

To Whose Tune Do You Harken?

by Jonathan Perz

In the Brothers Grimm tale The Pied Piper of Hamelin, a small German town overrun with rats calls upon the services of "a tall thin man dressed in brightly colored clothes, with a long feather in his hat, waving a gold pipe at them." The townspeople offer to pay the piper to remove all of the rats from their town.

The next morning the piper plays an irresistible tune on his pipe, leading the rats down to the river where they are drowned and swept away. The moral of the Brothers Grimm story is not realized in the Piper's feat, but in the broken promise of the townspeople who fail to make their payment to the piper. At dawn he teaches them a painful lesson when he leads all of their children away and into a mountain never to be seen again.

Though the moral of keeping your promises is a needed one (Jas. 5:12), one can't help but reflect on the strange tune the piper played that irresistibly led the rats and children out of the town.

Does not Satan have a way of playing just the right irresistible tune to lead us to our destruction?

Sometimes the song Satan plays hits the chords of the "various lusts" that dwell in our hearts (2 Tim. 3:6). Some abandon the Lord's ways, however clearly expressed, for things as simple as preference of music type or things as destructive as adultery and fornication. Satan knows the song that resonates in your heart and he will not fail to play it.

Likewise, Peter speaks of those who "fail from their own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked" (2 Pet. 3:17). When we become discontent with the truth, Satan plays the songs of error that will lead us away. As Satan has contrived every flavor of error under the sun for our partaking, he has exactly the right tune to lead each of us away should the love of the truth not resonate on our heart (2 Tim. 2:9-12).

The redeemed sing a new song (Rev. 14:3). This song resonates so strongly in their hearts that none will ever separate them from the love of God (Rom. 8:35-39).



The Auburn Beacon



What's Down That Road?

By Warren E. Berkley



Thoughts to Ponder

The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule by their own power; And My people love to have it so. But what will you do in the end? (Jeremiah 5:31)

The most vital consideration for every human being and certainly every Christian is: the allegiance of the heart and obedience of the life to God. While we must avoid the arrogance of self-righteousness and the bondage of human creeds and traditionalism, we must determine with all our hearts to never relax or compromise our commitment to God's Word. That means we must never indulge even the so-called "small departures." They have a way of gradually turning in to all sorts of human innovations, which so often seem to have no brakes. The "mystery of iniquity" in 2 Thess. 2:7 did not suddenly appear one morning. The seeds of iniquity were sown, watered and came up slowly.

When God gives us instruction about something, we are limited to His instruction. And you cannot read the New Testament without observing God has given us instruction about the local church.

Ideally, we should be so careful about our obedience to God, we avoid even those practices that may be doubtful as to their divine authority. Sometimes a good way to evaluate a particular theory or proposal is to look ahead to what results when the theory/project is embraced. What effects or consequences logically follow. Now this does not require the gift of a seer. The question we can ponder is: What's down That Road?

If There Are No Scriptural Limits On The Work Of The Church...What's Down That Road?

I've heard some not only express doubt, but utter ridicule for the approach to Scripture that looks for commands, examples and inferences. And while these critics may tolerate these realities of communication in other areas, they really want to push them out of any considera-

tion of the work of the church. I like to ask them, "if it is 'out with the old, and in with the new,' what is the new?" The responses I get are patently vague and evasive. They will not admit that the local church can just do anything, but their boundaries are subjective at best, but mostly non-existent. If the work of the local church has no limits, there are no limits. Anything is in.

There is a simple approach that I like. Anytime God instructs us about anything, we are limited to His instruction. Even if you tire of the old terminology (commands, examples, inferences), surely our respect for God will prevail: When God gives us instruction about something, we are limited to His instruction. And you cannot read the New Testament without observing God has given us instruction about the local church.

