pressure on oneself. Without it you can't go. Nobody's going to coast to Heaven.

We live in a pressure cooker society. We are being pressed on every side with temptations to absent ourselves from righteousness and join the crowd in their putrid lifestyle. Temptation is the pressure to do wrong. It is "common to man" (**1 Cor. 10:12**), but the fact that it is common doesn't mean we should participate. We must not let the evil influences of the world dictate to us; we must be strong. "Resist the devil (his pressures, his temptations) and he will flee from you" (**James 4:7**).

Some pressures are good; let's make sure we know what they are and allow them to have their good effect. But some pressures are bad; let's make sure we don't delude ourselves into thinking that we can give in "just a little." To do so is to subject yourself to a pressure that may become so intense you can't turn back from its hold.

