

# The Old Hickory Bulletin

## *Old Hickory Church of Christ*

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## Will Your Children Go To Heaven?

In Luke 16:19-31, Jesus taught in a parable regarding a certain rich man, “joyously living in splendor every day,” that upon his death, he was not “carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom,” but rather found himself “in Hades, ... in torment, ...” and “in agony in this flame.” His choices in life prevented his enjoyment of “comfort” in the life after death; it was too late for mercy. In that torment, his appeal was for a messenger to return from the dead and warn his brothers not to come to the place of torment and agony. But the reply was that messengers from the dead would be useless to provoke their repentance if they turned a deaf ear to “Moses and the Prophets.” Why did they not hear Moses and the Prophets? Why did they not heed God's word?

This rich man had five brothers, and he was worried that their fate would be as his. He also had a mother, as did his five brothers. Did anyone ever ask her, “*Will your children go to heaven?*”

One missed it; what about the other five?

Friend, what about ***your*** children, will they go to heaven? They will not by turning a deaf ear to what God has said! “Incline your

ear and come to Me. Listen, that you may live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you, *According to* the faithful mercies shown to David” (Isa. 55:3). Our children will not go to heaven without faith (Heb. 11:6), the faith that comes from “hearing by the word of Christ” (Rom. 10:17). ***Are they hearing?***

Are they hearing the word of Christ from their mother and their father? Or are mother and father too busy with things that will not matter when heaven is missed and torment is received? Are they hearing from other family members? Or are other family members and their godly influence rejected because I am too proud to think that I am not capable of raising my children properly? Are they hearing from other Christians and Bible teachers? Or will any excuse under the sun from homework requirements to a toe ache prevent them from hearing in Bible classes? Are they hearing from gospel preachers and godly elders? Or do you teach your children to avoid association with them in fear that they will meddle in your business and stick their noses where they don't belong? Are they hearing from their own personal and private devotions? Or are you allowing their schedules to be so filled with recreational activities and carnal pursuits that worldly desires choke from their lives any initiative to seek Jehovah while He may be found and call on Him while He is near (Isa. 55:6)? ***Are they hearing?***

Parent, are you doing all that you can to see to it that they hear (Eph. 6:4)? Are you teaching them at home? Are you bringing them to every service of the church? Are you watching out for their companions, who will either help them to hear Christ or lead them away (1 Cor. 15:33)? Are we agreeable to allowing their boyfriends and girlfriends to prevent their hearing by glorifying their own worldly lifestyles and dark influences? What was more pleasant, more important and more desirable to the man “in agony in this flame”? A price must be paid to insure their hearing. *Will you pay it?*

Do you want your children to go to heaven? **Then you must make sure the word of God is leading them.** This is next to impossible if the word of God is not leading you!

- GFS

**Psalm 119:129-136** -- "Your testimonies are wonderful; Therefore my soul observes them. The unfolding of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple. I opened my mouth wide and panted, For I longed for Your commandments. Turn to me and be gracious to me, After Your manner with those who love Your name. Establish my footsteps in Your word, And do not let any iniquity have dominion over me. Redeem me from the oppression of man, That I may keep Your precepts. Make Your face shine upon Your servant, And teach me Your statutes. My eyes shed streams of water, Because they do not keep Your law."

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## "THEY LIED, YOU KNOW"

There had been trouble in the church: a messy situation which church troubles usually encourage. My father had been fired or at least resigned in bad circumstances. There is no essential disgrace in being fired unjustly or else Jesus, Paul, and many other disciples must surely have to hang their heads low. We had to leave close friends behind.

Years later my parents had occasion to attend a funeral for a friend who worshipped at this church. Upon leaving the cemetery my mother put her head to the window of the widow's car and said, "I love you."

Sometime later, a letter arrived at my parent's home expressing how much the simple words were appreciated. The letter went on to regret years wasted in hatred. Years that should have been spent in golden friendship.

Somewhere in the letter was the innocent phrase, "They lied to us about you, you know." Twenty years had been lost.

A lie works just as well as murder. Slanderous untruths stab as deeply into friendships, marriages, and hearts as any dagger might ever stab. They separate loved ones as surely as death itself. Cowering men whose courage will never be great enough to do the murdering which their hatred inspires, will allow their smoldering malice to drive a stake deep into men's hearts and reputations with a lie. A lie is the brand of murder practiced by cowards. God hates liars!

*"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."*  
(Revelation 21:8.)

—John A. Welch

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## MY WIFE

My wife, sweet wife, my angel fair,  
My daily source of joy and power;  
Through day and night you're always there,  
In both the bleak and cheerful hour.

Through the years, and times of gladness,  
We've walked together, arm in arm;  
In the times of tears and sadness,  
We have weathered the darkest storm.

One verse from Paul you'd oft repeat:

“Things work good to those who love him.”  
This always kept me from defeat,  
And made me fight for life and limb.

In times of illness and distress,  
You brought me love, dispelled my fears;  
Now with my love in your caress,  
I bathe my eyes with grateful tears.

I thank my God that you are mine,  
And pray that our health will be such;  
That in the future we'll have time,  
To do the things we love so much.

- Guthrie Dean

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**THIS WEEK'S LESSONS:** Sunday morning: *“Essentials For Getting Along! (part 2)”* (text: Matt. 7:1-12); Sunday evening: Bi-monthly Singing.