

## Until...

By Matt Adams

I didn't appreciate my legs until I met a man who had none. I didn't appreciate my ability to walk until I met someone who couldn't. I didn't appreciate my ability to see until I met a blind man. I didn't appreciate my ability to hear until I met someone who couldn't. I didn't appreciate my lungs and ability to breathe on my own until I met someone who lost their ability to breathe without a machine. I didn't appreciate my healthy heart until I met people whose hearts were failing. I didn't realize I couldn't walk, my own lameness, until I finally let Jesus carry me; until He restored my legs, taught me to number my steps, and showed me how to walk properly. I didn't realize my blindness, until God opened my eyes through His holy Word; not until Jesus restored my sight, gave me new eyes to see, and illuminated my path and life. I didn't realize my deafness until God's word was spoken, not until Jesus Christ healed and tuned my ears to hear only Him and the words of God through His word.

I didn't realize my inability to breathe, my soul's gasping for air, until God's word gave me life; not until I made His word my soul's oxygen to permeate my life and live by. I didn't realize my heart was failing until it was broken by God's word, not until I realized my sins were causing my heart to die, not until I crawled to the Lord in humble obedience and He created in me a new heart. Not until God gave me a heart tuned to do His will through humble obedience to His word. I was dead in my sin until I finally put that old man in the grave and raised up with Christ in baptism to be transformed; to live and move and have my being in Him and in His ways. I have life, hope, and a home in heaven awaiting as long as I keep in His ways. What about you, friend? Are your feet lame, your eyes dim, your ears closed, your breath in dying gasps, your heart failing? Only God can give you life and allow you to fully function, will you come to the Great Physician?

### Classes This Week

<b>Sunday 5:15 PM</b> Kid's Class at the Building	<b>Sunday PM</b> College Devo and Singing at Jeremiah Johnson's. Adam Holiday speaking!	<b>Monday 7 PM</b> Men's Study at Walker Davis' House	<b>Tuesday 8 PM</b> Truth-seekers in Student Center Rm 2310
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Brad Marshall (Allie Hosey's Cousin)	Jesse Godwin (Troy's father and Mac's grandfather)	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	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)	Kate Miller (Daughter of Brandon and Erin Miller)
Betty Mcareavey (Mary Ann Roberts' mom)	Audrey Barnett (Joanetta's sister-in-law)	Betty Bradford	Hazel Gilliland and Sherry Carroll (Toni's relatives)
Tom Davis (Walker Davis' Uncle)	Joy Powell (Tori Luther's grandmother)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	William Smith (Ken Sullivan's brother)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	<b>William Herd</b>	Rebecca Davis (Chuck Hahn's Niece)	Ray Humphrey (Seth's dad)
John M. Rhodes and Bonnie Rhodes Kirkley (Toni Herd's family)	<b>Joe Perkins (Scott Perkin's Dad)</b>	Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephew)	Ellie Vaughn (Scott and Genna's baby)

### October Birthdays

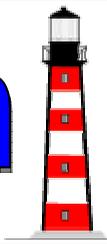
- 1-Jacob Smith
- 1-Aiden Hahn
- 3-Jennifer Hasty
- 3-James Malloy
- 4-Jordan Corneil
- 6-Jessica Anderson
- 7-Molly Borden
- 8-Heath Fowler
- 12-Stacy Norman
- 17-Abbie Harrison
- 18-Eric Shotts
- 20-Evan Pender
- 20-Keith Bailey
- 21-Zac Slay
- 22-Christopher White
- 22-Meredith Bragwell
- 24-Sara Beth Roberts
- 24-Suzanna Roberts
- 25-Bethany Bradford
- 26-Palmer Daniels
- 26-Esther Biddle
- 29-Belle Johnson
- 29-Matt Hall
- 29-Julie Britnell
- 29-Madi Luther
- 29-Stewart West
- 30-Caleb Gandy
- 31-Kitty Tam

### News and Notes

- Please continue to pray for Eleanor McKay as she receives chemo treatments in Bham.
- Please continue to pray for the Anderson family.
- Ada Owen's sister, Wanda Price, suffered a stroke affecting her eye sight in one eye. She has improved, but please continue to pray for her.
- We are thankful that Ariel Ramsay's uncle, Dan Hamilton, is better and able to go home after his car accident.
- Sheryl's friend's child, Jordan Alexander, was not able to have heart surgery on Thursday, but is to have it Monday.
- We rejoice that Kate Miller (daughter of Erin Pridmore Miller) has completed all her chemo treatments!
- We are thankful for the safe arrival of the Pender's new son, Garrett Melvin, born on Friday!
- Dave Johnson has identified with the University church!
- Continue to pray for Allen Davis, the grandfather of Matt Logins, as he recovers from surgery. Also pray for his wife, Marie as she care for him.

