

# **The Old Hickory Bulletin**

## *Old Hickory Church of Christ*

*841 Old Hickory Blvd.  
Jackson, TN 38305*

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### **Rejoice in Sufferings**

"Who now rejoice in my sufferings." (Col. 1:24). "And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name" (Acts 5:41).

The Christian life is many times a paradox to human nature; it calls upon us to act in ways which are contrary to what would seem to come naturally. It is often hard to react to situations in a Christ-like manner due to the weakness of the flesh. When men persecute us, and revile us, and say all manner of evil against us our natural inclination is to reply in kind. We sometimes not only desire to take vengeance, but we go ahead and do it, forgetting that the Bible says, "Vengeance is mine: I will repay, saith the Lord." (Romans 12:19). And also, "See that none render evil for evil unto any

man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men." (1 Thess. 5:15).

We do not live in a time when physical suffering for Christ is a necessity; when men strip us of our clothing and whip us before the public eye for preaching or practicing the gospel. But, if we are living as we should we are suffering some kind of persecution because Paul says, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." (2 Timothy 3:12). Most of us our suffering today is mental. It consists mostly of reviling and saying all manner of evil against us because of what we stand for. Men, being unable to answer what we affirm, attribute positions to us we never held in an effort to build resentment against us in the minds of others. This is the most common form of persecution in our time. From some points of view, it is the worst kind of persecution. We are sometimes helpless to overcome its evil results due to its affinity for darkness and secrecy.

But, regardless of the form persecution takes, the Christian will react in the same manner. He will not use carnal weapons in his defense, but will take the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God (Eph. 6:17), and pull down strongholds; cast down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. (2 Corinthians 10: 4-5). He will not whimper and whine as though he were the first and last to suffer for Christ. He will never feel humiliated, but rather exalted because he knows he does not walk alone.

*..--James P. Needham*

In BIBLE TRUTH, May 12, 1960 via The Instructor May 1980

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## ***God Belongs In The Center***

In the early chapters of Numbers, we are treated to a layout of the camp of Israel. Three tribes camped on the east side (2:1-9), three on the south (2:10-16), three on the west (2:18-24), and three on the north (2:25-30). In the center of the camp, the Levites were to set up the tabernacle (2:17). Why is this important? It means that God was at the center of the camp, and God was to be their focus, at the heart of everything Israel did. Dads, what about your camp? Is God set up at the center? Is He the focus of all that you are trying to accomplish with your family? Do your children understand that He comes first in all that you do?

- Rusty Miller

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## **“Others”**

Lord help me live from day to day  
In such a self-forgetful way  
That even when I kneel to pray  
My prayer shall be for – Others.

Help me in all the work I do  
To ever be sincere and true  
And know that all I do for you  
Must needs be done for – Others.

Let “Self” be crucified and slain  
And buried deep; and all in vain

May efforts be to rise again  
Unless to live for – Others.

And when my work on earth is done  
And my new work in heaven's begun  
May I forget the crown I've won  
While thinking still of – Others.

Others, Lord, yes others  
Let this my motto be  
Help me to live for others  
That I may live like Thee.

By Charles D. Meigs (written sometime between 1890 and 1902)

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- > *God is the unseen guest at every meal, the silent listener to every conversation.*
  - > *What we need is the ability to tramp the last mile, shape the last plan, and endure the last hour's toil. The fight to the finish spirit is the one characteristic we must possess if we are to receive the prize.*

- The fellow who does things that count doesn't usually stop to count them.
  - It is easy to hate and it is difficult to love; good things are difficult to achieve and bad things are very easy to get.
  - The measure of a man is the way he bears up under misfortune.
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**SUNDAY'S LESSONS:** Sunday morning: *"Back to Sinking Sand!"* (text: Matt. 7:24-27); Sunday evening: *"Impossible Things in the Book of Jonah!"*