

## LACK: A MASTERFUL TEACHER

By Dennis Curd



To have the lack of anything is an uncomfortable spot to be in. For the most part it is simply an inconvenience. If we

run out of an ingredient for a recipe we simply run to the store to get it. At worst we simply modify our pans in preparing that item. We are rarely truly lacking in this country. However, the possibility of being without is very real. Many people throughout history have lived in abject poverty. Many, even very close to us, live in such situations today. Being without something important is a frightening thing.

The blessings which we enjoy everyday are from God. He doles them to us in a seemingly endless way. Even the wicked seem to have plenty. In this time of plenty the idea of ever being without is hard to imagine. But God warns that He will withdraw those blessings if sin becomes our ruler. Deuteronomy 28-30 clarifies the methods of God concerning blessings and cursings.

The blessings flow out from God when righteousness is displayed. The cursings reflect God's attitude toward any change from right living to rebellion. Such rebellion is met head-on by God with the retraction of those blessings and the resultant lack of the good things they produce. The purpose of the cursing it to bring about repentance. God promises a return to the

blessings if the causes of the cursings are replaced with righteousness (Deut. 30:1-3).

Whenever hard times loom on the horizon it is easy to wonder why it's happening. We hear so much about recession these days that it's easy to have a dismal perception of the future. If you are living right and everyone around you is living wrong you may suffer along with them. God wants us to learn from hard times. People's characters are formed in adversity much faster than in times of prosperity.

Prosperity and affluence have a numbing effect on important aspects of our lives. When all is well our deep spiritual growth is often not nearly as important to us as school, work, or vacation plans. Church activity is often far down the scale for our involvement. Perhaps if war or depression were to come our way, our newly found lack would teach us to pay attention to the more important things. What a terrible way to learn a lesson.

God gives us blessings because He loves us. He also allows adversity to come our way because He loves us. It's simply "tough love"; love that teaches by emphasizing the results of making bad choices.

When God instructs a nation in that way even the innocent are punished. Everyone will be instructed in the dangerous effects of rebellion to God's way. Let's learn to value the blessings of God so that that fearsome teacher "Lack" will not have to come to instruct our future course.



## ABC's of the Gospel

By Ben Bailey

Recently it has been advertised that to be saved one must meet the ABC's of the gospel. While it is true that the gospel plan of salvation is simple (Eph. 3:4), some are distorting what the ABC's of the gospel really are. Let me illustrate: in an advertisement received recently it was suggested that the ABC's of the gospel are: Acknowledge your sin (Rom. 3:23), Believe in Christ (Rom. 10:9), & Call on Jesus (Rom. 10:13). While these three steps are indeed necessary in the plan of salvation, to say they are the gospel plan of salvation in full is like saying the first three letters of the alphabet are the alphabet. So much is left out with this plan of salvation that it is a false gospel. Let me illustrate.

One of the key letters in the gospel alphabet that has been left out is the letter "R" for repentance. Jesus teaches us that we must not only acknowledge our sin but repent of it to be saved. When asked about certain people who seemed to be receiving the vengeance of God for their sins Jesus said, "Unless you repent you shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3). Peter told first century Christians to "repent and be converted..." (Acts 3:19). Repentance is an essential letter in the ABC's of the gospel that is left out by many.

Another importance letter in the ABC's of the gospel that is left out by so many in our religious world today is the letter "B" for baptism. All of us

agree that belief is an important step in the plan of salvation. However, the Lord made it very clear that baptism was just as essential to salvation as belief. Jesus Himself said, "He that believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mark 16:16). When asked how to relieve themselves of the sin of crucifying Christ, Peter told the crowd at Pentecost to "repent and be baptized every one of you for the remission of your sin..." (Acts 2:38). Peter later emphasized the essentiality of baptism when he said, "...baptism does now also save us" (1 Peter 3:21).

As we noted earlier one of the ABC's of the gospel that has been purported among us is the letter "C" for call on Jesus. We need to ask the question, "How does one call on Jesus biblically?" The answer is very clearly found in Acts 22:16. Ananias told Paul to "arise and be baptized and wash away your sins calling on the name of the Lord." How does one call on the name of the Lord biblically? One calls on the Lord's name by submitting to His will in baptism. Many miss the ABC's of the gospel and salvation itself because the leave out the essentiality of baptism.

Another letter that is left out of the ABC's of the gospel is the letter "F" for faithfulness. Not only must one initially become a child of God, but he must also remain faithful to be saved. Jesus said, "Be faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life" (Rev. 2:10). Jesus also said, "He that endures to the end shall be saved" (Matt. 10:22). Faithfulness is also an important step in the ABC's of the gospel.

Dear friends, the gospel plan of salvation is not a difficult plan to understand. It is simple like the alphabet, but we must not leave any letters out of the alphabet or the plan of salvation to be correct.

