

# The Old Hickory Bulletin

## *Old Hickory Church of Christ*

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Jackson, TN 38305

[oldhickorycofc.com](http://oldhickorycofc.com)

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May 10, 2015

Volume 35, # 20

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## So You Want A Divorce!

Well, I have a few things to say to you before you see that lawyer:

1. You're a failure. You failed at the most important test of life.
2. You're a quitter. You couldn't see it through to the end, could you? Whatever happened to "Till death do us part"?
3. Weren't very smart either, were you? You couldn't approach the most serious relationship of life with enough planning to foresee what would be needed to make it work.
4. You're irresponsible, too, aren't you? Don't you know that Jesus said except where your partner is guilty of fornication you will cause them to commit adultery (Matt. 5:32)? Don't you know that Jesus said if you offend (entice them to sin) another person it would be better off to have a millstone tied about your neck and be cast into the depth of the sea?

5. Are you going to commit adultery? If you marry again, you will, according to Jesus (Matt. 19:9).

6. Are you going to drag a third party into adultery with you? Jesus said that whoever you marry will be guilty of adultery also (Matt. 5:32; 19:9).

7. Do you want your children to be home-splitters and adulterers, too? Don't you know that the incidence of divorce is much higher among children who come from broken homes?

8. Want to throw away the family fortune? How hard you have worked all these years! And you are just now getting to the point where you could breathe a little bit easier. Oh, well, spend it on divorce attorneys, court costs, separate maintenance of the split family, more meals outside the home, more car expense, baby sitters, etc. And...give away and throw away...all those things which used to mean so much, now mean nothing. Even if you get back together, you have wasted the family fortune (whether big or small) on a frivolous whim. You are broke, kid.

9. Pretty selfish, too, aren't you? Which parent are you going to take away from your kids? You may not be the best daddy or mommy in the world, but you're THEIR daddy or mommy!

10. Are you going to break the bonds of acrimony along with the bonds, of matrimony? No, you're going to be just like everybody else - you'll fight like cats and dogs and say slurring things about each other that you will later know were either lies or at best exaggerations.

11. You like ulcers? That's what you'll have before you're through worrying over this!

12. Like loneliness and sleepless nights? Yeah, you'll have some of those, too.

13. Who are you going to turn to when the kids get sick? You might as well go ahead and leave them with that underpaid babysitter. You don't seem to care much about your kids anyway.

14. By the way, did you ask your kids if they were in favor of the divorce?

15. Did you ask the Lord what He thought about your divorce? Samuel said, "SPEAK LORD, FOR THY SERVANT HEARETH." What did you say?

16. I guess you know that your chances of being saved are diminished now to almost zero! But of course you didn't know it. If you knew anything (or cared anything) about the Bible you never would have entertained such a foolhardy idea in the first place! But don't worry, I'm sure you can find a lying prophet or preacher somewhere who will tell you it's OK!

- Tom Hickey, via Bulletin Digest, May, 1983

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# Verbally Inspired

The Bible claims that it is verbally inspired (2 Timothy 3:16). The Greek word translated “inspired” is *theopneustos* from (*Theos*, “God,” *pneo*, “to breathe”).

This means that the very words of the Bible narrative are from God. In 2 Samuel 23:2, David declared: “The Spirit of Jehovah spake by me, And his word was upon my tongue.”

Here David affirms: (a) He has been used as a instrument of the Spirit ; (b) The ultimate source of the message was God; (c) The divine message was presented by words. Though David’s tongue was used, in reality, the word was God’s. In Acts 1:16, Peter states that the Holy Spirit spoke through the mouth of David concerning Judas’ betrayal of Jesus (Psalm 41:9).

We are told in 2 Peter 1:21 that various men, chosen by God to be the human instruments to reveal His will through the written word, wrote as they were guided by the Holy Spirit . They did not write what they “thought” God said.

These men did not pen what they “wished” God said; neither did they write what they “thought ” God “ought ” to have said. They wrote exactly what God wanted them to write.

Because the Bible is verbally inspired of God, it is the powerful medium (Romans 1:16; Hebrews 4:12) through which mankind is to be convicted of their sins (Acts 2:37) and converted to Christ and His church (Acts 2:41,47). Let us as faithful brethren continue

to preach and teach God's inspired and powerful word to the spiritually lost (2 Timothy 4:2; Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16).

- Mike Riley

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## What Shall We Call It?

There is an old story about a certain denominational church which was raising money for a new building. In keeping with denominational custom, they sent the ladies of the congregation out to beg for money from the businessmen of the town. On being solicited for a donation one businessman replied, *"Tell you what I'll do. If you will put a sign on the front of the building, 'This is a Church of Christ: I'll give you a hundred dollars.'" "Oh no,"* gasped the lady, *"We could not do that, because it is not a church of Christ."* *"Very well,"* replied the businessman, *"If you will put up a sign, 'This is not a Church of Christ,' I'll still give the hundred dollars."* *"But you don't understand,"* cried the lady, *"It is a church of Christ, only it is not a church of Christ, that is, you see, in a way of speaking . . . goodbye!"*

- author unknown

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# The Broken Pot

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on an end of a pole which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, and while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water at the end of the long walk from the stream to the masters house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water in his masters house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect to the end for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do. After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream.

"I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you." "Why?" asked the bearer. "What are you ashamed of?" "I have been able, for these past two years, to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your masters house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts." the pot said.

The water bearer felt sorry for the old cracked pot, and in his compassion he said, "As we return to the masters house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path."

Indeed, as they went up the hill, the old cracked pot took notice of the sun warming the beautiful wild flowers on the side of the path, and this cheered it some. But at the end of the trail, it still felt bad

because it had leaked out half its load, and so again the Pot apologized to the bearer for its failure.

The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of your path, but not on the other pots side? Thafs because I have always known about your flaw, and I took advantage of it. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back from the stream, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my masters table. Without you being just the way you are, he would not have this beauty to grace his house."

Each of us has our own unique flaws. We're all cracked pots. But if we will allow it, the Lord will use our flaws to grace His Father's table. In Gods great economy, nothing goes to waste. Don't be afraid of your flaws. Acknowledge them, 'and you too can be the cause of beauty. Know that In our weakness your strength is made perfect. (2 Corinthians 12:9)

- author unknown

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**THIS WEEK'S LESSONS:** Sunday morning: *"The Lamb's Book of Life!"* (Text: Rev. 21:27); Sunday evening: *"For This Purpose I Came to This Hour!"* (John 12:27-33).

**GOSPEL MEETING 2015:** Our Gospel Meeting is scheduled for July 19-24, with Jerry Crolus, of Conway, AR, preaching.