

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

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“WHO WENT ABOUT DOING GOOD”

This is what Peter told Cornelius about Jesus: "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him." (Acts 10:38.)

1. Jesus did good when he was a child. It is evident that as a child he spent time learning the word of God, to the extent that he was able to astonish the doctors of the law with his understanding and his answers, even at the age of twelve years. The profound knowledge which Jesus possessed of the word of God proved to be a blessing when Satan came with his temptations and when Jesus had the responsibility of teaching the people. Jesus overcame every temptation with a proper application of the word of God (Matt. 4), and was able to answer every captious question of his enemies because of his understanding of God's will. (Matt. 22.) It is a joy to see a young person who is interested in learning the word of God, and who spends time day by day reading and studying and ever accumulating knowledge of God's will. With that knowledge that youngster will be able to put down the

temptations of Satan and well serve his Master as a citizen of the kingdom.

Jesus also did good as a child by wanting to worship, to be in his Father's house and about his Father's business, and by being obedient to his parents. To his parents he said, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" (Luke 2:49.) The scripture further says that he was subject to his parents and that he "increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." (Luke 2:51, 52.)

2. Jesus did good when he was baptized. He did God's will. "Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbade him saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffered him." (Matt. 3:13-15.) It is God's will for man today that he be baptized, for in giving the great commission Jesus 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.) The apostles commanded men to believe in Christ (1 John 3:23), to repent (Acts 17:30), to be baptized. (Acts 10:48.)

3. Jesus did good when he overcame the devil. He kept himself free from sin and proved himself indeed to be the pure lamb of God qualified to take away the sin of the world. (John 1:29.) In his victory over Satan (Matt. 4:1-11), he showed us that by proper use of God's word as "the sword of the Spirit" (Eph.

6:17), we have a power greater than any temptation which Satan can place before us.

4. He did good when he taught his disciples the great principles of life. "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: but I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire." (Matt. 5:21, 22.) "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: but I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." (Matt. 5:27,28.; These are only some of the great principles of moral conduct which Jesus taught his disciples that would lift them up to a high and noble plane in life.

5. Jesus did good when he helped the sick and afflicted, when he fed the hungry, when he comforted the bereaved. When he was called to the sick, his answer was, "I will come." (Matt. 8:7.) His disciples today can be of help by ministering to the sick, or by visits, or by cards or calls to let them know that they are not forgotten. Christ fed the hungry (Matt. 14:15-21; 15:32-38), and let us know that in part we will be judged according to the service that we render to fellow man. "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in —"

(Matt. 25:31-34, 35-46.) Though Jesus could raise Lazarus from the dead, he wept with the bereaved sisters and helped to comfort them. (John 11:35.) We cannot raise the dead, but we can help the bereaved bear their burden of sorrow by showing compassion and sympathy in their time of need.

6. Jesus did good when he rebuked the wayward. He was doing what was best for the scribes and Pharisees when he pointed out to them their hypocrisy, and their need of true cleanliness from within rather than a mere ceremonial cleansing from without that was of no benefit to their spiritual well-being. (Matt. 23.) He was doing what was best for Peter by showing him that in following human wisdom he was serving Satan rather than God. (Mark 8:31-33.) He was doing good for James and John when he rebuked them for wanting to destroy certain Samaritans by telling them that he had not come to destroy men's lives but to save them. (Luke 9:51-56.) Christ's disciples today can do good by rebuking, with a proper spirit, the wayward to bring them to repentance and a restoration in the service of the Lord.

7. Jesus did good when he prayed for his enemies. He taught his disciples to pray for their enemies: "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." (Matt. 5:44.) Jesus set the example when he prayed for those who were crucifying him, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34.) His prayer was answered some days later, on the day of Pentecost, when people who were guilty of crucifying Christ repented of their sins and

were baptized in the name of Christ for the remission of their sins. (Acts 2:36-42.)

8. Jesus did good when he died on the cross. The shedding of his precious blood provided the means by which sinful man might be redeemed from his sins and the terrible consequences of his sins: "in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace." (Eph. 1:7.)

9. Jesus is doing good now. He is with his disciples as they in turn go about doing good, as they take the gospel to a world lost in sin. (Matt. 28:20.) He is serving as mediator and high priest at the right hand of God. (1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 4:14-16.) He is preparing mansions for his own and will return to receive them unto himself." (John 14:1-3.)

- Billy Norris, via *Gospel Guide*, September, 1976

IS IT WORTH GOING TO HELL FOR?

Some men become so attracted to a thing that they say they are willing to take their chances on doing it and the consequences.

Lying — Is it worth going to hell to do it? Some, for some reason, give over to lying, but the reward of eternal destruction is the payment for it! "...and all liars, their part shall be in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the second death." (Revelation 21:8.)

Adultery — A few years ago a young single man married a woman who had been married and divorced three or four times. Is

the relationship of adultery worth going to hell for? Such "Shall not inherit the kingdom of heaven." (1 Cor. 6:9, 10.)

False Teaching — Some preachers have admitted that they know they are teaching contrary to God's Word, but say they have too good a thing going to give it up. A false teacher does not have God. (2 John 9.) Is a big salary and prestige reward enough to go to hell for?

Refuse Baptism — Though religious, some reject baptism for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38.) But since Jesus said he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, is it worth enough to go to hell just to refuse to be baptized, as Christ authorized? (Mk. 16:16.)

Think It Over — Is a dollar, or a preference of mine so valuable that I prefer it to Heaven?? So valuable as to suffer in hell forever for it?

— Leo B. Plyler

SPEAKING AS THE ORACLES OF GOD

Not only do we have the one book and one body, but we have specific terms of entrance into this one body. If one does not believe in Jesus as the Christ, he is not in the church of our Lord even if his mother did have him sprinkled when he was a baby. If a congregation or individual begins to lose faith, there is a loss of interest in baptism. Faith is necessary. Baptism is essential. Repentance is so emphasized that it is clear that one must repent or perish. How could we over-emphasize these fundamental,

basic or first principles? To be right before God, one must begin right. We are not speaking as the oracles of God if we dodge or omit the plain teaching on what one must do to receive the blessing of the remission of sin. A church that does not boldly teach the truth on these things is not our Lord's church. We must believe that God is and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Are we ashamed of baptism? Do we speak enough of repentance? Shun not to declare the whole counsel!

— Irvn Lee, Franklin Road Sermon Series, Vol. III, p. 6.

- > "A lack of courage will cause one to allow error to go unchallenged!"
 - > "True education makes one aware of his purpose in life - that of glorifying the true God of heaven and earth!"
 - > "The man who agrees with everything you say probably lies to others also!"
 - > "Suspicion and jealousy never did help any man in any situation!" - Lincoln
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THIS WEEK'S LESSONS: Sunday morning: "*Regarding Revenge, Retribution and Retaliation!*" (Text: Matt. 5:38-42); Sunday evening: "*There Is No Fear Of God Before Their Eyes!*" (Rom. 3:10-18).