



Antinomianism (Part 2)

Should We Obey God's Law?

Theologia

Sacra
by Tyler Greene

If you would like a response in the next issue, please send me an E-mail at

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Limit to approx. 100 words.

In the last article, we saw that antinomianism simply means lawlessness. Antinomianism takes on many forms. However, they all affirm that Christians no longer need to follow God's law as part of their obedience to him.

Christ-centered antinomianism says that we no longer need to follow the law because Christ has fulfilled it for Christians by his death and resurrection.

It is true that because of the work of Christ those who believe in him are counted righteous by faith apart from the law. However, it is wrong to conclude from this that we may then follow a life of unrepentant sin because Christ has fulfilled the law for us.

Paul addresses this in Romans 5:20 and 6:1 by saying, "Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased,

grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord... What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?"

The law, says Paul, came as a way to do two things: show our sin and show God's grace. However, he says that even though God's grace is shown in our sin, we are not to conclude that we should pursue lives of sin. The reason we cannot pursue sin is that through Christ we have died to it, meaning that we now serve Christ instead of sin. Serving Christ in this way means obeying his will, which is for us to be righteous.

John puts it this way in 1 John 3:4-7, "Everyone who makes a

practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous."

John says that everyone who makes a practice of sinning practices lawlessness. When he says, "makes a practice of sinning," he is referring to unrepentant sin. The word for lawlessness, here, is where we get the word antinomianism. He then continues by saying that no one who abides in Christ continues in unrepentant sin, or lawlessness (antinomianism). Those who are identified with Christ and his righteousness are characterized by per-

sonal righteousness. Not that they are sinless, but that they are striving after righteousness.

It is important for us to see that no one identified with Christ can be characterized as practicing lawlessness. John, here, has God's law in mind when speaking of lawlessness. From this we must conclude that God's law has a place in the lives of Christians. Those who refuse to follow God's law must be categorized as being lawless.

As Christians, we must trust in Christ and his righteousness for our salvation, not our own works. However, this does not mean that we should not follow God's law as part of our obedience to him as our savior. We need to see that it is not inconsistent to embrace Christ as our savior and God's law as our rule of life. In fact, this is what characterizes us as Christians.

Cav Baseball Eyes Championship

by Andrew Elder

The echo of pinging baseballs can be heard all around the Montreat College campus on a mid-afternoon, February day. It is the Spring Semester and the brink of the 2005 baseball season is just around the corner and this year's baseball team has something to prove.

The goal of winning a National Championship has been dancing around in the heads of the team since the first day of school. Junior pitcher Brandon Bradburn extended his thoughts on the subject, "I feel we should fall nothing short of a Conference Championship."

The 2003-2004 season brought success for the Cavaliers as they finished 41-12 and second in

conference, and ranked as high as 12th in the nation. Head coach Travis Little took over after Darin Chaplain left with a 0-4 record. The Cavaliers went on to lose only eight of the remaining 49 games the rest of the season.

The Cavaliers' season ended when they lost in the Regionals. "It was a bittersweet ending," coach Little stated. "It was a blessing being there after a wonderful season that we had, but only having two-thirds of the team being able to play was disappointing," coach Little stated. Injuries and a food poisoning incident during the tournament prevented one-third of the team from participating.

Keeping players seems to be the

biggest challenge for Montreat as 11 people decided to not come back this season. Coach Little had a busy summer trying to fill in the holes. In an attempt to bring in experienced talent, coach Little went to junior colleges, evaluated who was interested in transferring to the team, and looked at high school ranks.

"Losing the incredible group of seniors that we had last year, who not only brought talent to the field, but also brought leadership, is difficult. The process of replacing great players with great players isn't just necessary, but as a coach it's a natural process."

The goal of this year's squad is to go further than last season. This would mean winning the Regionals

and advancing to the Super Regionals for "the first time in school history," according to Little.

Coach Little and the rest of his staff, including assistant coach Mike Bender and pitching coach Matt Hochevar, hope to travel to The National Championship in Lewiston, Idaho from May 27 to June 3, 2005.

Coach Little explains to the team that he wants them "to feel goose bumps," when thinking about stepping up to the plate in Lewiston. "I want them to develop such a desire to be at the College World Series that it controls all of their actions in practice. I want it to feel as if I reached in and squeezed their heart."

The first step in proving that Montreat Baseball belongs in the National Championship starts this coming weekend with their Conference opening series with King College on Friday and Saturday in Bristol, Tennessee.

As the pinging of new baseballs echo off the Montreat mountains, each ball represents a step closer to the team's goal of flying to Idaho in late May to represent their school, community, and family in the National Championship.

What's up?

Montreat Happenings

Tara Leigh Cobble
Gaither Fellowship Hall
Thu 24 Feb, 8-10pm, free

Hike Night
Sun 27 Feb

Asheville Pizza and Brewery
Thu 17 Mar

Music

Tift Merritt & the Carbines
The Orange Peel
Fri 18 Feb, 8pm
\$12 advance \$14 door

Toots & the Maytals
The Orange Peel
Thu 17 Mar, 8pm
\$18 advance \$20 door

Dance

Friday Night Dance
Asheville Ballroom & Dance
Fri 18 Feb, 8-10:30pm
www.ashevilleballroom.com

Old Farmer's Ball Contra Dancing
Bryson Gym, Warren Wilson
Every Thu, 8pm, \$5
www.oldfarmersball.com

Theatre

Hush: An Interview with America
Carol Belk Theatre, UNCA
Wed 23 Feb - Sun 27 Feb, 8pm,
\$10 general \$5 students

Other

Black Mountain Marathon and Mt. Mitchell Challenge
Lake Tomahawk
Sat 26 Feb, 7pm
blackmountainmarathon.com