

# **The Old Hickory Bulletin**

## *Old Hickory Church of Christ*

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## **My Mission Field**

My mission field is not necessarily a thousand miles away in a country that does not speak our language. We must recognize that our mission field is where we are at any given moment in time.

If we are on the job, or in a crowded mall, or at a stadium watching an event, and even in the quiet solitude of a closet, we are in our mission field.

Every time we go through a door, our mission field moves with us. Hopefully we leave a little residue of our efforts upon others. For after all, our mission is to plant the seed, and God is the one that will produce the fruit.

Our mission field is in the pew at church, and in the parking lot. Our mission field is in the home as we teach and admonish our mates and children to seek God more diligently.

Our mission field is on the bus, or in the taxi, or on any mass transit vehicle. Our mission field is outside and can be performed while we do yard or housework. Our mission field is found the other side of this computer screen as we offer websites and other study aids to others.

Who is the recipient of our mission? Many benefit from our efforts to fulfill our mission. God is glorified, Christ is exalted, the Holy Spirit's work is accomplished, the church grows, the saved are encouraged and edified, and the lost see their sin and turn from it. But when we consider the question of who benefits the most, it is probably ME.

My job as a servant or child of God is to do what God asked me to do. God asked me to evangelize. God did not ask me to baptize, preach in a pulpit, or any other specific commands. God asked me to tell others the good news of salvation. God asked me to share the hope within me to any who might ask (1 Peter 3:15). I benefit NOW when I put forth the effort (whether results are apparent or not) and I know that I will benefit later, as God commends me with the words "well done thou good and faithful servant".

What is most obvious is that if I fail to share the good news with anyone who will listen, I know that I have possibly deprived someone of the hope of salvation.

(Hebrews 12:15) With such a grand mission before us, why shirk our duty?

Every child of God is a priest and teacher of the law (1 Peter 2:9). We just need to find a way to convince them of their duty and get them involved.

- Carey Scott

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## THE WORLD'S PERCEPTION OF THE CHURCH

The world in general knows little about the collective activities of the Lord's church. Most of the world has rarely, if ever, even visited in the assemblies of the local church and learned first-hand how local churches worship, how they study the Scriptures, and how they conduct the work that the Scriptures assign to them. It should not be surprising then that the world's conception of the Lord's church is often misguided and full of misconceptions. The suggestion that the church is a cult is a good illustration of

such misunderstanding. Further, as long as the world gathers its information about the churches of Christ from second-hand sources who are misinformed or prejudiced against the church, the world will continue to know little about the church that belongs to Christ.

The principal avenue through which the world learns about the church is through the lives of the saints; therefore, woe is unto us if we are not the salt of the earth! We must be open to the inquiries of the world and be ready to give a correct answer to the questions asked concerning the Lord's church (1 Pet. 3:15,16) and the hope that is in us. We need to encourage people to ask questions and then give them Scriptural answers when they do ask. At the same time, our conduct of life must be befitting of the gospel, the doctrine of Christ (Phil. 1:27-30; 2 Jno. 9). "Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation" (1 Pet. 2:11,12). We can encourage questions by our comments and by the way we answer questions in directness and meekness. Perhaps we need to give more thought to learning how to provoke questions and stir up interest.

After all, who can better answer questions about the Lord's church than the Lord's church itself? If you wanted to get accurate information about a Baptist church, would you ask a Methodist or a Baptist? If you wanted to learn the rules of basketball, would you ask a golfer or read an official basketball rule book? We must, by a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures, equip ourselves for the upholding and defense of the truth (2 Tim. 2:15; Phil. 1:7-17). The Scriptures are our source of information, our standard of faith and practice, our basis of making judgments and decisions, our blueprint for building our lives, and our appeal in times of controversy. "Thus saith the Lord" is ever our answer and is never out of step with the times or the lives of the saints. We stand on solid ground when we can rightly and accurately preface our remarks and responses with "The Bible says..."

In conclusion then, what can we do to help people to perceive the truth about the church of Christ? We can continually encourage them to "come and see" for

themselves (Jno. 1: 46). We can insist that they examine what we do and teach by the New Testament. We can show them by our conduct what it means to be a saint. We can continue to worship God earnestly "In Spirit and in Truth," and we can continue to serve others in righteousness and true and honorable conduct. We can put God first in our lives and put our faith and trust in Him.

-By Gilbert Alexander

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## ***Can We See The Bible Alike?***

Moses said we could (Deut. 29:29). David said we could (Ps. 119:104). John said we could (Jn. 20:30,31). Jesus prayed that we might (Jn. 17:20). All of these spokesmen for God have declared that through study of the Scriptures we are enabled to see them alike.

There are some things that ***HINDER*** a clear understanding of the Bible:

- Relatives (Matt. 19:29; 10:34-37)
- Pride (Prov 14:12; 16:18; Rev. 3:17-18)
- Majority opinion (Ex. 23:2; Matt. 7:13-14,21)
- False doctrines (Matt. 13:14-15; 2 Thess. 2:9-12)
- Satan (2 Cor. 4:3-4)

If we will accept only the word of God (1 Pet. 4:11), we would not only see the Bible alike, but understand and practice it alike (1 Cor. 1:10).

- *Johnny Polk*

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> "He who permits himself to tell a lie once, finds it much easier to do it a second and third time, till at length it becomes habitual: he tells lies without attending to it, and truths without the worlds' believing him." - Thomas Jefferson

- "There is a tendency for people to credit themselves with their own successes, but to blame God for their failures."
  - "You won't find many rules for success that work unless you do."
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**SUNDAY'S LESSONS:** Sunday morning: *"Seeking The Truth From The Master!"* (text: Isa. 55:6-7); Sunday evening: *Jesus Christ: A Closer Look – Kingdom Truths for the Disciples!* (Mark 4:21-41).