If you have been duped in the past by some who were not telling the full truth of the gospel, we would love to help you at the Rich Creek, Virginia Church of Christ. Call us or write to us and we would love to study with you about what the bible says about salvation.



*Cathy Durham*

8/29

*Debbie Jones*

09/04

*Connie Hill*

09/14

*Kari Hazelwood 09/13*

*Stacey Gates 09/21*

*Roger Hazelwood 9/22*

*Brandy Barnes 09/22*

*Russell Woodrum 09/24*

*Steve Mullins 09/25*

*Joyce Pauley 09/25*

*Jacob Adam 09/30*

Prayer List: **Cancer:** Kenneth Dunn; Rhonda Bogus; Rick Campbell; Debbie Boggs; Johnnie Blaylock Lewis Blaylock; Lowell Crumfield & Barbara Hill and; Tammy Hodges; Barbara Francis; Don Hill; Jeff Wiley Hamilton. **Health Problems:** Virgil Steele; Donald Rife; Eugene Holdren; Patricia Rotenbury; Steve and Pam Poorman's-daughter; Glenna Dempsey; Marlin Harles; Hazel Farr & JR Farr; Jean Walden; Kara Christian; Gary Durham; Arnold Dempsey; Ken McWilliams; Gene Booth; Wanda Rowe; Diane Haleston; Billy Myers; Zack Holland; Mini Mills; Larry Scott; Darlene Myers; Rex "Jimmy" Backus; Dosie Branscome & Katie Hensley. **Strokes:** Richard Clement; Amanda Lance. **Other:** Shelby Lindsey-fibromyalgia; Beth Kosinar-baby—needs intestinal surgery; Kenny Asbury-problems with his neck Kyle Hockenberry-recovering from military injuries; Gary Server—leg taken off. Betty Bailey-not eating; The Brooke family, Ken McWilliams friend Wolf - recovering from eye surgery; Hazel Asbury- torn area in stomach; Junior Taylor-is not doing well; Darrell Fletcher's Father-aneurysm in his brain; Emma Steele-recovering from knee surgery; Sharon Nonamaker-Bells Palsy; Elaine Rocchetti- surgery on broken arm; Sean Gunnoe-broken Collar bone; Travis Durham-back problem; Darla Pitzer-recovering from surgery on her finger. **Alzheimer's:** Zella England; Mary Lou Thomas, & Leo Hamby . **Nursing home:** Peggy Barie is in the Loving Hands Adult Care; Ethel Pitzer— Country View Assisted Living; **Military:** Zachary McConnell. **Sympathy:** Debbie Jones-uncle died.



**Sympathy!!!**

We would like to extend our sympathy to James & Christine Asbury and Steve Mullins. They suffered a loss of a family member. You are in our thoughts and prayers.



*Don & Phyllis*

*Davis 08/29*

*Ken & Pam*

*McWilliams*

09/02

*Johnny & Darla Pitzer 9/20*

*Mailing Address:*  
211 Church Street  
Rich Creek, VA 24147  
wwwjcd@exhorter.com

*Preacher:*  
Roger Hazelwood:  
Cell: 304-324-7799  
rlh90@comcast.net

*Services:*  
*Sunday:*  
Bible Study: 9:30 AM  
Worship: 10:30 AM  
Evening: 6:PM  
Wednesday: 6:PM

*Serving Communion:*  
Don Hill  
Don Davis  
Gary Jones

*Attendance:*  
August 21, 2011  
A.M. Worship -35  
P.M. Worship -26  
August 24, 2011  
Wednesday: 17

*Contribution: \$ 429.00*

*TV Programs on Sunday*  
*In Search of the Lord's*  
Way 7:30 am  
INSP Channel

*The Gospel of Christ*  
10:am CW Channel  
www.wvacofo.com

*Free Private Home :*  
Bible Studies & Lessons!  
Video Lessons & Tracts!  
www.exhorter.com



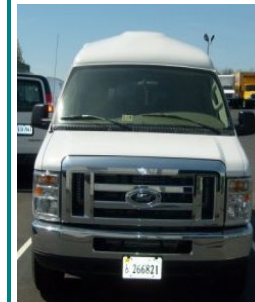
*Church of Christ*



© 2011 Phyllis Davis

*Exhorter*  
*August 28, 2011*

**Bank Loan**



Once again we would like to say Thank you to all of you for agreeing to purchase the 2008 Ford Handicapped van. It is nice not to have to worry about my old van breaking down, the bottom dragging and falling apart.

The van was financed through BB&T Bank of Rich Creek, Virginia. We financed \$31,000.00 for 48 months. The interest rate is 4.99 percent and the payment will be \$713.55 a month.

**← New Information**

To keep you more informed of our attendance and contribution we have chosen to report these items in our bulletin. Please look at the column on the left for this new information. Thank you for all you do to meet our financial obligations.

Reminder: Ladies Day at Rich Creek will be on September 24, 2011. Invite your friends and family.