

# The Old Hickory Bulletin

## Old Hickory Church of Christ

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

---

November 29, 2015

Volume 35, # 49

---

### "What Ever Happened to Loyalty?"

The above heading is the title of an article by Edward H. Weiss, Chairman, Edward H. Weiss and Company, Chicago, Ill. The article appeared in Advertising Age, July 17, 1972. I want to quote some excerpts from the writing and then make some observations.

*"We have lost most of our traditional loyalties. . . . Everywhere we turn we are confronted with this breakdown-not merely in the market place, but in the family, the college, the church, the very seats of government."*

The author attributed this condition to the rapid change that has taken place and asked:

*"How can you be loyal to something that keeps changing all the time? ... How can you feel you belong to something that keeps changing every year or so? . . . Loyalty pales and dies under such hectic conditions. Business has a tendency to say: 'Let's hire two young men to replace the 60 year old man we are firing.... Labor has a tendency to say,' Let's goof off for the afternoon-who cares if we are doing a sloppy job?' . . . Everything seems temporary, tentative, short-viewed, expedient. What is there left to feel loyal to or about? . . . Hardly any manufacturer can rely upon a stable group of customers to*

*stay with him year after year.... When this bond of loyalty is broken, the whole industrial enterprise is shaken to its roots. Products are defective and no one seems to care too much or too soon. Services are perfunctory or worse and no one seems to care too much. Companies dissolve. . . Old valued employees lose their jobs over night ... And no one seems to care."*

Mr. Weiss said:

*"What all have failed to grasp I think is that loyalty is a two way street. It must be rooted in mutual trust or it is nothing.... If the workman is to be worthy of his hire, then the employee must play fair - with him, with his products, with his customers. No one must expect more loyalty than he is willing to give."*

## Christianity and Loyalty

Loyalty is a virtue of Christianity. The "golden rule" demands it. The Christian who is an employer must treat his employee as he would wish to be treated. The employee who is a Christian must treat his employer in the same manner.

Family ties demand loyalty of a Christian. There is the husband-wife relationship, the parent-child relationship and then the child-child relationship. If one member of the family suffers all suffer.

Citizenship demands the loyalty of a Christian. There is only one exception to this demand - a conflict between government demands and that of the Lord. True citizens deplored the behavior of some athletes at the Olympics when they were disrespectful toward the flag. As long as schools stand for principles upon which they were founded a Christian must be loyal. Our educational system has the responsibility of standing for principles to which, Christians can be loyal.

Church membership demands loyalty. Older people need to be loyal to the young. That loyalty demands proper teaching and wholesome opportunities. The younger need to feel loyal to the older - those who have made a congregation what it is. Sometimes there is a movement to discard old elders who may be cautious but to whom the very existence is indebted. There should be some way to be loyal to old soldiers of the cross and yet considerate of the younger. Both are needed in the church - neither ought to be ignored. Additions could be made to an eldership without disrespecting the old bishops. Loyalty should be shown as an expression of appreciation.

Friendship in Christianity demands loyalty. "A friend sticketh closer than a brother." Such an one deserves loyalty. He who has been the recipient of the deeds of a friend will never forget him. He will be loyal to that friend. Sometimes a friend is discarded when he is no longer needed.

The church has the responsibility of promoting Christianity. Christianity is made up of principles taught in the Bible. To expect loyalty, the leaders of a congregation must stand for these principles - must give the members something to be loyal to. Loyalty is essential. Most church members are looking for divine guidance and all the innovations will have a tendency for members to feel that there is no absolute truth - thus that attitude will develop a willingness to change the church to suit the times. As long as we heard the teaching, "Speak as the oracles of God," we had something to which to be loyal.

- B. G. Hope, Truth Magazine, Nov. 8, 1973

---

## **They Say and Do Not**

James writes, "Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works" (James 2:18). Is it possible to show faith without works? Consider the 11th chapter of Hebrews. The only way Noah could show his faith was

to "move with fear" and build the ark (vs. 7). The only way Abraham could show his faith was to obey God (vs. 8). The same is true of the other "heroes of the faith" mentioned in this chapter. Can any man give evidence of faith without actively serving God? I deny that such is possible. I challenge anyone to show real evidence of his trust in God outside of the deeds he does in submission to God's will.

