

# The Old Hickory Bulletin

## *Old Hickory Church of Christ*

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## **My Most Valued Possession – My Bible**

Recently in a writing assignment I was told to write a two-paragraph article on my most valued possession. One paragraph was to state what it was and how it was so valuable to me, and the second paragraph was to state how it was disliked by me. After a little reflection, I decided on my Bible. Thus, in the next two paragraphs you have my evaluation of the book, my most valued possession.

The most valued possession I have is my Bible. My Bible tells me from whence I came, what my duties are, and where I am going. It tells me that I came from God, and that I shall return unto Him. Also, I am told that I will be required to give an account unto Him of my actions here on earth (Rom. 14:11-12). I believe that the evidence is adequate to sustain its claims; therefore, I am concerned about doing what I am taught therein. From its teachings I find courage to sustain me in dangerous situations, comfort against difficulties, hope to inspire me in troubled times. Furthermore, my Bible teaches me to be humble when I am victorious and tempted to be lifted up in pride. I find from my Bible

the promise of forgiveness and the terms on which I can obtain such (Gal. 3:26-27; Eph. 1:7). Christ Jesus, the Son of God, died that I might receive forgiveness; thus, my sins need not destroy me. I, having received forgiveness, can go to Him in a time of need. I can grow and develop spiritually and find peace of mind (Rom. 5:1; Heb. 4:14-16).

There is something about my book though, that gives me some trouble—sometimes its teachings are hard for me to keep, and I am tempted to disobey! My Bible tells me to do unto others as I would have them do unto me; this requires that I take the initiative, but I am inclined to follow, to treat them as they do me. Likewise, I am told to "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33). Yet, I am tempted to put "these things," the things of this world, first. Also, I find people who speak against my book, the Bible. Very often I believe that it is because they don't really understand its contents. However, I am not always able to point out wherein they are missing the point, according to my concept. Often I don't have the opportunity to study with them, perhaps the time element will not permit, or we just aren't in a situation where conversation on the subject is possible. Thus, the book is my most valued possession, yet it does cause me a lot of trouble. Nevertheless I am very glad that I found it, that I did study and learn some of its contents, and that I am influenced by it. I hope that I shall always find the strength to hold on to it and hold its principles high.

Dear reader, I wonder what your most valued possession is? Are you aware of it? Why do you value it so highly? Is it because of

what it does for you, or is it because of the money it would bring on the market? When the day's work is done, how valuable will it be? I ask you to investigate the Bible. It may have more lasting value than you have realized.

- William C. Sexton

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### **"But As For Me And My House, We Will Serve The Lord" - Joshua 24**

What does a man of God look like in the home? He is brave. He is the kind of man to lead his family out of a theater when the movie turns ungodly. He is willing to accept a lower paying job because he wants to spend more time with his family. He makes difficult stands and is okay with being "the bad guy" in his home.

He is strong. He is able to work a full day at a stressful job and still have the strength to give his undivided attention to problems when he comes home. He is often the first to rise in the morning to spend concentrated time in prayer for each member of the family. He stays up late working on school projects with his children.

He is gentle. No matter how great the transgression might be, each member of the family feels safe confessing wrongs to him. Though uncompromising in his convictions, he is merciful and patient. He appreciates honesty above all else and is willing to forgive the greatest of sins when he detects sincere repentance.

He is faithful. He keeps his word. Even when it is tough, even when it is to his own hurt, he never breaks a promise. When he says he is going to do something, he does it. He never abandons his family. Never.

The most sacred promise he has made, is the promise he has made to God. This is what makes him the rock of the family. Every family member knows he is 100% committed to God. When everyone else might quit the Lord, you can always count on Dad to stay faithful. There is no question in anyone's mind where Dad stands. He stands with the Lord.

Father God, thank you for men who support their families in this way!

- David Maxson, via Facebook

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## **"Better to be of a Humble Spirit"**

"God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6). "Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall. Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, Than to divide the spoil with the proud" (Prov. 16:18-19).

A person does not have to be proud, boastful or arrogant to be great, as is believed by so many today. Moses was truly a great man, and at the same time, "very meek, above all the men which

lived upon the face of the earth" (Num. 12:3). King Saul was told by Samuel that "When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel?" (1 Sam. 15:23). But with the passing of time, Saul became "big" in his own eyes and, because of his proud, sinful actions, the Lord rejected him as king (1 Sam. 15:23).

David, a man after God's own heart, was humble. His humility is evident by some of his statements found in the Psalms. He said, "My soul shall make its boast in the Lord; The humble shall hear of it and be glad" (Psa. 34:2). He also stated that "The sacrifices of God are of a broken spirit, A broken and contrite heart -- These, O God, You will not despise" (Psa. 51:17).

The Apostle Paul, from the world's viewpoint, had every reason to be proud. He was highly educated, having been "brought up at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the strictness of our father's law" (Acts 22:3). He had the honor and privilege of being a Roman citizen (Acts 22:25-29). Paul told the Philippians, "If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless" (Phil. 3:4-6). Yet, Paul was a man of humility. Concerning the facts just stated, he went on to say, "But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ" (Phil. 4:7). In fact, he later called these things "rubbish" (v. 8). As an apostle, he spoke of himself as "the least of all the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an

apostle, because I persecuted the church of God" (1 Cor. 15:9). He also spoke of himself as the chief of sinners (1 Tim. 1:15).

All through the scriptures, we can observe that God used the ones of a "humble spirit" for His service. If we are going to be truly great in the service to the Lord today, then we too must be humble. Jesus said, "but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant" (Matt. 20:26). James tells us to "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, And He will lift you up" (Jas. 4:10).

The person of a "humble spirit" realizes that he is nothing without God. He is genuinely happy to obey all of God's commands and to receive His rich blessings. He is like an empty vessel which only God can fill. Paul said, "For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith (Rom. 12:3). May we always remember that "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble" (Jas. 4:6).

- R.J. Evans

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## Leftovers

Leftovers are such humble things,  
We would not serve them to a guest,

And yet we serve them to our Lord  
Who deserves the very best.  
We give Him leftover time,  
Stray minutes here and there,  
Leftover cash we give to Him,  
Such few coins as we can spare.  
We give our youth unto the world  
To hatred, lust and strife;  
Then in declining years we give  
To Him the remnant of our life.

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- > "We should not "fertilize" wild oats!"
  - > "No one seems to want constructive criticism; it's all we can do to put up with constructive praise!"
  - > "The man who is never very strong against anything is never very strong for anything!"
  - > "A little man can be wrong, but it takes a big man to admit it!"
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**This is our Gospel Meeting Week**