

# The Old Hickory Bulletin

## Old Hickory Church of Christ

841 Old Hickory Blvd.

Jackson, TN 38305

*oldhickorycofc.com*

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### Welcome to Gospel Meeting Week!

Attending our Gospel Meeting could prove to be very best decisions of your life! Why? The greatest message ever delivered to mankind will be preached! It is the one and only prescription designed to heal and sooth man's greatest illness: sin! Since the first century thousands upon thousands of people have had the opportunity to hear its powerful words, and very many have allowed it to change their lives for the better. This could be YOUR opportunity to hear this message of great blessings!

Mike Prestininzi will preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, and we invite you to bring your Bible and investigate what is taught. Mike will merely be the messenger of what has already been revealed to man by God. He will neither add to nor take from the sacred Scriptures. If he should make a mistake and teach some wrong point, please bring that to his attention so that he may correct it immediately. We are interested in teaching and preaching only the Bible!

You will not be embarrassed by being asked to do anything you do not wish to do. You will not be asked to give any money into the collection on Sunday. That is designed for the members (1 Cor. 16:1-2). We are interested in you, not what is yours. We only ask that you listen to the preaching of God's word and ask questions if you wish.

Thanks so much for coming to our Gospel Meeting!

- Gary Smalley

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### ONE THING YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO BE WRONG ABOUT

We humans make a lot of choices in life, most of them not very important, a few of them extremely important. Some of our choices have to do with alternatives-from worst to best (worst, worse, bad, good, better, best) and pertain to this life alone. Some of our choices

have to do with alternatives that are about equal-it really doesn't make that much difference; they, too have to do with this life alone. But then some of our choices have to do with good and evil, right and wrong. These are of the utmost importance, for they have to do with time and eternity, this life and the life to come.

You can afford to be wrong about many things in life-which college to attend, which subject to major in, which brand of anything to buy, which medication or treatment to try, which doctor to go to, which career to pursue or which job to take, which town to live in, which house to buy. But you cannot at all afford to be wrong about whether or not your life is right with God, whether or not you are pleasing to Him, whether or not you are prepared for death, the judgment, and eternity.

It is popularly taught and believed that it doesn't really matter what religious doctrine we believe, what church we belong to, or whether or not we belong to any church - just as long as we are honest, sincere, and satisfied. But you will not find anything like this taught in the Bible. We must believe what the Bible teaches (II Tim. 3:14-17). We must believe the word of the Lord, the doctrine of Christ, the gospel of Christ, the new covenant of Christ (Mk. 16:15-16). We must do the will of God from the heart (Matt. 7:21; Rom. 6:17-18). We must be members, faithful members, of the Lord's spiritual body, the church (Acts 2:47; Eph. 5:23,25; 1 :22-23; 2:16; 3:20-21).

How much thought, time, research, and effort precede our decisions to buy a car, a house, or decorations and furnishings for our house; but how little thought, time, research, and effort precede our decisions about religious and spiritual matters. **YET, THE ONE THING WE CANNOT AFFORD TO BE WRONG ABOUT IS THE DESTINY OF OUR SOULS!** Listen to the words of the apostle Peter: "Yea, and for this very cause adding on your part all diligence, in your faith supply virtue; and in your virtue knowledge; and in your knowledge self-control; and in your self-control patience; and in your patience godliness; and in your godliness brotherly-kindness; and in your brotherly-kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, they make you to be not idle nor unfruitful unto the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he that lacketh these things is blind, seeing only what is near, having forgotten the cleansing from his old sins. Wherefore, brethren, give the more diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never stumble: for thus shall be richly supplied unto you the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." (II Pet. 1 :5-11).

- Bill Crews

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# "THE WAY OF MAN IS NOT IN HIMSELF"

God has not only revealed His will to man, but he has also revealed the exact attitude they are to have toward His word. Men do not have God's permission to possess any attitude toward His will they desire. In every conceivable way God, in the Bible, shows man that he must try to keep God's word strictly and carefully, with the greatest reverence.