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Classes This Week

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Monday 8:00 PM College study on Romans, Crawford's | Tuesday 10:00 AM Ladies' Class , Denise Davis home, "Heaven" | Tuesday 8:00 PM Men's Class at Ron Russell's, book of John | Thursday 8:00 PM Truthseekers Room 2107 student center |
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| February Birthdays | | | | News and Notes | | | |
| Lisa Carter (Daniel's mother) | Jesse and Martha Godwin (Troy's parents) | Billy Hunt (Cherri's brother) | Louise Pack (Anna and Christopher's grandmother) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☒ - Be sure to turn clocks forward next Saturday night ☒ - Abbie Harrison will go to Bham for cortisone shots Mar 19th and will continue PT here. ☒ - Toni Herd has improved since her ER visit and will go to Birmingham on Tues for her monthly infusion study. ☒ - Pray for our expectant mothers: Kristen Diehl, Megan Hester, and Naki Strickland . ☒ - Please continue to pray for Mary Ann's grandfather, Howard Vaughan, who fell and broke a bone recently. ☒ - Please pray for Brooke's uncle, Bobby Jennings who is suffering after his 2nd round of chemo. ☒ - Jon Coleman got good results from his heart tests last week! ☒ - Please pray for Kristen Diehl's aunt, Donna Jackson, whose cancer has now spread aggressively. ☒ - Keith Bailey's brother, Doug, will have neck surgery on Monday at Shelby County Hospital. ☒ - Susan Sullivanne's sister in TN , Helen Andrews, fell recently and broke her ankle and is unable to have surgery so her ankle has been placed in a boot. ☒ - Please consider parking on the grass! ☒ - All audio is uploaded to www.auchurch.com | | | |
| Emery Anne Vest (Patsy's grandniece) | Mary Edwards (Sandra Chason's mom) | Kimzey Simpson | Ruth Addison (gmom of April and Julie) | | | | |
| Tory Colvin (sister of Case O'Dell) | Maria Williams | Barbara Chandler | Robert Collins (child of Walker's co-worker) | | | | |
| Betty Bradford | Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad) | Earl Mitchell (Debbi Coleman's dad) | Abbie Harrison | | | | |
| Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father) | EB & Ara Belle Rich (Joanetta's aunt) | Matt Bishop (friend of Long's) | Doug Bailey (Keith's brother) | | | | |
| Tim Tucker and Kendal Decker (Brooke's friends) | William and Toni Herd | Taina Acuff (Anna's aunt) | Mavis Hale (Chris Long's grandmother) | | | | |

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:
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Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor

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If We Just Accept Any Marriage...What's Down That Road?

Marriage is a product of the creative mind of God; an institution founded by Him for human companionship and reproduction. He is its designer and the legislator of its laws and we are subject to those laws. Marriage is more than a wedding ceremony; it goes beyond the reciting of vows, the eating of cake and wearing a rented tux. It is the commitment of a man and a woman to live together as husband and wife in an arrangement set up by the Creator. Any view of marriage we adopt that doesn't accord with these truths will tend in the wrong direction, send the wrong message and reap an awful harvest in future generations.

God is very much involved in this relationship called "marriage," because He is its designer and legislator. In **Matt. 19:6**, Jesus tells us it is God who joins the man and woman together in marriage! "Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder," (**Matt. 19:6, KJV**). We need to think of husband and wife being joined together in God's sight ... before God ... with regard for His laws, given to govern the relationship!

This is so simple, and so clear: God set up the marriage relationship for the human race. God has set up the rules to govern marriage - rules for husbands and wives. God has said He hates putting away (Mal. 2:16), and God has said something about divorce and remarriage.

If these things are ignored, disobeyed or re-interpreted to suit the times, we set ourselves up for misery and unhappiness, and the horrible potential of eternal consequence. We must take all of this seriously!

In Jesus' answer to the Pharisees and scribes when they tempted Him - they wanted to know if it was lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause. Have you ever noticed in Jesus' reply, the focus was God! He reminded them that God made them male and female, and that God said a man should cleave to his wife, and that God joined them together ... and let no man put asunder what God hath joined together!

Paul told women to be in subjection to their own husbands, "as unto the Lord" in Eph. 5:22. He said - when we are unfaithful in marriage, we despise not man, but God in 1 Thess. 4:8. So the commitment that keeps a marriage together is commitment first to God. To Honor Him who founded this institution; to decide both husband and wife will be governed by His laws. To realize He is the family's designer and legislator and we are amenable to Him. If we let the world influence us to stop teaching and applying these things, what will happen?

If We Administer Discipline But Neglect To Maintain The Withdrawal...What's Down That Road?

