

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

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DO YOU LOVE THE LORD?

Surely most of our readers would answer “Yes!” to that question. There may be a few who will feel a tingle of doubt in themselves followed by an expression of hopefulness in measuring up to God’s great love that is described in the Bible. But there are many people in our world who want to love the Lord in their own way and with their own definitions of “love.” It is the objective for all who would be faithful to God to learn from His Word about loving the Lord in the way that will result in the salvation of the soul.

Motivation for this Love: The motivation for this love is found in John 3:16, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” God demonstrated His great love for man by doing for him what he could not do for himself: He paid the “ransom” (Matt. 20:28) in order that sinful men can be “justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;” (Rom. 3:24). Jesus Christ was “... crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.” (Heb. 2:9). “Everyone” certainly includes you and me. Isn’t this motivation enough for our loving such a benevolent and merciful God?

How Love Expresses Itself: Love is expressed intelligently and deliberately by acting in the best interest of the one who is loved. God acted in our best interest by so dealing with sin that His mercy can now be realized by men. John stated it this way: “In this is

love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.” (1 John 4:10). Certainly God has demonstrated and clearly expressed His love for man. How must man express love for God? Jesus said, “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.” (John 14:15). If a man loves God, that love will be expressed by observing His directives. The Apostle wrote further: “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.” (1 John 5:3).

What is Your Answer? Do you love the Lord? Do you love Him in the way that is shown by His Word? Very simply, have you become “obedient from the heart” to the Gospel of Christ, thereby becoming “freed from sin”? (Rom. 6:17-18). In view of what God’s Word has shown us, it is useless for men to protest that they do love God while living in disobedience to Him. Jesus Christ “...became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,” (Heb. 5:9). He is not the source of eternal salvation for those who do not obey Him. Friend, may we assist you in your obedience to Christ?

- GFS

PREJUDICE

Prejudice “is the lock on the door of the closed mind; the ignorance we usually mistake for reason, the enemy of information and progress. Prejudice never saved a soul, nor settled any question in the light of truth and justice. It is the defense of the devil, the shell of the petrified mind, the ceiling on understanding.”

- R.L. Whiteside

The Real Skeptic

The real skeptic is the man who has so little faith in his own position that he is afraid to have it critically examined; who has so little confidence in truth that he fears to have more of it discovered; who is tormented by the thought that if he knew more he might believe less.

- E.F. Tittle

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- > The Bible says to bear one another's burdens, not bear down on them.
 - > Much trouble is caused today by workers who do not think, and by thinkers who do not work.
 - > Be what you want others to be – but beat them to it.
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SUNDAY'S LESSONS: Sunday morning: "God's Amazing Mercy!" (text: Psalm 103:1-13); Sunday evening: Jesus Christ: A Closer Look – *Miracles Among Gentiles!* (Mark 7:24 - 8:10).