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 6, Issue 49

October 11, 2015

## Those Who Have No Right to Speak God's Word

By Andy Sochor



### Thoughts to Ponder

But to the wicked God says: "What right have you to declare My statutes, Or take My covenant in your mouth, (Psalm 50:16).

We sometimes hear celebrities, politicians, and other godless people quoting (or mis-quoting) the Bible. They often do so in an attempt to defend an unscriptural position (e.g. support for same-sex "marriage," opposition to the death penalty, etc.). When we hear them, we might think, "What business do they have in speaking about the Bible?" God asked the same type of question in the following text.

"But to the wicked God says, 'What right have you to tell of My statutes and to take My covenant in your mouth? For you hate discipline, and you cast My words behind you. When you see a thief, you are pleased with him, and you associate with adulterers. You let your mouth loose in evil and your tongue frames deceit. You sit and speak against your brother; you slander your own mother's son. These things you have done and I kept silence; you thought that I was just like you; I will improve you and state the case in order before your eyes' (Psalm 50:16-21).

There are certain ones who have no right to speak God's word. Let us notice who was identified in the text.

### Those Who Are Wicked

"The wicked" (Psalm 50:16) have no right to speak God's word. This does not mean that God intended for His word to be taught only by those who are sinlessly perfect. Only Jesus would fit this qualification (1 Peter 2:22; Romans 3:23). In speaking of the knowledge revealed by God through the gospel, Paul said, "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves" (2 Corinthians 4:7). The "earthen

vessels" to which Paul referred are those who would proclaim the gospel. God's design is for fallible human beings to proclaim God's infallible word.

However, there is a difference between one who occasionally sins and one who is given to sin. Some "walk in the darkness" while others "walk in the Light" (1 John 1:6-7). Those in the light should not think that they have not or could not sin (1 John 1:8, 10), but they are to make a diligent and consistent effort to keep from sin (1 John 2:1). This is important because the wickedness of a teacher can discredit the gospel message in the mind of the hearer. This is why Paul sought to give "no cause for offense in anything, so that the ministry will not be discredited" (2 Corinthians 6:3). Those who are wicked should not be proclaiming the righteous standard of God's word.

### Those Who Hate Discipline

As we noted in the previous point, God's word will be taught by fallible people. At times, any one of us may be guilty of sin or error and in need of correction. Apollos was "mighty in the Scriptures," but Priscilla and Aquila needed to "[take] him aside and [explain] to him the way of God more accurately" (Acts 18:24-26). Peter (Cephas) was an apostle; yet in Antioch, Paul "opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned" (Galatians 2:11). Solomon said, "A wise man in cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is arrogant and care-less" (Proverbs 14:16). Arrogance is a trait of one who continues in sin, even after being shown the truth.

Hating discipline is an indication that one is arrogant – he cannot see or refuses to see

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### 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

### E-Mail:

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his own sin. This is why those who “hate discipline” (**Psalm 50:17**) are unqualified to teach God’s word. God’s message is for the teacher just as much as it is for the hearer. This is why Paul wrote, “You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself?” (**Romans 2:21**). One cannot reprove and rebuke (**2 Timothy 4:2**) if he is not willing to apply that same standard to himself.

#### Those Who Cast Aside God’s Words

The responsibility of those who will “preach the word” is to do so “in season and out of season” (**2 Timothy 4:2**). To do this, one needs the attitude of David: “O how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day” (**Psalm 119:97**). Those who speak God’s word must do as Paul did – “declaring...the whole purpose of God” (**Acts 20:27**).

Sadly, many do not want to hear the gospel in its simplicity and entirety. Paul told Timothy, “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths” (**2 Timothy 4:3-4**). There will be teachers willing to teach what the people want to hear. But those who would “cast [God’s] words behind [them]” (**Psalm 50:17**) in this way are not servants of Christ. Paul wrote, “If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ” (**Galatians 1:10**). “Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God” (**1 Peter 4:11**). Those who refuse to do this are unfit to claim to speak for God.

#### Those Who View Sin Favorably

Jesus was “a friend of tax collectors and sinners” (**Matthew 11:19**), but that is not parallel to those who “associate with adulterers” in the context of this psalm (**Psalm 50:18**). Jesus ate with “tax collectors and sinners” in order to “call [them] to repentance” (**Luke 5:29-32**). Jesus did not condone their sin, but tried to lead them out of sin.

Those described in the psalm were not like Jesus. They were “pleased” with the sinful activity of the thieves and adulterers (**Psalm 50:18**). They condoned and supported sin, which is the opposite of what we should do. Paul wrote, “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (**Ephesians 5:11, KJV**). Those who view sin favorably have no right to speak God’s word.

#### Those Who Do Not Control Their Speech

There are a few sins of the tongue mentioned in our text – lack of control, deceit, and slander (**Psalm 50:19-20**). James wrote, “But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison” (**James 3:8**). When one’s speech is corrupt, it is an indication that his heart is corrupt. Jesus said, “But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile

the man. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders. These are the things which defile the man...” (**Matthew 15:18-20**). This is why those who do not control their speech are unfit to speak God’s word – their heart is not right.