Scripturally administered discipline may seem to produce more division. When some members refuse to withdraw from the guilty, and others get mad and leave, it may appear that the discipline God has called for has hurt the local church. Some will try to make the effect the issue: slighting the sin that caused the action, and arguing against the action. But our focus must be on the stubborn facts: the presence of sin and the action God wants us to take. If there was sin, and we've taken the action God requires, we must not let the results or the complaints cause us to regret obeying God! "Where the gospel, correctly presented, produces divisions, as it always will, the divisions are right. We are not responsible for the legitimate effects of the truth," (Moses Lard, Commentary on Romans, p.#463).

Often, after scripturally administered discipline, those withdrawn from will seek to charm and socialize their way back into the good favor of the members. The only restraint against this is, a well-instructed and committed membership. Teach them what the Bible says about the sins involved, and the action required in the absence of repentance. Remind members of past withdrawals when efforts are made to influence members. And remember - if a church withdraws from a disorderly member and fails to follow through and maintain the separation - down that road there is the ruin of the good effects intended by scriptural discipline.

"I wonder why the Bible tells us that Lot pitched his tent toward Sodom? Could be that He wants to say something about wrong tendencies." (Dee Bowman, That's Life, Christianity Magazine, Jan. 1987).

Conclusion

Conscious of the perishing nature of everything around us and our own immortality, we should want to be certain that every involvement and aspect of our lives is in accord with the will of God. My individual behavior, my marriage and family, the use of my resources, my citizenship in the nation and my citizenship in God's kingdom needs to be in harmony with what God's word teaches. Diligence in glorifying God means guarding carefully against the slightest change in attitude toward His Word, or any movement away from what we know pleases Him. Surely we have learned from the Old Testament that all wandering from God ends in disaster.

The legendary W.W. Otey often warned against "what he often spoke of as 'Trends' - tiny and apparently insignificant steps away from the truth." He said, "I think it may be safely said that no great departure from the teaching and practice of the Word of God was taken in a single step." His biographer, Cecil Willis, added: "In these initial steps are the only periods during which impending apostasy can be stemmed." {p.#279, W.W. OTEY: CONTENDER FOR THE FAITH 1964}.



Morality, the Government and Christians

By Doy Moyer

Moral statements and positions will, necessarily, impact political issues. This is not because morality is inherently political, but because government has the task of recognizing the difference between good and evil, so moral issues will have to be dealt with (**Rom 13:3-4**). This means that, contrary to what is so often stated and argued, morality will be legislated by government, and it will be legislated from a worldview that either recognizes the significance of God or not. To say that God needs to be kept out of politics, then, is to default to the secularized view of morality; and secularized morality will then be legislated. Why is it that people default to keeping God out of it instead of keeping the secularized views of reality out of it? And why do some Christians seem to be buying into all of this?

We need to see what has happened here. Many have bought into the notions that 1) God and religion must be kept out of politics, and 2) morality is not something that can be legislated. In fact, both are false. God is never out of politics, and we are fooling ourselves if we think so, given that God rules in the kingdoms of men. Every worldview says something about God. If a worldview says there is no God, then a notion of God is still a part of the position, and actions will be taken that demonstrate that disbelief. Further, every law is a legislation of morality in one form or another; there is no way around it. The question is, will the legislation come from those whose worldview respects God as the foundation or not?

The answer is always where it has been: in Christ. The problems of this world won't be fixed by human government, but by the gospel. "The kingdoms of earth pass away one by one, but the kingdom of heaven remains."

I don't say all of this in order to argue that Christians need to get more political. I'm arguing that Christians need to say more about God and morality in every area of life. We don't check our God at the door when we enter a political arena, and we don't set aside godly morals when we engage the culture. We don't take a moral view of something based on politics, but surely

our political views ought to be based on godly morality. The point then is not that we need more political activists. The point is that we need to be more engaged in the moral discussions of our culture and take a stand for what is right, regardless of political fallout. In other words, it's not about being political; it's about standing for what's right in the middle of a crooked and perverse generation.

Even more, we need to hold up the gospel itself to the world. The answer to our problems is not to vote in or out this or that politician. No government in history has been a bastion of godliness, and I don't expect that to change. The answer is always where it has been: in Christ. The problems of this world won't be fixed by human government, but by the gospel. "The kingdoms of earth pass away one by one, but the kingdom of heaven remains."

So Christians should be concerned with 1) holding out the gospel to a lost world, and 2) standing up for Christ and His morality. It's not politics. It's just what's right.

