

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

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WHAT SOME HAVE BECOME!

What a shame to see what some have become in this life. Many of these had an outstanding life but to their shame they went off into sin:

1. DAVID BECAME AN ADULTERER, 2 Samuel 11-12. When Nathan told David, "Thou art the man." Think how bad David must have felt. This was not for some good that David did, but for the evil he did with Bathsheba and her husband. David could not undo this situation, but you can keep from getting into such sins. Keep yourself pure!

2. LOT BECAME A DRUNKARD, Gen. 19. Read the text and see what terrible things Lot did when he was drunk. How he would have loved to go back and not have done those things. The only way one can keep from doing foolish things while drinking is to determine not to drink.

3. ACHAN BECAME A THIEF, Joshua 6-7. Achan was like Eve in the beginning; he saw, he coveted and he took. We need to be careful what we allow ourselves to see, covet and take. Achan died for his theft. Hell is the ultimate end of those who steal.

Others turned to righteousness and to their glory they became something! These individuals once lived in sin but turned from sin to God and really became heroes of the faith.

1. ABRAHAM WAS OBEDIENT TO GOD, Genesis 22. God told him to offer his son Isaac and Abraham obeyed God. Would you not love to be in Abraham's position today? In eternity the only way we can stand pleasing before God is if we have lived obedient to Him on earth.

2. JOB HELD ON TO HIS INTEGRITY, in the book of Job. All the difficulties of Job's life did not turn him from seeking to please God. Too many are ready to drop righteousness for a handful of nothing, but not Job. He held on through it all. Will you? You will become something.

3. PAUL BECAME A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST, 1 Cor. 11:1. Paul encourages us to follow Christ as he did. This should be our goal in life. It certainly was Paul's and there has not been a man held in higher esteem than is Paul to this day. If you follow Christ, you shall be honored.

WHAT HAVE YOU BECOME? One can change! You can change from being evil to being good or you can change from being good to being bad. You have the power of your influence in your hands. You can help others to be good or bad, it all depends on what you are! You are going to amount to something. Is it going to be worthwhile or will the Lord say of you "it had been good for that man if he had not been born", Matt. 26:24? How much better if the Lord can say to you, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord." Matt 25:21. Thank God for The Cross and His Word that can help us to become righteous.

- Stan L. Caldwell

NECROMANCY

Necromancy is the practice of communicating with the dead. Psychics, mediums, and fortune-tellers claim the ability to summon departed spirits. John Edward, star of the supposedly nonfiction television series "Crossing Over with John Edward" deceived his audience by claiming to conjure the dead. Scripture tells the truth.

God Most High told His people Israel, "There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to Jehovah, and because of these abominations Jehovah your God drives them out from before you. You shall be blameless before Jehovah your God" (Deuteronomy 18:10-13). Necromancy is here described by God as an abomination, no different than human sacrifice. No one is blameless who so practices.

The singular instance of successful necromancy recorded in scripture reveals the fallacy of such a dark art. King Saul played the hypocrite when, having lost favor with God, he sought the services of the very mediums he once outlawed (1st Samuel 28:3-8). The witch at En Dor conducted a séance as requested by the incognito monarch, but was terrified that it worked! "The woman said, 'Whom shall I bring up for you?' And he said, 'Bring up Samuel for me.' When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice. And the woman spoke to Saul, saying, 'Why have you deceived me? For you are Saul!'" (1st Samuel 28:11-12). Were she not a fraud, successfully conjuring the spirit of the dead prophet would have brought her no surprise, but she was a deceiver, and no one knew it better than herself. It took the direct action

of God to make it happen on this one occasion in order to teach Saul a lesson.

The notion that the dead communicate with the living is refuted in Jesus' account of the rich man and Lazarus when Abraham rejected the rich man's plea to send dead Lazarus to his five surviving brothers (Luke 16:19-31). The only real way to speak from beyond the grave is to leave a worthy legacy, as did Abel (Hebrews 11:4).

- Bryan Matthew Dockens

PLEASE PONDER THIS ...

"It is better to be divided by truth than to be united in error. It is better to speak the truth that hurts and then heals, than falsehood that comforts and then kills. It is not love and it is not friendship if we fail to declare the whole counsel of God. It is better to be hated for telling the truth than to be loved for telling a lie.

"It is impossible to find anyone in the Bible who was a power for God who did not have enemies and was not hated. It's better to stand alone with the truth than to be wrong with a multitude. It is better ultimately to succeed with truth than to temporarily succeed with a lie."

(Adrian Rogers)

THE BLIND OF SOUL

“Show me your God!” the doubter cries.

I point him out the smiling skies;

I show him all the woodland greens;

I show him peaceful sylvan scenes;

I show him winter snows and frost;

I show him waters tempest-tossed.

I show him hills rock-ribbed and strong;

I bid him hear the thrush’s song;

I show him flowers in the close -

The lily, violet, and rose.

I show him rivers, babbling streams;

I show him youthful hopes and dreams;

I show him stars, the moon, the sun;

I show him deeds of kindness done;

I show him joy, I show him care,

And still he holds his doubting air,

And faithless goes his way, for he

Is blind of soul, and cannot see!

- John Kendrick Bangs

THIS WEEK'S LESSONS: Sunday morning: "*The Moral Revolution!*" (text: John 17:14-18); Sunday evening: "*PROVERBS: The Book of Practical Wisdom!*"

SCHEDULE: Our Fall Gospel Meeting will be July 28 – Aug. 2, Sun. regular times, M-F at 7:00 p.m., with Tanner Campbell, of Piggott, AR.