

# The Old Hickory

## Bulletin

### Old Hickory Church of Christ

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## DO YOU LIKE IT?

There was a religious radio broadcast where the speaker was introduced to the listening audience by this statement: “*You are going to like what you hear today!*” That is optimistic, wouldn’t you say?

People ought to like the truth when they hear it preached. I wish people liked to hear the truth. But the cold hard fact is that many people do not like to hear the truth preached. And that fact makes me wonder where this guy is coming from when he says, “*You are going to like what you hear today!*” Generally, if people always liked what they heard in this broadcast, it would make me question the content of the program. When the Apostles of Christ preached the truth to people in New Testament times there were droves of people who did not like it! And some did not like it to the degree that they tried to do something to shut it up. Even “religious” people didn’t like it.

Think about the reaction of the Sanhedrin to Stephen’s sermon: “Now when they heard this, they were cut to the quick, and they *began* gnashing their teeth at him. ... But they cried out with a loud voice, and covered their ears and rushed at him with one impulse. When they had driven him out of the city, they *began* stoning *him*; ...” (Acts 7:54-58). A radio announcer would have missed that one if he prefaced that sermon with, “Here is something you are going to like!” They did not like that truth one bit, and demonstrated their sentiments with murder!

The Apostle Paul instructed the younger evangelist Timothy to “preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.” (2 Tim. 4:2-4). Not all medicine that does good tastes good and not all preaching that profits is pleasant. Some will always choose the pleasant words above the words that lead to eternal life. They turned away from the truth because they did not like it.

Due to the unfavorable response of some in Galatia, the Apostle Paul responded to their not liking what he had to say by asking, “So have I become your enemy by telling you the truth?” (Gal. 4:16). No preacher finds it easy to preach to people who view him as an enemy, but the truth is always needed if people are to be saved (Jas. 1:21). How unfortunate when people go elsewhere to keep from hearing it.

I hope you like the truth when you hear it! Actually, I hope you love it. I hope you love the gospel of Jesus Christ, which is the power to save your soul (Rom. 1:16). Receiving the love of the truth affects one’s salvation. A soul-damning apostasy was described in 2 Thess. 2 where those who do not love truth perish. (2 Thess. 2:10). We cannot love God without loving His word.

Friend, what about you? Do you like the truth? Do you love it? Life without it is impossible. - GFS

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## ***Sadly, Some People Choose Not to Obey***

Jeremiah records in Jeremiah 6:16:

*"Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein."*

When reading this passage of scripture you are probably saying to yourself "I can't believe that these people would have the nerve to come right out and say that they will NOT walk in the paths of righteousness". Yet many today might as well be proclaiming the same thing!

Many CHOOSE NOT to walk in God's way and as a result will suffer the eternal punishment (2 Thess. 1:7-9). As the Lord promised rest for their souls if they would walk in His way long ago, Jesus promises rest for our souls if we will obey Him today. In Matthew 11:28-29 He says:

*"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."*

Won't you obey Jesus and come unto His eternal rest?

- by Richard Thetford

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## ***Proving Oneself***

In writing about the qualifications of deacons, Paul said that they ought to "first be proved" (1 Tim. 3:10). His point is obvious. Before a man should be appointed to serve in this special office in the church, he should have demonstrated his faithfulness, his zeal and his commitment to serve the Lord. We're not looking for a person who has to be specially recognized before he does any work. We want a man who is already working - and who will continue to work whether he receives any notice or not.

While Paul was specifically speaking about deacons in the text cited, there are some things implied that have application to all Christians.

- First, you should realize that you are currently establishing a reputation. Others in the congregation are viewing your work and service. They are developing an opinion of you. As they think of you, they will see you as either a steady worker or as a mere spectator in the work of the church. Which will it be?
- If it is right to hold potential deacons up to this kind of scrutiny, why would it not also be proper to use the same approach regarding folks who might be selected for other roles in the church? Preachers, Bible class teachers, those who serve in the public worship, etc., all need to "first be proved."
- And, while some will complain about this kind of "judging", it is clear that the Lord expects us to do it (John 7:24). If you want to serve, then you must be willing to "first be proved."

And so, Christian, how are you doing? As your brothers and sisters look to you do they see someone who is "proving" himself to a faithful disciple? Such evaluations ARE taking place continually. How do you rate? Think!

- by Greg Gwin

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- > *Look around at what you have before you complain about what you don't have.*
  - > *The true disciple is obedient rather than ambitious, committed rather than competitive. For him, nothing is more important than pleasing the one who called him.*
  - > *Many receive advice, but only the wise profit from it.*
  - > *We will have more conversions when we have more convictions.*
  - > *Personality is inherited; character is built.*
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**SUNDAY'S LESSONS:** Sunday morning: *"Attitudes of the Peacemaker!"* (text: 1 Peter 3:8-12); Sunday evening: *Bi-monthly singing: "Peace!"*