Some say they have faith in the promises of God (Matt. 18:20; John 12:26), yet fail to attend most of the Bible classes and the Sunday evening evangelistic services. Does their absence show faith? Or does it not rather show a lack of faith? Show me your faith without works (Can it be done?) and I will show my faith by my works.

Virtually all brethren say they believe that it is important for an individual to study and understand the will of God, then to obey it. Do you agree? And do you do it? Or do you "say and do not" (Matt. 23:3)? Do you pass up most opportunities to study the Bible with other Christians, then fail to even read the scriptures at home, or, at best, only read occasionally and haphazardly? Do you neglect private prayer? Does your family give thanks at meal-time? Are you as concerned that your children prepare their lessons for the Bible classes as you are that they complete their homework assignments for school? "Show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works."

Does your language show that you are a Christian? Have you put away lying, slander, etc.? Do you use God's name only in reverence? Or does thy speech betray thee?

Is your life a continual confession of your faith in Jesus Christ? He warns that to be ashamed of Him in this wicked and adulterous generation is to cause Him to be ashamed of us in the day of judgment (Mark 8:38). Do you show your faith by your works, or do the actions of your life betray a lack of real Bible faith? Are you a doer of the word, and not a hearer only (James 1:22ff) or do you "say and do not"?

One "follower of God" who continually sets the wrong example before others can do more harm to the cause of Christ than 1,000 atheists actively opposing God with all their might. Christ warns, "Woe unto you. . . hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye

neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in" (Matt. 23:13).

- Clarence R. Johnson, Truth Magazine, Aug. 19, 1976

---

## Jude 3

Jude begins his letter, "Beloved, while I was giving all diligence to write unto you of our common salvation, I was constrained to write unto you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints." (Jude 3). In writing to other Christians he was able to write of their "common salvation," which was shared alike by every Christian. This expression is similar to Paul's when writing to Titus of a "common faith." (Titus 1:4). It is this common faith that Jude exhorts Christians to contend earnestly for. While Christians are not to be driven by a contentious spirit, loving a dispute for the sake of disputing (Titus 3:2), they must contend for the faith. They must defend the faith from attack by those who would pervert or destroy it. They must uphold and advance the faith through every door of opportunity, both far and near. To accomplish this successfully the Christian must love the faith of Jesus Christ and desire the triumph of His gospel, disavowing any personal victories and self-exaltation. The Christian loves to see the cause of his Lord and Master advanced in the lives of other people. He wants to generate no personal following. He wants others to see and follow Christ. For this he strives and contends whole heartedly.

Notice that the faith of which Jude speaks was "once for all delivered unto the saints," indicating no on-going, continuous delivering of revelation. The faith is complete; there are no missing parts that have yet to be revealed. Further, it is sufficient not only to perfect us (2 Tim. 3:16-17), but also to last as long as man lives. The faith, or the gospel, is the final and completed revelation of God to man, and it will remain such for all time.

There are no better covenants or better promises that are future as far as mortal man is concerned.

Christian, are you contending for THE faith of Christ? You must in order to please God.

- Gary Smalley

---

- > "Many people believe *God's Word* until it starts disagreeing with the other things they believe!"
  - > "Quitters in the church are like motors: they sputter before they miss, and miss before they quit!"
  - > "People may doubt what you say, but they will believe what you do!"
  - > "A man may go to heaven ... without health, without wealth, without fame, without a great name, without learning, without culture, without beauty, without friends, without ten thousands of other things; but he can never go to heaven without obedience to Christ!"
- 

**THIS WEEK'S LESSONS:** Guest Speakers today: A.M. - Tim Powell "*The Christian Life Is . . .*" & P.M. - Gregg Needham "*Lessons From Lot*"