

The Old Hickory

Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

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THE NEW TESTAMENT: THE FINAL WORD!

The essential authority of the New Testament is obtained from the authority of Christ Himself. Christ exercised His authority in His teaching and delegated His authority in teaching to His specially chose Apostles. The New Testament documents are the record of the Apostles' witness to Christ and the teaching they imparted in His name.

Jesus PROMISED all truth to the Apostles: Jesus Christ promised that the complete message from God to man, "all truth," would be given to His Apostles. "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you **all** things, and bring to your remembrance **all** that I said to you." (John 14:26). There was not one portion of God's will for man that was not included in the message they received, which distinctly fitted them to authoritatively preach the gospel and to leave the written records of the New Testament. Jesus also said, "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into **all** the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come." (John 16:13). We must consider the Lord's promise to His Apostles as reliable: they

would be given the entire, whole totality of the message God has for men. They were not left with partial or incomplete revelation, but “all truth!”

The Apostles RECEIVED all truth: Just as Jesus had promised, the Holy Spirit was revealing truth to the Apostles. Peter said, “seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness...” (2 Pet. 1:3). Everything necessary to live a godly life was given to them. The Apostle Paul spoke of the gospel being revealed when he said, “which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;” (Eph. 3:5). Paul also said of his authoritative teaching, “For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.” (1 Cor. 2:10). Without question, the Apostles received “all truth,” just as Jesus had promised.

The Apostles DELIVERED all truth: Paul instructed Timothy, “The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” (2 Tim. 2:2). The things which Timothy had heard from Paul were confirmed by others who had seen and heard and know. The fact that this teaching was to be entrusted, calls serious attention to the obligation and commitment to preservation and safekeeping. It was to be preserved and kept by faithful men, men with just motives, worthy of trust, who would, with steadfast loyalty, understanding and diligence, firmly adhere to the teaching and command others to do the same. The Apostles never expected future teachers to produce new or different teachings. Deviations were never authorized. There would be no “progressive revelation” after the Apostles were gone. As a matter of fact, during the Apostolic age, Jude 3 stated in regard to “the faith,” “... I felt the necessity to write

to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.” (Jude 3). Finality is understood by the expression “once for all.” The permanent authority of truth is understood in the fact that it was faithfully “handed down.” What the Apostles were promised, they received and delivered to others, who were faithful in passing it on to still others.

We HAVE all truth: Just as Peter said, “everything pertaining to life and godliness” is ours in the pages of the New Testament. We can confidently affirm in possession of the New Testament, that we indeed have “**all** truth.” There is no additional truth left for anyone to receive. For any man to claim that he has new or additional revelation from God puts him in contradiction to the sacred Scriptures. Any man, religious or otherwise, can verbally claim such a thing, but doing so shows them as unfaithful men who are not worthy trust (cf. 2 Tim. 2:2); they have not retained the “standard of sound words” (2 Tim. 1:13).

All truth has been available for quite some time. Consider the admonition of Paul to Timothy: “You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.” (2 Tim. 3:14-17). The New Testament is final. We become perfected in life and godliness when we heed its teaching. Can we help you love truth today?

- GFS

> Half our life is spent trying to find something to do with the time we have rushed through life to save. - Will Rogers

- > To have a right to do a thing is not at all the same as to be right in doing it.
 - > The armor of God is awkward apparel for armchairs.
 - > The devil doesn't care how many Bibles are sold, but how many are READ.
 - > *"The only way to keep a broken vessel full is to keep it always under the tap."* - Billy Sunday
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SUNDAY'S LESSONS: Sunday morning: *"What The Resurrection Declares!"* (text: 1 Cor. 15:1-9); Sunday evening: Our bi-monthly Singing!

SCHEDULE: Our Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 20-24, 7:00 PM, with Dwayne Gandy as our guest speaker. Our Fall Gospel Meeting is scheduled for Sept. 18-23, with Eric Reynolds.