

# **The Old Hickory Bulletin**

## ***Old Hickory Church of Christ***

*841 Old Hickory Blvd.*

*Jackson, TN 38305*

[oldhickorycofc.com](http://oldhickorycofc.com)

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## **Binding and Loosing**

Matt. 16:18; 18:18

Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi and conversed with His disciples concerning His identity. It was here that Peter made the good confession, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matt. 16:16). As Jesus spoke to Peter in verse 19, He said, "And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." In Matt. 18:18 the statement was made to all the apostles. Thus the matter of inspiration and revelation was not limited to Peter, neither did Peter or the other apostles speak of themselves. In fact, Jesus declared, "The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works" (John 14:10b). Again, He said, "When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things" (John 8:28).

The word *dedemenon* suggests this thought. It is in the present perfect tense and conveys the thought as correctly translated in the New American Standard Version, "...and whatever you shall bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven" (Matt. 16:19). The New Testament is the product of God. He speaks to us today by His Son and those directed by His inspiration in the completed revelation. Prior to the cross God had spoken to the fathers by Moses and the prophets. God revealed through his servants laws which bound them, which laws they kept not. Condemnation was upon them for their transgressions. Jesus came to set man free. Free from sin, from the law; and in order to do this loosing and binding had to occur.

**Things Loosed:** When Jesus fulfilled the law, he "took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross" (Col. 2:14). Thus he loosed men from the law. Verse 16 of Colossians 2 lists some of the requirements from which man was set free. "Let no man judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holy day, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days." Christian worship is on the Lord's Day, the first day of the week. Why? Inspiration of God, revealed through His servants, records the loosing of the sabbath requirement, which once had been bound. Animal sacrifices once offered according to the law have ceased to be offered. (See Heb. 7:25-28; 10:1-4). The impossibility of the animal sacrifice to take away sins was limited in its use until a suitable sacrifice was made to atone for man's sins. Jesus was that sacrifice. His sacrifice was perfect to the accomplishing of God's purpose, thus forever ending animal sacrifice. Fleshly circumcision was one of the most troublesome aspects of the law in the first century

church. Judaizing teachers sought to compel the Gentile Christians to keep the rite of circumcision. A great discussion was conducted in Jerusalem on this matter. The elders and the apostles under the direction of the Holy Spirit (Acts 15:28) determined that circumcision was no longer binding. In fact, Paul declares that to keep circumcision as a matter of law practice nullifies the effect of Christ's sacrifice in that one's life. "Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace" (Gal. 5:2-4). We trust the point is made. The things loosed were those things once bound under the law.

**Things Bound:** This is a study of its own. Men still hold diverse views on the binding nature of the New Testament. Direct commands must be honored as binding. An example: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38). An approved apostolic example is binding. "Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you" (Phil. 4:9). An example is seen in Acts 20:7 in keeping the command to eat the Lord's Supper. "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, ..." This passage is the only passage that tells us the day to eat the Lord's Supper, and by necessary inference the point is established as to the frequency of eating—"upon the first day of the week." As we apply these scriptural principles to other areas of study, we arrive

at the truth on the subject. Let us look at some of the things bound by the New Testament:

### Necessary to Salvation

1. Faith. John 8:24; Heb. 11:6; Mark 16:16.
2. Repentance. Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30,31.
3. Confession of faith. Rom. 10:9,10; Matt. 10:32,33.
4. Baptism. Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; 1 Pet. 3:21.
5. Faithfulness. Revelation 3:10.

### Worship

1. Steadfastness. Acts 2:41-42; Heb. 10:25.
2. Worship directed to God. John 4:23,24.
3. Worship in spirit and in truth. John 4:24; Matt. 15:9.
4. Acts of worship must be authorized: singing, praying, studying, partaking of the Lord's Supper, and giving. Col. 3:17.

### Work

1. Preaching the gospel. 1 Tim. 3:15.
2. Relieving the needy saints. Rom. 12:13.
3. Building up the body. Eph. 4:12.

The New Testament scriptures are complete and sufficient for our instruction and practice. Hear Peter, "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue (2 Pet. 1:3). Peter declared by inspiration that God has given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness. As true disciples of the Lord we accept that declaration. The consequence of which forbids us to bind where

God has not bound or loose where God has not loosed. Paul declared, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed" (Gal. 1:8). The close of Revelation records, "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, if any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book" (Rev. 22:18,19).

- Johnny Richardson, via East Florence Contender, May, 1981 [Edited]

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## **The Ability to Distinguish**

Dean Inge once said he had no ear for music, that he could not tell the difference between the songs "Pop Goes the King" and "God Save the Weasel." Poor Dean! He lacked the ability to distinguish.

That inability can be a very sober and serious thing when it comes to spiritual matters. The Hebrew writer must have known some 'Peter Pan' Christians. (You remember Peter Pan. He was the boy who refused to grow up). Listen to the rebuke given to such immaturity: "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need some one to teach you again the first principles of God's word. You need milk, not solid food; for every one who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have

their faculties trained by practice to distinguish good from evil” (Hebrews 5:12-14).

Did you notice? The ability to distinguish good from evil comes from having our “faculties trained by practice” (exercise). It is through constant practice that one becomes proficient in any line of endeavor, and it holds true in Christianity. A little child does not know “how to refuse the evil and choose the good.” It is through training and exercise that one becomes mature and consciously discriminative of “good and evil” whether in doctrine, ethics or morals.

We must “try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.” lest as children we are “tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the cunning of men, by their craftiness in deceitful wiles.”

May God help us to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ,” and to sharpen our spiritual perceptions on a daily basis till we arrive at the ability to distinguish good from evil.

- John Gipson

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## **Christians, Do You Remember When...**

Do you remember when elders, deacons, evangelists, Bible class teachers and all church members had a strong commitment to the Word? Do you recall when you could always count on “book, chapter, and verse” preaching from the pulpit? Can you think back to a time when Christians were known as “people of the Book,” because they knew their Bibles so well?

We are still trying to be a church like the church you read about in the Bible. And we're still doing the same things that you remember from way back when. Are you longing for a return to the way things used to be? Come and visit – see for yourself!

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- "Beware of the deceitful person: he is a liar for gain of some sort, but he expects everyone to believe him; and if you find out that he is a liar, he becomes bitter toward you."
  - "Courage is not the absence of fear, but the faithful performance of duty in spite of it."
  - "Big Shots" are merely "small shots" who keep on shooting.
  - "The less one requires looking after, the more valuable is his effort."
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**THIS WEEK'S LESSONS:** Sunday morning: "*Wise Men!*" (Text: Matt. 2:1-12); Sunday evening: "*Infatuated Hearers!*" (Isa. 30:9-11).

**GOSPEL MEETING 2016:** Our Gospel Meeting is scheduled for July 24-29, with Josh Thornhill, of Wildersville, preaching.