

The Old Hickory

Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

841 Old Hickory Blvd.

Jackson, TN 38305

March 13, 2011

Volume 31, # 11

GOD HAS SPOKEN!

Beginning the letter to the Hebrews, the inspired writer jumps in immediately, without the customary greetings, to set about his purpose, which, simply stated, is that Jesus Christ is the answer for all those who ask how man may enjoy fellowship with his Creator. He starts, "God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world." (Heb. 1:1-2). Readily apparent in the passage are three contrasts: a contrast between "long ago" and "in these last days;" a contrast between "the fathers" and "us;" and a contrast between "the prophets" and "His Son." These contrasts depict the superiority of God's revelation through Jesus Christ over any of the Old Testament and the Mosaic Dispensation.

Man and God, in Fellowship? In order to achieve divine fellowship, man must be able to realize knowledge of God and His will. This can only happen as God reveals Himself to man. It is the process of this revelation that the Hebrew writer regards as of primary importance. A God who speaks His will to men is the distinguishing mark of the true Creator. The Creator has not left Himself without witness (Acts 14:17). This was God's plan, even prior to Creation.

Before Creation: Before Creation, God had a purpose and plan for His Son. Paul wrote, "...He [God] chose us in Him [Christ] before the foundation of

the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him... ..” (Eph. 1:4). On the day of Pentecost, Peter preached, “Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know -- this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death. But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.” (Acts 2:22-24).

The Patriarchal Dispensation: During the Patriarchal Dispensation God’s purpose and plan for His Son remained steadfast. Following the sin in Eden, God said to the devil, “And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.” (Gen. 3:15). This prophecy was fulfilled when God’s Son became flesh, “that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,” (Heb. 2:14). Later, the steadfast purpose and plan for God’s Son was revealed to Abraham (Gen. 22:18). Peter used this prophecy in his preaching in Acts 3, which he applied to Jesus Christ, and God’s plan to bless men “by turning every one of *you* from your wicked ways” (see Acts 3:18-26).

The Mosaic Dispensation: During the Mosaic Dispensation God’s purpose and plan for His Son remained steadfast as God made a covenant with His people (Deut. 5:1-22). This covenant did not involve the Gentiles (Rom. 2:14-16), and was intended to be temporary (Col. 2:14; Gal. 3:24-25). The death of Christ ushered in the New Covenant that Jeremiah predicted (Jer. 31:31; Heb. 8:6-13). The letter to the Hebrews clarifies that the New Covenant is the fulfillment of God’s purpose and plan for His Son, Jesus Christ.

The Gospel Dispensation: Moses had foretold the coming of One who was greater than himself (Deut. 18:18), and Peter referred to his prophecy while preaching in Jerusalem: “Moses said, ‘*The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brethren; to Him you shall give heed to everything He says to you. And it will be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.*’” (Acts 3:22-23). The prophet that Moses pointed to was Christ. Christ is the one who said “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”

(Matt. 28:18). Christ calls men to salvation through His gospel (2 Thess. 2:13-14).

Do you want fellowship with God? You can know God and His will for you today! Yes, there were revelations from God in the Old Testament, but they were in segments, fragments of truth, piece-meal; here a little, there a little. They were delivered to men through a variety of modes; different forms of communication were employed: visions, dreams and “mouth to mouth” (Num. 12:6-8). The Old Testament scriptures are a compilation of the divine record of those different means and modes in the revelation of His will. They were preliminary and preparatory. But now, “in these last days,” God “has spoken to us in His Son!” In no way can the previous forms of revelation be compared to what we have today in Jesus Christ!

Prophecy has found its fulfillment in Jesus Christ. The later revelation does not come through many voices, but one voice, the voice of “all authority,” the voice of the divine Son of God! God has spoken His final, satisfying word to mankind! God said, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!” (Matt. 17:5). Friend, if you would know God and His will today, you must hear His Son! God speaks to us through Him (Heb. 1:2). God speaks to us in no other way. May we encourage you to hear Jesus Christ?

- GFS

BLEST ARE THE PURE IN HEART

Blest are the pure in heart,
For they shall see our God;
The secret of the Lord is theirs;
Their soul is Christ's abode.

The Lord, who left the heavens
Our life and peace to bring,
To dwell in lowliness with men
Their Pattern and their King.

Still to the lowly soul

He doth Himself impart;
And for His cradle and His throne
Chooseth the pure in heart.

Lord, we Thy presence seek;
May ours this blessing be;
Give us a pure and lowly heart,
A temple meet for Thee.

---John Keble

-
- > Kindness is difficult to give away because it keeps coming back.
 - > Only those who are ready to die are ready to live.
 - > God hears me even when I can barely hear myself.
 - > The Bible is the soul source of religious authority.
 - > Dusty Bibles lead to dirty minds.
 - > *"Better die an old maid, sister, than marry the wrong man."* - Billy Sunday

SUNDAY'S LESSONS: Sunday morning: *"Express Your Enduring Faith!"* (text: 1 Pet. 1:3-9); Sunday evening: Jesus Christ: A Closer Look – *Loyalty, Stumbling and Salt!* (Mark 9:38-50).