

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

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WHY I ATTEND BIBLE CLASSES

1. In the Bible classes the word of God is taught. I am in need of all the knowledge that I can gain concerning God's holy will. The principals that will make me what God wants me to be are in the Bible.

2. I go to the Bible classes because the things which I learn there help me to become a better person in every relationship of life. I am made a better partner in my family, a better friend to my fellowman, and a better citizen of my country when I walk in the way of my Lord.

3. The Bible classes are worthy to me because they help me to become more useful in the service of God. Whatever ability I may possess has been granted to me from the Almighty, and the work of the Bible school helps me to increase my talent and so become more useful in the service of my God.

4. Again, attendance upon the study of God's word is of value to me because I realize that trials, temptations, sorrows, and burdens are always upon me. It is not possible for me to bear these alone. When I study the word of God and apply that knowledge to my own life, I find out how to accept my trials in the right way; I discover the way to find escape from temptation; I find comfort for my sorrows and the Lord's

divine help in bearing my burdens. When I miss the Bible study I may very well miss the very lesson that would show me the way through troubles, grief, and temptation.

5. Bible classes are good to attend because the word of God answers in the best possible way the great questions of life. Where did I come from? What am I here for? Where am I going? What is after death? How can I go to heaven? How can I accomplish the very best possible with my life? How can I be happy here and after this life is ended?

6. I go to Bible classes because I want to please my God! He delights in those who delight in His word, and I want to cultivate such a yearning for the Words of Life that my heart will cry out for more and more of His blessed will. I am responsible to God for the effect of my actions on others and I want to be built by the Lord so that I will not lead others astray by my example.

7. I attend Bible classes because I see the good that such studies accomplish in the life of the congregation and the individual.

- Leonard Mullens

The New Name

In foretelling of things as they would be, the prophet Isaiah wrote: "And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory; and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name" (Isa. 62:2). Let us give some careful consideration about this new name the Lord would give.

This name is the name "Christian." "And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much

people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch" (Acts 11:26). It is significant that the church in Antioch, which included many Gentile converts, fulfilled this prophecy of Isaiah.

The name "Christian" is the name in which God is glorified. "But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. But if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf" (I Pet. 4:15-16). The name Christian glorifies God because it contains the name of Christ (I Pet. 4:14, 16).

This is why human names are to be rejected; none of them serves to glorify God. The name "Christian" does, for it was given by God, a "new name" as Isaiah prophesied. It is also a name that contains the name of his only begotten Son, "Christ," who came to this earth to do nothing more or less than the will of his Father (John 5:30).

- Bart Campbell

The Testimony of the Spirits

“The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,” (Rom. 8:16).

The “Spirit Himself” is a reference to the Holy Spirit, who “bears witness with,” or “testifies with” (giving “joint testimony with”) our own inner spirit. There is agreement here concerning the awareness of two: the Holy Spirit and my own spirit. That joint agreement concerns the fact of whether or not I am a child of God. Am I the person who no longer walks in darkness, but now walks in the Light, thus having fellowship with God, having been cleansed from all sin (1 John 1:6-7)? My own spirit knows if that is indeed the case, and if it is, the Holy Spirit knows also, and testifies in the affirmative that it is true.

The Holy Spirit always knows the true status of my condition before God. I have the ability to know my status and have the Holy Spirit's testimony regarding that status. He will testify that I am a child of God if: (a.) I know God's word (1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 1:3; 1 John 2:21; Col. 1:9; 3:10; cf. Eph. 1:17-18; Col. 1:5-6), and (b.) I obey God's word (Matt. 7:21; 1 John 2:3; 3:24). If our own heart does not condemn us in this, we have a confidence that "we are of the truth." (1 John 3:19-21). Of course we must guard against deception (Luke 21:8; Rom. 7:11; 1 Cor. 6:9; 15:33; Gal. 6:7; 2 Tim. 3:13; Titus 3:3).

Some say that the Holy Spirit testifies **to** our spirit, but this is **not** what the scripture says. The Spirit's instrument is a "sword," which is "the word of God" (Eph. 6:17). This is the word that was "revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit" (Eph. 3:5). It is the word that was "proclaimed in all creation under heaven," (Col. 1:23). It is the "gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, *leading* to obedience of faith;" (Rom. 16:25-26). It is the message that the apostles heard and proclaimed in order to bring about fellowship between believers, the Father, and His Son, Jesus Christ (1 John 1:1-3). That message has been faithfully recorded, and revelation from God to man is complete (Jude 3), such that, for many centuries, the world has possessed "everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence" (2 Pet. 1:3).

The Holy Spirit, through the gospel of Christ, teaches men (Col. 1:28) to believe the gospel (Acts 8:37; John 8:24; Hebrews 11:6), repent of past sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30), confess Christ (Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:37), be baptized in water in order to receive remission of sins (Romans 6:3-4; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:36-39; 1 Peter 3:21), and to live faithfully (Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 1:5-11; John 15:1-8; Hebrews 10:23-25). When my spirit can truly affirm that I believe and

have done these things, then I can know that I am a child of God, and the Holy Spirit will so testify.

Friend, have you believed the gospel and obeyed these instructions from the Lord? Will the Holy Spirit testify that you are indeed a child of God? May we help you?

- GFS

THIS WEEK'S LESSONS: Sunday morning: *"I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord!"* (text: Psalms 26:4-8, 12); Sunday evening: *"ECCLESIASTES: The Emptiness of Life!"*

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