

# **The Old Hickory**

## **Bulletin**

### **Old Hickory Church of Christ**

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## ***"The Lord Be With You"***

“Be with us,” we entreat the Lord in our prayers. “God be with you ‘til we meet again,” we bless in our singing. These are heart-felt sentiments with Biblical foundations from long ago.

*“The Lord be with you!”* That’s what Saul said to David before the young man went out to meet the giant. It was a blessing invoked that involved the Lord’s presence and power. Years later, a then elderly David uttered the same blessing to Solomon before the latter built the temple. He said, *“Now, my son, may the Lord be with you”* (1 Samuel 17:37; 1 Chronicles 22:11).

Before Israel crossed over the Jordan into Canaan, Moses told the people, *“When you go out to battle against your enemies,... do not be afraid of them; for the Lord your God is with you.”* Before Joshua led them into the land, the Lord Himself said to the leader, *“Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go”* (Deuteronomy 20:1; Joshua 1:9).

When “*the Lord is with you*” in your endeavors, you are guaranteed success in whatever you do. To Gideon the Angel of the Lord declared, “*The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor*” (Judges 6:12); and we all know what Gideon (with the Lord “*with*” him) was able to do with his small band of men.

There is nothing to indicate, however, that the blessing of “*the Lord is with you*” is an unconditional one. To the contrary. When the prophet of God went out to greet the highly successful king Asa of Judah, he declared, “*The Lord is with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you*” (2 Chronicles 15:2). Note the use of the words, “while” and “if.” Nowhere is the Lord’s “being with” someone guaranteed when that person trusts in himself rather than in the Almighty.

The blessing of which we speak is repeated often in the New Testament of Jesus Christ. “*Now the God of peace be with you all,*” Paul told the Romans (15:33). He ended his second letter to the church at Thessalonica with the words, “*The Lord be with you all*” (3:16). It is a blessing we would do well to utter upon our fellow disciples, and that more often than perhaps we do. Yes, we do well to pray for and to sing about such.

Still yet, however, the blessing of God’s presence remains a conditional one. Listen to the apostle Paul to the Philippians: “*The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you*” (4:9). If God is going to be with us we are going to have to pattern our lives after the “*apostles’ doctrine,*” i.e., “*the doctrine of Christ*” (Acts 2:42; 2 John 9). Or as James succinctly puts it, “*Draw near to God and He will draw near to you*” (4:8). May each of us live our lives in submission to the Son of God that the blessing of His presence might be ours.

- Mike Noble

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# We Are As We Think

All of our actions first originate in our mind. Proverbs 23:7 says, "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he." We are what we think. Those who think on evil things become evil just as those in Noah's day. "Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5). Those who think evil, do evil. "For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be" (Romans 8:5-7). The sinful things that people say and do originate in the mind. "For those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man" (Matthew 15:18).

But how can our thinking be used for us to live a godly life so we can go to heaven? "Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against you" (Psalms 119:11). By studying God's word and making it part of our life we will "sanctify the Lord God in your hearts" (1 Peter 3:15). By doing this we will "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" (Matthew 6:33). For us to go to heaven we must, "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:2).

We must purify our hearts for, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8). How do we purify our hearts so we can go to heaven? "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think

on these things" (Philippians 4:8). As we think on pure and holy things our lives will be righteous. We will "not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2) as we study God's word. Jesus says, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:37). If we do this we will obey all that God commands and one day be with Him in heaven.

- Ron Boatwright

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A country preacher went to a farmer in his church and asked, "If you had two farms, would you be willing to give one farm to God?" "Yes," replied the farmer. "I only wish I were in a position to do it." The preacher persisted, "If you had \$20,000, would you give \$10,000 to the Lord's work?" The farmer replied, "Yes, I'd love to have that kind of money! I'd gladly give \$10,000 to the Lord's work." Then the preacher sprung his trap: "If you had two pigs, would you give one to the Lord's work?" The farmer blurted out, "That's not fair! You know I've got two pigs!"

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**SUNDAY'S LESSON:** Sunday morning: Guest speaker is Chris Benson.

**SINGING SUNDAY NIGHT:** Our regularly scheduled bi-monthly song service is set for Sunday night at 5 p.m.