

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

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Who Wrote the Bible?

Down through the years there have been those who have doubted the inspiration of the Bible. There are those who look upon the Bible as being nothing more than a dead letter, or some fable, or a group of fables that have been passed on from generation to generation. Others feel that the Bible is but a part of the revelation that is from God, and so and so on. Many who hold these views claim to be of God, but such automatically places them in the category of the modernist or even the infidel.

In considering this question we can be sure that certain men did not have a part in writing the Bible. For instance, we know that the infidel did not write the Bible inasmuch as the Bible condemns such an individual. We read: "*The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God.*" (Ps. 14:1). Again, we know that the modernist did not write the Bible

in that the Bible upholds the virgin birth of Christ, etc. (Matt. 1:18-25). We also know that a denominationalist did not write the Bible because the word reveals that there is but one true church. Paul stated in his day that there was but one body, or one church. (Eph. 4:4; Col. 1:18). Then too, we know that a Catholic did not write the Bible in that the scriptures nowhere suggest that Peter was ever Pope, or even came near to being the Pope of the church. On the contrary, the Bible teaches that Christ is the head of the church and is the Savior of the body. (Eph. 5:23). Now we know that these individuals, and many others, did not write the Bible, or have part in writing the Bible, or else they would have penned it to suit their own doctrine, or doctrines. At any rate, we know that such individuals would not have condemned themselves by their own writings. Think seriously about these statements.

If the people mentioned did not write the Bible then who did? Well, the answer is very simple. The Bible itself reveals that inspired men of God took part in this great work. Peter tells us: "*Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*" (2 Pet. 1:21). Then the apostle Paul said: "*All scripture is given by the inspiration of God.*" (2 Tim. 3:16). Hence, the Bible is from God. Since such is true, then it is a holy or divine book. The scripture nowhere contradicts itself, but rather agrees, even though a number of inspired men had part in penning, it.

- J. C. Choate

The Obligation of the Redeemed

A wealthy man who was high bidder for a slave said to him, "I have paid \$300 for you in order to set you free. You have been redeemed." The grateful slave fell at the feet of his redeemer and declared, "I will serve you faithfully the rest of my life." This story vividly portrays what redemption from the slavery of sin should mean to a redeemed child of God.

In Tit. 2:14, we read that Christ "gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." This verse points out beautifully the obligation of the redeemed, and should inspire each of us to sing truthfully and with genuine joy, "I want to be a worker for the Lord."

The greatest need of Americans - and the world - today is to be made to realize that they are in bondage to sin (1 John 5:19). Our own America has become a vast moral disaster area. The greatest opportunity in the world today is that of making known by the church God's wonderful plan of salvation from sin. So, the best thing the church can do today is stop trying to "improve" on God's plan and "get in" on it. We do not need "better plans on file," we need "better Christians on fire."

We are living in a shallow society where "country club Christianity" makes it extremely difficult to establish

(even sometimes, renew) true faith, worship and godly living. It appears that the devil is no longer persecuting Christianity in America, he is "professing" it. He is not fighting us, he is joining us in his deceitful work (2 Cor. 2:11; Revelation 20:23). This serves to magnify the obligation of the redeemed.

What can the redeemed do when almost everyone we meet claims some sort of church connection? To meet the great challenge some of our brethren have come up with the idea that if we have enough members, money, methods and means we can win the world. Massive, globe-circling campaigns and other such tactics have started a more devastating fire in the Lord's church than Samson's three hundred foxes started among the Philistines (Judges 15:4,5).

God does not work that way. He is in the "remnant business" and always has been. It has always been the "few" that God could depend upon to do his will. Therefore, the obligation of the redeemed becomes a personal obligation for each child of God redeemed from sin as well as a collective one for the church (Mt. 25:21, 23, 31-46).

We who are redeemed from sin have the greatest message to tell that will ever be heard by the world. Let there be kindled within our hearts a bright, new flame of sacred love for the lost, and let us tune our lips to sing of His saving grace. The gospel of Christ is still the "power of God" to save the lost (Rom. 1:16).

- Kelton Whale

The Real Test

It is always easier to walk with the crowd, to agree when everyone else is agreeing, to go with the flow. However, it is how we stand when we have to stand in opposition that is often the real test of our faith in God.

"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (Ephesians 6:11).

To be a true Christian means to oppose evil. To stand with Christ often means to stand against people and ideas that are set against Him. While a Christian is to be patient and loving, he or she is not to be passive. A Christian is a soldier in a war.

Christ displayed such a character. While He was meek and gentle, He could also be aggressive and bold: *"I tell you, no: but unless you repent you will all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3). "For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men..." (Mark 7:8). "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves" (Matthew 23:15).*

It was not that Jesus was trying to be offensive, but in standing for what was right it was necessary for Him to oppose certain beliefs, teachings, and even people. It

was necessary to tell people what they needed to hear rather than what they wanted to hear.

Some religious people who claim to follow Christ are not willing to oppose anything or anybody. They believe the way of Christ dictates a totally positive approach where one never challenges any belief or practice, even if it is in clear opposition to the way of Christ.

How much do you believe in God? How much do you trust the Bible as God's word? How convinced are you that Jesus is God's Son? How committed are you to the Bible's standard of righteousness? If you are truly faithful to God and firm in your devotion to His will, then you must stand against whatever opposes these things.

It is easy to speak up for Christ when others are doing the same. The real test, though, comes when we must speak for Him when others are speaking against Him or His word. *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind"* (II Timothy 1:7).

- Phillip Mullins

THIS WEEK'S LESSONS: Sunday morning: *"The Greatest Commandment!"*(text: Matt. 22:34-40); Sunday evening: *What Love Will Do!*