

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

841 Old Hickory Blvd.
Jackson, TN 38305
oldhickorycofc.com

September 28, 2014

Volume 34, # 40

What You Really Are

"Tell me what you are busy about, and I will tell you what you are."

The above quotation, when applied to our lives, rings true. How we spend our time and what we allow to occupy our attention tells others what we really are and that may be dramatically different from what we claim to be.

Professing to be Christians does not mean that we are living as the children of God should. Unless we conform our thoughts and actions to the word of God and the example set by His Son and be busy about the Father's business, others will know and the Father will know that even though we claim to be dedicated to the Lord, our affections lie elsewhere.

What are you "busy about?" Is it your job? Does it take all of your energy and most of your time? Is your main interest in life the amassing of "things?"

Do you use all spare moments in some recreational pursuit? If any of these apply, you need to take stock and channel your "busyness" into that which is more profitable -- serving the Lord. If one is going to be Christ-like, he must have the mind of Christ (Phil. 2:5). It is evident that Christ's attitude while on earth was to be busy about His Father's business (Luke 2:49). Such passages as John 4:34, 6:38 and 9:4 show that He continually

focused on doing the will of God. In turn, He taught His disciples the most important thing in life for them was to do God's will and be concerned with His kingdom first (Matthew 6:33).

The apostle Paul zealously applied himself to the will of God. He was always busy serving the Lord. He constantly pressed on so that he could attain his goal to live a life pleasing to God so that he would gain an incorruptible crown (Phil. 3:7-16). On the other hand, Demas, a fellow-worker with Paul, busied himself with other things -- the things of this world (2 Tim. 4:10). His love for this "present world" ultimately caused him to abandon both Paul and the Lord.

When Jesus was in the house of Mary and Martha, two sisters who lived in Bethany, both of them were busy. In the eyes of the world and even in the eyes of her sister, though, one seemed to be idle (Luke 10:38-42). Martha was "distracted with much serving" (Luke 10:40). She busied herself seeing that the needs of her guests were satisfied. She became so anxious about it that it consumed her. Her sister Mary sat at the Lord's feet not wishing to miss a single word He was saying. She busied herself listening to Him knowing that it was the most important thing she could be doing. When Martha complained to Jesus about her, He told her not to worry about so many things that, in reality, were not necessary. Rather, she should devote herself and her time, as Mary had, to "the one thing that is needed" -- hearing and obeying the word of God. Again, with what are you busy? Is it your job, a hobby, material possessions or worldly pleasures? If so, what does that say as to what you really are? What do others think is your first love? What is the Lord's view of you?

A question that has been used before, possibly overused, but nevertheless is relevant to our line of thought is, "If you were tried for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?" If you were "busy about" that which you should be busying yourself with, it would be evident to all what you really are. All would know you are a Christian, see the glory of God in you and glorify your Father in heaven (Matthew 5:14-16). More

importantly, the Lord would know. If you claim to be a Christian, get busy doing the will of the Lord.

- Gene Taylor

The Final Appointment

"It is appointed for men to die once and after this comes the judgment"(Hebrews 9:27).

As surely as we are here today, one day we will surely not be here. Have you thought about where you will be one second after death? You probably have known classmates at school who meet a sudden, unexpected death. Yes, death is real. Judgment is certain. Yet, God has the key to our destiny. That can be great news!

My daughter, Rachel, came across this poem, entitled "The Great Teacher." For an assignment at school, she shared this with her Jr. High class:

THE GREAT TEACHER

Death what a great teacher you are

About life

Yet few of us elect to take your class

And learn about life

That is the essence of death's teaching

Death is not an elective

We must all take the class

The wise students audit the class in their early years

And find enlightenment

They are prepared for their commencement

When graduation day arrives

By Dr. Bernie Siegel, M.D.

"It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, because that is the end of every man, and the living takes it to heart" (Ecclesiastes 7:2). There are some important things we can only learn at a funeral and not at a party. Get serious. This isn't being morbid; it's being real! Sooner or later, we will all die. Therefore, we are not prepared to live fulfilled until we're prepared to die. The most important day in a person's life isn't the day he was born, but it is the day he figures out WHY he was born. We are born a blank slate. What you become is by your choice.

We realize we will face God. Sin separates us from God (Isaiah 59:2). So, our greatest need for the final appointment is to find a Savior who will prepare us with purpose and direction. The Hebrew writer continues: "So Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him" (Hebrews 9:28). Jesus is the key to life and death (John 11:25-26, 14:6). He came from heaven to show us the way out of this world. He alone gives assurance of life beyond the grave, because he alone died and came back to tell us about it. This, no psychic nor rock star nor celebrity has ever done.

Will you let Jesus show you how to live and how to die by faith in Him? "He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him" (Hebrews 5:9). I encourage you to read the Gospel According to John to let the risen Jesus personally prepare you for your final appointment.

- W. Frank Walton

THE PRECIOUSNESS OF A WIFE

She was a Christian, he was not, but they loved each other. He went to church services with her before they were married, but he had already made up his mind that, once they were married, he would quit going to church and he would see to it that she quit also.

The first Sunday they were married, as she was getting ready to go to services, he tried to get her to stay home with him. But she went to services alone. This went on for several years.

Then came their first child. She missed two Sundays when the child, was born but the next Sunday, she and her baby went to church services and he stayed home alone.

One Sunday while she was dressing, he went outside and disconnected the coil wire on the car. She and her baby got into the car but it would not start. She wrapped her baby up and started walking to the building which was about two miles away. Feeling like a heel, the husband called her back, told her what he had done, asked her to forgive him, and took her to services. That night, he went with her. Two weeks later he was baptized into Christ. Sometime later, this man started preaching the gospel and since has baptized over 300 people into Christ.

Question: What would have happened if the wife had given in the first Sunday and stayed home?

- Author unknown

BE CHEERFUL!

Ken Weliever says, "Be cheerful! No one likes a sourpuss. Keep the corners of your mouth turned up. Hide your pains, pressures and problems under a smile. We will convert more people when the world sees Christians with a radiant, cheerful countenance. The Philippian letter characterizes the Christian's life as one of joy. The writer speaks of "the joy of faith" (1:25). He says, "we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit and rejoice in Christ Jesus" (3:3). Is that us? Someone said they had seen happier faces on iodine bottles than in some worship services! Since Christianity is such a joyful way of life, why are many so sullen when we come together to praise God? If we experience the "joy of

faith," why do we act so sour and surly in our homes, on our jobs and in the community? Smile brethren! Not only will you feel better (Prov. 17:22), but it will help you in having favor with people."

- Lord Balfour said, "The best thing to give your enemy is forgiveness; to an opponent, tolerance; to a friend, your heart; to your child, a good example; to a father, deference; to your mother, conduct that will make her proud of you; to yourself, respect; to all men, charity."

 - Spiritual sickness cannot be cured by religious quacks!

 - You cannot become a saint by comparing yourself with another sinner!

 - Although God created man without man's help, He will not save man without man's consent!
-

Elders: Gordon Percell & Gary Smalley

Evangelist: Gary Smalley

Sunday AM: 9:30 & 10:30

Sunday PM: 5:00

Wednesday PM: 7:00



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

HEAR THE GOSPEL

(Romans 10:14-17; John 20:30-31; Romans 1:15-17)

BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST

(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

(Romans 6:3-4; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:36-39; 1 Peter 3:21)

LIVE A FAITHFUL LIFE

(Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 1:5-11; John 15:1-8; Hebrews 10:23-25)