

# **The Old Hickory Bulletin**

## *Old Hickory Church of Christ*

*841 Old Hickory Blvd.  
Jackson, TN 38305*

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### **NOW THAT YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN ...**

***WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE!*** “Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? 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.” (Romans 6:3-4). We are raised from the burial of baptism to walk in a new life, having crucified or put to death the old man, having died to sin (see verses 2 and 5; cf. Col. 3:5-11). Paul wrote, “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.” (2 Cor. 5:17). This new man does not continue to live the sinful life that was characteristic of him before his conversion. (Study Eph. 2:1-6.) One walks in this new life because he

has repented of his sins (a deep-seated change of heart and will), after having learned Christ (“heard Him and have been taught in Him” – Eph. 4: 21). To return to the life of the old man of sin would bring shame upon the name of the one who died for me (James 2:7), and cause me to be worthy of punishment (see Heb. 10: 26-31). The Christians in Ephesus were told, “that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.” (Eph. 4: 22-24). Let us “die to sin and live to righteousness” (1 Peter 2:24).

***CONTINUE IN STEDFASTNESS TO CHRIST!*** Upon obeying the gospel, the early Christians were “continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” (Acts 2:42). They were constantly and diligently devoted to learning God’s will and doing what they learned through these “ambassadors ... of Christ” (2 Cor. 5:20). The Christians in Corinth were urged to be “steadfast” (1 Cor. 15: 58), and to “stand firm in the faith” (1 Cor. 16:13); “For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end” (Heb. 3:14).

***GROW SPIRITUALLY!*** New desires are characteristic of the new life in Christ. We must “hunger and thirst for righteousness,” as this is the only way to be “satisfied.” (Matt. 5:6). Peter admonishes converts “like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation” (1 Pet. 2:2). A loss of appetite signifies a spiritual

deficiency (see 1 Cor. 3:1-3). Spiritual growth brings a progression from “milk” to “meat” as we mature (study Heb. 5:12-14).

***DO NOT FALL AWAY!*** Peter warns Christians to “be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness.” (2 Peter 3:17). Paul warned Timothy that some would “fall away from the faith” (1 Tim. 4:1-2). The Bible clearly teaches that it is possible for the Christian to apostatize. (See 1 Tim. 5:12, 15; 2 Tim. 2:18; Luke 8:13; John 15: 1-6; Rev. 2: 4-5.) “Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God” (Heb. 3:12). We must seek first God’s kingdom and righteousness (Matt. 6:33). “Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you” (2 Pet. 1:10a). May we help you in your spiritual growth, “to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ,” (Eph. 4:13b)?

- GFS

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## **The Glorious Remnant of God**

I was finally able to cut and sew a dress by myself when I was 8 years old. My mother took a lot of time to teach me to sew, but the main thing she imparted to my childhood mind was the need for saving every little scrap of cloth for future use in some other necessary project. A favorite dress in her childhood memory had been one that her mother created by putting together 57 pieces of various remnants of cloth. Perhaps her convictions about saving the pieces were established because she had started her family during the Great

Depression, but Mother taught me, in practical life as well as in scripture, that the word remnant always had a good connotation. It was more than 'something left over' that was worth saving, it was the best of what was saved.

It should be like that with a community or nation that remains after a dreadful judgment or devastating calamity, especially those who have escaped and remain to form the nucleus of a new community (Isaiah 10:20-23). The survival of a righteous remnant rested solely on God's care for His chosen people and His faithfulness to keep His part of the covenant, His promises.

In scripture, the word remnant always described the chosen ones of Israel when the rest were destroyed, the elite of God's chosen people. Just before his promise to send Christ through David, He promised to gather a remnant of his flock of all countries, make them fruitful and increase them. He promised godly shepherds for his remnant who would feed and protect them so there would be nothing lacking (Jeremiah 23:2-6).

The Lord quoted his words to Jeremiah in Romans 9:27 and Romans 11:5, 13. Apparently the 'remnant' was the saved of Israel, without which the entire nation of Israel would have been like Sodom and Gomorrah. The remnant was the faithful in Israel who were united with the called out of the Gentiles to make one nation before the Almighty who created it. He concluded his doctrine of the remnant with glorious praise: "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" (Rom 11:33). Praise God for his glorious wisdom and excellent kindness!

Today one would wonder how much of what we know as the church will be left after the people are purged, purified by the fires of temptation. But whatever 'remnant' of the brethren remains, we know they are the elite of the Almighty God. He has deemed it so. May we be blessed to be part of that remnant.

- Beth Johnson

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## Interpretations of Love

Patience is Love on the anvil, bearing blow after blow of suffering.

Zeal is Love in the harvest field, never tiring of toil.

Meekness is Love in company when it vaunteth not itself.

Perseverance is Love on a journey, pressing on with unflagging step toward the end.

Joy is Love making its own sunshine where others see nothing but gloom.

Power is Love driving the soul's chariot wheels over all opposition.

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> **Patience:** The ability to idle your motor when you feel like stripping your gears.

> We can learn much about patience by observing ordinary farmers. Farmers plant, pull weeds, cultivate, and harvest. Every day before the harvest, a farmer will do at least two things: watch and wait. He knows that the harvest will come if he will just be patient. So he watches for problems that need solving while he waits for his precious

crops to grow. A farmer knows that he cannot hurry the harvest. It will come in due time.

> "Your husband seems to be very impatient lately."

"Yes, he is, very."

"What is the matter with him?"

"He is getting tired waiting for a chance to get out where he can sit patiently hour after hour waiting for a fish to nibble at his bait."

> Patience is the ballast of the soul, that will keep it from rolling and tumbling in the greatest storms; and he that will venture out without this to make him sail even and steady will certainly make shipwreck and drown himself, first in the cares and sorrows of this world, and then in perdition.—*Hopkins*

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**SUNDAY'S LESSONS:** Sunday morning: "*Sin's Consequence And Cure!*" (text: Rom. 5:6-11); Sunday evening: Bi-monthly Singing.

**SCHEDULE:** Our Fall Gospel Meeting is scheduled for Sept. 18-23, with Eric Reynolds.