

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

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Let The Bible Be Your Guide!

We have nothing to offer but the word of God. We have no Catechism, no Manual, no Confession of Faith; in short, no creed book of any kind but the Bible. If someone were to ask a member of the church, "What do you believe?" he would hand him a copy of the Bible! If the question were more specific, then the Bible would be opened to those passages that deal with that particular problem.

Our plea to each of you is, let the Bible be your guide. There probably has never been a time in modern history when the need for a return to the Bible has been more critical. There is religious division on every hand. Confusion abounds and honest, sincere people don't know which way to turn. A prophet in the Old Testament cried, "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jer. 10:23). Man can fly to the moon and walk on the ocean floor, but he lacks the ability

to find his way to heaven. How desperately we need to open our Bibles and let the Lord tell us what is right.

It would be incorrect to say that the Bible is a guide. The reason? The Bible is THE guide! There is no other! 2 Tim. 3:16-17 tells us that “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” This passage either states the truth or it does not. If it does not, then the Bible is not reliable. If it does state the truth, then the Bible is all any person needs to go to heaven because it will make him perfect and completely furnish him to all good works!

And so we plead, let the Bible be YOUR guide.

- Aude McKee

Prejudiced Against The Bible

While serving as our ambassador to France, Benjamin Franklin joined a literary society. Such societies were common and numerous in France, but they were filled with infidels. Urged on by his quaint sense of humor, Mr. Franklin joined the most prominent of these societies. It was the custom of this group to have each member write an original story to be read to the society and then have the members criticize the story. Mr. Franklin copied by hand the French translation of the entire book of Ruth from the Bible.

He met with the society at the appointed time and anxiously awaited the time for him to read his story. In warm and sympathetic tones he read this great love story.

For a few minutes there was absolute silence, as the audience sat under the spell of the beautiful love story. Then some member began to applaud. When the chairman of the meeting said that it was the only perfect love story the world had ever heard, the society requested permission to print it.

Mr. Franklin then said: "This story has already been printed and given to the world. You will find it in the Bible: the book you profess to despise, but about whose contents you apparently know so little."

- Bob Buchanon

It's Wise to Fear God!

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding" (Proverbs 9:10). Can any person be really wise and not reverence the true and living God? The Mighty Creator of all things and Giver of every good and perfect gift, Who stretched out the heavens, laid the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him! (Zechariah 12:1) We are His offspring. He framed man's body and created him in His own image by giving him an immortal soul. We all depend on God for life and everything to sustain it. "For in Him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28).

But even more significant, He gave His only begotten Son to be sacrificed on the cross as an offering for our sins. "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him "(2 Corinthians 5:21). It is through

Christ's redeeming blood that we can come unto God and have our sins all forgiven. Friend, this pardon takes place when a believer in Christ, who has repented of his sins, is baptized into Him. Ananias instructed Saul, a penitent believer, to "arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16).

Also we should remember that God will call each of us to a great day of judgment. "God will judge the secrets of men by my Gospel" (Romans 2:16). In view of the greatness and goodness as well as the justice of God, how foolish is the person who will not give the profound respect and obedience due Him.

Even though God has manifested awesome works, most men do not really fear Him. This was true of Israel of old. They showed their lack of respect by turning from Jehovah to worship the idols of their heathen neighbors. Their disloyalty, immorality, indifference, and self-satisfaction brought them captivity. "But this people has a defiant and rebellious heart; they revolt and departed" (Jeremiah 5:22).

Today, God continues to show great power in providing material and spiritual blessings, yet the attitude of most people toward serving Him has not changed. Amazingly, we see more evidence of fear of men than fear of God. Often decisions in life are made by whether or not they will bring the praise and approval of our fellowman. Frequently there is compromise of principle to avoid man's censure and displeasure. Apparently most do not consider displeasing God as very serious. This is just the reverse of what one's attitude should be. Jesus said, "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both body and soul in hell" (Matthew 10:28). God's sovereignty and authority should cause us all to bow with reverential awe. Our fear should be more that of not wanting to

offend such a Holy One by disobedience, rather than a feeling of dread and terror.

The wise course for our lives is to commit our hearts to trusting and pleasing God. "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33). Life without God has no real meaning and is destined for damnation. "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether it is good or whether it is evil." (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14). Indeed, it is wise to fear God.

-- Huey Hartselle

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SUNDAY'S LESSONS: Sunday morning: "*A Call To Prayer!*" (text: 1 Tim. 2:1-8); Sunday evening: "*A Call To Unity!*" (1 Cor. 1:10).