Those who teach “will incur a stricter judgment” (**James 3:1**). This is manifested in two ways. First, teachers will receive closer scrutiny by others. Those who oppose the truth will often look for any little thing they can criticize in the teaching that is done by brethren. This is why Paul told Titus, “In all things, show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us” (**Titus 2:7-8**). Second, those who teach “will incur a stricter judgment” because they have a divine obligation to represent the truth accurately. Peter wrote, “Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God” (**1 Peter 4:11**). God will judge teachers for their teaching. For these reasons, those who are not careful with their speech can do more harm by teaching than they would by remaining silent.

#### Those Who Think That God Is Like Them

Finally, those who have no right to speak God’s word are those who think that God is “just like” them (**Psalm 50:21**). Many presume to know the mind of God based upon what is in their own mind. If something “seems right” (**cf. Proverbs 14:12**) to them, they assume that God will also see it as right. But we can only know what will please God by what He has revealed in His word. Paul wrote, “Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God” (**1 Corinthians 2:11-12**). Apostasy comes when men put themselves in the place of God (**2 Thessalonians 2:3-4**), equating their will with His will.

All of us need to recognize our place before God. Isaiah recorded, “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts’” (**Isaiah 55:8-9**). Those who teach must trust God’s word over their opinions (or the opinions of anyone else). God is not like man (**Numbers 23:19**) – we should be thankful for this because it gives us hope (**Malachi 3:6; 2 Peter 3:9**). Those who do not recognize their place before God and cannot see the difference between His word and their word have no right “to tell of [His] statutes” (**Psalm 50:16**).

#### Conclusion

The purpose of this article is not simply to condemn celebrities, politicians, and other godless people for misquoting and misapplying Scripture. It is also a call for us to examine ourselves (**2 Corinthians 13:5**). “You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself?” (**Romans 2:21**). All of us can (and should) teach in some capacity (**1 Peter 3:15**). Let us make sure we are qualified to do so.



# Nadab , Abihu, and the "Strange Fire"

By Tom Edwards

The Old Testament abounds with numerous examples that illustrate New Testament principles, such as in **Leviticus 10:1,2**, in which the lesson is taught that God will not accept just any kind of worship. It reads, “Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took their respective firepans, and after putting fire in them, placed incense on it and offered strange fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them. And fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord.” What was this “strange fire” they used? According to the text, it was simply a fire which God did not authorize--apparently, fire from another source.

On the Day of Atonement, Aaron was to take “a firepan full of coals of fire from upon the altar...and...put the incense on the fire” (**Leviticus 16:12,13**). And, as **Leviticus 6:12,13** shows, the fire was to be kept burning continually upon the altar. For Aaron to have, therefore, used some other source for fire, would have caused him to violate God's word just as Nadab and Abihu had done.

When the Lord specifies a certain way for something to be performed, He doesn't have to enumerate on all the ways in which it cannot be. For example, when God told Noah to build an ark using gopher wood, this automatically eliminated the use of any other kind. The Lord did not have to say, “And thou shalt not use hickory, cedar, cypress, walnut, maple,” and so.

This principle of “specific commands” is seen often in the Bible. Take, for instance, the unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine that are to be used in the Lord's Supper. By specifying these two elements--the former to represent Christ's body, and the latter to represent His blood--the use of anything else is automatically excluded. There-

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fore, to use something(s) in addition to, or in place of, would be to profane the communion.

Most people realize this and would find it sacrilegious to add cake and ice cream to the Lord's Supper or to substitute the fruit of the vine with Coke or Pepsi, but why can't they also see this with regard to the music the church is to use in worshiping God; It is to be a cappella, which is singing without the accompaniment of in-

strumental music. This is because God has specifically commanded His people to “sing” for this New Testament age and has never included authority for using instruments in worship (**Col. 3:16**). Though the use of such was commanded during the Mosaic Period, this is irrelevant to how we are to worship God during this Gospel Age in which we now live. Today it is just the instrument of the heart that is to accompany are singing in praise and worship to God (**Eph. 5:19**).

In **Leviticus 10:3** the implication is made that Nadab and Abihu did not honor God, nor treat Him as holy, because they chose to change God's plan and serve the Lord their own way. Do we ever see this happening today? Unfortunately, we do--and not just with instrumental music. Yet we do not have any more right to tamper with God's word in our time than those who lived during the age of Nadab and Abihu. We must search the Scriptures to learn of God's authority, and respect that authority by humbling submitting to it through obedience.

May this lesson of Nadab and Abihu help us to not make the same mistake of tampering with God's word--no matter how insignificant it might seem--realizing that if we want to truly honor and worship the Lord, we must do so His way and not our own.

