

# The Old Hickory Bulletin

## Old Hickory Church of Christ

841 Old Hickory Blvd.

Jackson, TN 38305

*oldhickorycofc.com*

---

September 03, 2017

Volume 37, # 36

---

### Do You Feel Saved?

Are you saved? How do you know you are saved? "I know I am saved because I feel it in my heart," many often say. But are the feelings of your heart the proper standard to determine your salvation? We do not use this standard in other matters. No one says of his bank statement, "I know it is right because I feel it in my heart," while they ignore to properly add and subtract from their balance. No carpenter says, "I know the board is 10 feet long because I feel it in my heart" — he checks the board with the proper standard, the measuring tape! But, when it comes to a matter far more important than bank balances and board lengths — salvation — many are willing to trust their eternal welfare to their feelings.

Can you trust the feelings of your heart to tell you whether or not you are saved? The Bible says "No!" "He who trusts in his own heart is a fool" (Prov. 28:26), for "the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps" (Jer. 10:23). "There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death" (Prov. 14:12). Feelings are subjective, they change from person to person and even within the same person. Truth is objective, it remains fixed and does not change, regardless of the person or the year.

The way you feel about salvation does not change God's truth concerning it, just as the way you feel about math, does not change the truth of it. Whether or not you are saved is an objective fact, not subject to the whims of how you feel from moment to moment. So how can they know they are saved? The Scripture says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding" (Prov. 3:5).

You do not have to rely upon your own faulty and deceptive feelings concerning your salvation. The Lord has given "the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation" (2 Tim. 3:15). The knowledge and confidence of salvation can only come from the objective standard of God's Word. God will judge you by His Word, not by how you feel. Jesus proclaimed, "the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last

day" (John 12:48). What is your salvation based upon? Many people feel in their heart they are saved because they have "simply believed" in Jesus. While salvation certainly requires faith in Jesus, faith alone does not and cannot save according to God's Word.

James wrote, "You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only" (Jas. 2:24). Other people have prayed and "asked Jesus to come into their heart" and now they feel they are saved. But nowhere does the Bible teach one must simply pray to Jesus in order to be saved.

God's Word teaches to be saved you must: hear the gospel (Rom. 10:17); believe Jesus is the Son of God (Mk. 16:16); repent of your sins (Acts 2:38); confess Jesus (Rom. 10:9; Acts 8:36-38) and be baptized for the remission of your sins (Acts 2:38; Mk. 16:16). Those who obey God's Word do not have to guess whether or not they are saved based upon the feelings of their heart. They know they are saved because their salvation is based on the unchanging Truth of God's Word.

- Wayne Greeson

---

## **“Newness of Life”**

“Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin.” (Rom. 6:4-7).

We rejoice in Jesus Christ, the giver of life (John 5:21). No man is fully alive until the truth of Jesus Christ enters his heart and he dies to sin, is buried in baptism, and is raised to walk in a new life in Christ. We are walking in newness of life (Rom. 6:4). We have been changed by our knowledge of God and His Son. Our relationship to God has changed; there is no longer the barrier of our sins between us. We do not fear Him as our Judge, we love Him as our Father. Our relationships with others has changed. Hatred has become love; selfishness has become service; bitterness has become forgiveness. Within ourselves, our concepts of work, duty and pleasure have changed as we are re-created from within. Weakness becomes strength, stress becomes peace, and our faith will soon become sight. For us, life is new and abundant. Behold, the new man! We rejoice in our Lord Jesus Christ forever!

- Gary Smalley

---

# When God Thinks of the Church of Christ

When God thinks of the church of Christ, He thinks of saved individuals (Acts 20:28). When men think of the Church of Christ they think of parties, either a broad conglomeration of alliances such as the "one cup Church of Christ," "liberal Church of Christ," "conservative Church of Christ," etc. or one of those parties individually.

When God thinks of the church of Christ, He thinks of a number of individuals unknown to men (2 Tim. 2:19). When men think of the Church of Christ, they think of a loose association of local churches whose numbers can be approximated, for example 1,260,838 in the United States according to Mac Lynn's 1994 directory. Perhaps they will focus more on the numbers given for a more narrow association of churches ("non-institutional," "one cup," "no class", etc.).

When God thinks of the church of Christ, He sees an indivisible body composed of individuals with different levels of spiritual growth (1 Cor. 1:13; 2 Peter 3:18, Rev. 2,3). When men think of the Church of Christ, they think of a group of local churches that has divided through the years over issues such as instrumental music, premillennialism and institutionalism. They say that the "next thing that will divide the church" (the conservative alliance, or collection of churches) will be the marriage, divorce and remarriage issue.

When God thinks of the church of Christ, He thinks of those growing in Him with obedient hearts in spite of imperfections (John 17:6). When men think of the Church of Christ, they think of those who conform to unwritten creeds composed of doctrines that "leaders" have declared to be essential.

When God thinks of leaders in the church of Christ, He thinks of spiritually poverty stricken servants, who are "last" in the minds of men and yet whose quiet examples transform others (Matt. 5:3,16;19:30; 20:25-28). When men think of leaders in the Church of Christ, they think of editors of papers, leaders in colleges or well-known preachers who hold many gospel meetings.

When God thinks of the Savior of the Church, He thinks only of His Son, Jesus Christ. When men think of the Church of Christ, they think of an alliance of local churches that David Lipscomb "saved" from the Missionary Society, Foy E. Wallace "saved" from premillennialism and other leading editors have "saved" from other dangers.

When God thinks of where to find the church of Christ, He thinks of the hearts of men (1 Samuel 16:7). When men think of where to find the Church of Christ, they think of church directories.

When God thinks of the church of Christ, He thinks of those who have responded to the spiritual attraction for those who are of good ground — the gospel of Jesus Christ (Romans 1:16; 1 Cor. 2:2). When men think of the church of Christ, they think of an alliance or movement that itself is the primary attraction to those who are of good ground.

When God thinks of the church of Christ, He thinks of a glorious body of saved individuals who are allowing themselves to be transformed into the image of His Son, in spite of the wrangling and political maneuvering of men (Eph. 5:25,26; 2 Cor. 3:18). When men think of the Church of Christ, they either think of a religious movement that has fragmented itself into dozens of warring factions, each claiming to "have" the truth on dozens of difficult issues, or they think of one of the factions.

What do you think of when you think of the church of Christ?

- Gardner Hall

---

## "Faith Comes by Hearing the Word of God"

*"Faith comes by hearing the word of God"* [Romans 10:17] and does not descend from heaven on a sunbeam or on a moonbeam, does not drop down from heaven in a napkin, does not flash from the golden tip of an angel's wing, does not appear upon the face of a cloud in the form of a cross, does not whisper salvation in a passing breeze, is not imparted to the soul of a sinner by a spark of electricity, is not conveyed upon the white wings of a descending evangel of the skies, does not come upon stealthy wing from some dark cavern or whip out of some dense jungle.

[ - John F. Rowe, *Fundamental Principles of the Gospel* (1918), p. 19.]

---

- > "Someday' has ruined many a worthwhile project!"
  - > "Disappointment sometimes makes happiness happier when it returns!"
  - > "Knowledge has little value until it is honed into wisdom!"
  - > "Silence is a gift we don't often utilize!"
  - > "Conversation is much better when more than one person is involved in it!"
- 

**THIS WEEK'S LESSONS:** Sunday morning: *"Question Box: What Does The Bible Teach About Racial Prejudice?"* (Text: Acts 10:34-35); Sunday evening: *"Tremendous Claims!"* (John 5:16-24).