The question naturally arises, "Why is it necessary to seek such close adherence to the will of God?" The answer is simply given in the Bible. "O Jehovah, I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jer. 10:23). Man is such the truth does not originate inside of him. Indeed, it might be stated thusly: Everything man knows comes from outside himself. Since truth does not originate from any human being, the source of truth must be recognized as God. To forsake God's word is to dwell in darkness. The only way to remain in the light is to walk in the light. The only way to avoid missing the path is to stay in the path. The path, or the way of God, is found in what He has said, not in what he has not said.

The result of man's following his own guidance is clearly set forth in the scriptures. "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man: but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 14:12). We must understand that so far as the sensation one feels about it is concerned, there is no difference in being right and merely seeming to be right. When Jacob's sons brought Joseph's coat to him, torn and bloodied, he assumed that Joseph had been slain by a wild beast. Though it only seemed that Joseph had been slain, it felt exactly as if he really was dead. Merely how good one may feel about a thing is no indication as to whether it is true. The only way to know truth is to turn away from ourselves to the word of God. Jesus said, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

It should be obvious that if man cannot originate truth then he should scrupulously avoid mixing his opinions with the Bible. Paul said, "I marvel that ye are so quickly removing from him that called you in the grace of Christ unto a different gospel: only there are some that trouble you and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach unto you any gospel other than that which we preached unto you, let him be anathema. As we have said before, so say I now again, If any man preacheth unto you any gospel other than that which ye have received, let him be anathema" (Gal. 1:6-9).

-Bob Waldron

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# "EDIFY ONE ANOTHER"

At the close of Paul's first epistle to the saints at Thessalonica, he exhorts them to "edify one another" (5:11). The word here translated "edify" is the Greek word "oikodomeo." It is found thirty-nine times in the original text and all but eight times it is translated as "build" or "built." This is the same word that our Lord used in Matthew 7:24 when He spoke of the wise man who "built the house on the rock."

The idea that Paul had in mind was that Christians should "build" one another up in the faith. After defining the word, Thayer adds an additional comment. He says it is "the act of one who promotes another's growth in Christian wisdom, piety, holiness, happiness."

One of the highest duties that a Christian has is to encourage others. In a world filled with pessimism, violence and despair, the need for encouragement IS evident. While at work we become painfully aware of the defeatist attitude that has permeated the society in which we live.

After a week of listening to the gripes and complaints of this sin-sick world, Christians should look forward to an isle of retreat on the Lord's day. A place where the name of God is blessed and not cursed, a place where we can enjoy those "seasons of refreshing" that flow down from the bountiful hand of the Father.

It is truly a shame that Christians do not spend more time in one another's company. The Hebrew writer tells us to "consider one another so as to stir up love and good works," after this command he tells us how this is to be done, i.e., "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another" (Heb. 10:24-25).

In Haggai 2:4, God told the people to get back to the work of rebuilding the temple. With this command God gave a word of encouragement, "For I am with you, saith the Lord of hosts." Please pause and consider what it meant for the Jews to whom Haggai spoke, to know that the Lord was with them. Surely they could remember the stories of how Jehovah had been with their fathers as they passed through the Red Sea, how he had led them "by the hand" through all their wanderings in the wilderness, and now how He had released them from Babylonian captivity. Realizing their God was real and powerful, how could they question his guidance now?

As we run our race toward eternal glory, let us all learn the many virtues of encouragement and "run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith."

- David A. Padfield

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- > "It's easy to have a balanced personality. Just forget your troubles as easily as you do your blessings!"
  - > "If a man has any religion he must either give it away or give it up!"
  - > "The world is better or worse for every man who has lived in it!"
  - > "Making a sin legal doesn't make it harmless!"
  - > "He alone has lost the art to live who cannot win new friends!"
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**GOSPEL MEETING 2017:** Monday through Friday, this week @ 7:00 p.m. each night, with Mike Prestininzi. Lesson Titles: Sunday a.m. #1 – Christians: People for the Times! Sunday a.m. #2 – Today I Choose! Sunday p.m. – The Standard of Measure! Monday – Lessons from Babel! Tuesday – How to be Lost! Wednesday – "But if Not ...!" Thursday – By What Authority? Friday – By Faith, Noah ...!