

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

*841 Old Hickory Blvd.
Jackson, TN 38305*

August 19, 2012

Volume 32, # 34

Olympic Fame or Shame?

I am a sports enthusiast. I especially like the Olympics. My sense of Nationalism runs deep within me. In fact, I'll admit that when American athletes win a gold medal, and when they zoom in on their faces during the playing of our National Anthem, I can't help but get a little teary eyed.

Ryan Lochte has already stood on the Olympic platform to hear our National Anthem played twice in these Olympic games, and has the chance to do it again. And while a person would normally be basking in Olympic Fame for such accomplishments, Lochte has managed to bring upon himself, "Olympic Shame."

While being interviewed by the media, Lochte's own mother warned girls to leave him alone because he doesn't have time for a relationship and only has time for "one night stands." Lochte, himself gave an interview and said that 70 to 75 percent of Olympic athletes will have sex with other athletes during the Olympics and that he was looking forward to the partying and the hookups. He furthermore said to *ESPN The Magazine*, "My last Olympics, I had a girlfriend – big mistake...Now I'm single, so London should be really good. I'm excited."

We have reached a time when we no longer know how to blush (**Jeremiah 6:15**). It's indeed a sad day when a young man, along with his own mother, speaks freely about his sexual immorality and apparently has no shame about it. Whatever Olympic fame Lochte gains in the 2012 Olympic Games, it will be overshadowed by his Olympic shame.

- Steve Higginbotham

SIGNIFICANT SYMBOLS

I AM THE DOOR

"Then said Jesus unto them, verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." (John 10:7-9)

The expression "I am the door" makes use of "metaphor" or "representation" in symbolic language. It differs from "Simile" in that instead of declaring something to be like or resembles another, the metaphor plainly declares that one thing is another. When we say of a picture "this is my child," we mean it represents my child. Represents is the significance of metaphor.

"Let it be clearly understood that a metaphor is confined to a distinct affirmation that one thing IS another thing, owing to some association or connection in the uses or effects of anything expressed or understood. The two nouns themselves

must both be mentioned, and are always to be taken in their absolutely literal sense, or else no one can tell what they mean. The figure lies wholly in the verb, or copula, which, in English, must always be expressed, and never understood by ellipsis." (Figures of Speech Used In The Bible, E. W. Bullinger, p. 735.)

In our text, when Jesus said "I am the door," both "Jesus" and "door" are to be considered literally; the door representing Jesus. Actually Jesus said, "I am what a door is."

What Is A Door?

A door is an entrance. The door makes possible an entrance; without it there could be no entrance. Webster lists "a way of access" as the meaning of door. In our text, the sheepfold—the enclosure of God's people—is what Jesus provides access to. There just cannot be any access to, or entrance among the people of God apart from Christ.

How Jesus Is The Door

As the door, Jesus only gives access to salvation and the continual largess [generosity – GFS] of the Father. "By me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture."

There have been others who exalted themselves above Jesus or any other person, promising these blessings, but they were imposters and their followers were never the sheep of God. They were powerless to save or provide the blessings and fullness of God, so were nothing more than "thieves and robbers," out to deceive and destroy. Such still exist and are a great threat to souls. The false teacher (wolf in sheep's clothing) is powerless to save and bless.

Only Deity can save, and Jesus was proven to be the Son of God by various signs and wonders, especially by "His resurrection from the dead" (John 20:30, 31; Rom. 1:4). He is, indeed, the door or what a door is.

Only through Him can man be saved and enter into the fold (church) of God.

Two things are mentioned in our text that man can have and enjoy by Jesus, the door. "Be saved" and "go in and out, and find pasture." Jesus purchased our redemption by His death on the cross and is "the door," having become a perfect Saviour through His suffering (Heb. 5:8, 9). To enter in by Christ is to enter according to His word. He said "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:15, 16). We are baptized into Christ (Rom. 6:3, 4; Gal. 3:26, 27); saved and added to the church or fold (Acts 2:47).

"Go in and out, and shall find pasture," does not mean going in and out of the church, but going and coming with the protection and loving care of Him from whom all blessings flow. It is to "sit together in heavenly places" (Eph. 2:6) and enjoy "all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Eph. 1:3). Indeed, Christ is the door to salvation and all spiritual blessings.

You And The Door

Have you entered through this door? Some seem to think God will drive or cram them through this door. Others think they just might accidentally drift through this door. Such a thing is impossible. The promise of salvation and the largess of God is "If any man enter." All can enter through this one door, but each one must desire and purpose to do so, then act upon this faith in repentance, confession and baptism. There is no other door or way of access.

- Herschel E. Patton

JUST A CHRISTIAN

My mother tells a story about H. Leo Boles, a well-known gospel preacher of the past generation. It was his custom as he taught his college class to encourage all his male students to develop some public ability for the worship service. He wanted them to learn to preach, lead singing, or pray.

One of his very backward students had exasperated him. He complained to him, "You can't pray, lead singing, or preach. Just what can you do?" The student drawled in conscientious reply, "Well, brother Boles, I can be a Christian."

The lesson is one well learned. We often elevate preachers, elders, good singers and others to a higher plane of Christianity in our thoughts, praise and actions. Many complain over the need for more preachers and elders. What we really need is more Christians! We need simple dedicated people living the life of love for the Lord. Preachers are not on a higher plane than others; they are merely men charged with greater responsibility. Never forget that Jesus loves those we consider lowly and poor; those in the background; the forgotten, sad and simple, just as much as the famous.

"And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they have cast in of their abundance; but she of her want cast in all that she had, even all her living." (Mark 12:41-44.)

"But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye. are brethren." (Matthew 23:8)

- UNKNOWN

> *"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content."(1 Timothy 6:6-8)*

> *He that wants good sense is unhappy in having learning, for he has thereby only more ways of exposing himself; and he that has sense knows that learning is not knowledge, but rather the art of using it."*

> *"Thoughtfulness for others, generosity, modesty, and self-respect are the qualities which make a real gentleman or lady, as distinguished from the veneered article which commonly goes by that name."*

> *"Common sense is the knack of seeing things as they are, and doing things as they ought to be done."*

> *"He that forgets his friend is ungrateful to him; but he that forgets his Saviour is unmerciful to himself." Bunyan*

THIS WEEK'S LESSONS: Sunday morning: *"Essentials For Getting Along!"* (text: Matt. 7:1-2); Sunday evening: *"Bitterness!"* (a lesson from Ahithophel in 2 Sam.).