

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

841 Old Hickory Blvd.

Jackson, TN 38305

oldhickorycofc.com

June 25, 2017

Volume 37, # 26

THE JOY OF TRUSTING IN GOD

Psalm 16

One of the glorious psalms of David is Psalm 16. The heart of David can be felt in studying the Psalms. David was a man after the heart of God. He did sin from time to time and sin grievously but he always returned to the Lord and put his entire heart in his service to God. David realized, as we should, that only in God is real joy and comfort. Men will desert you, seek to harm you, bring you down to the dust and laugh at you when calamity strikes. But God is true. He desires what is best for us and He seeks with His every act to lift us up and cause us to stand. How great is our God!

David held God as his refuge. His trust was in God. He desired God to watch over him. He realized that there was no goodness in him apart from God. His delight was also in God. He recognized the excellence that was found in the saints of God. Those who are genuine Christians are a delight to all other Christians. His inheritance was in Jehovah. David realized that there were no gods but Jehovah and he would not offer sacrifice to any but Jehovah. It was God that provided for him and upheld him, giving him the needs of this life. He saw God as his pleasant and beautiful inheritance.

David also knew that God would not fail him. This faith was conditional to David for one must be righteous if he expects God to uphold him. David said he would bless Jehovah for Jehovah was his wisdom, his heart, his right

hand and stay, his heart's joy, his glory and his hope! How could anyone be closer to the Lord than was David? He believed that Jehovah would not leave him but make known to him the way of life. This Psalm is Messianic and describes for us the resurrection of Jesus but has application to us all and to David as well. David concluded that in Jehovah's presence is the fullness of joys and at His right hand are pleasures forevermore.

When we apply this passage to our lives we can put our trust in God whatever the circumstances of life may bring, knowing that He is our refuge and strength and recognizing that God will never leave us as we walk by His side in righteousness.

- Stan L. Caldwell

BLESSINGS FOR THE ONE WHO SELLS GRAIN

People debate the virtues of capitalism and socialism in terms of economic policies. Sometimes you hear arguments made from the Bible for one or the other by religious people (even by irreligious people at times). The following verse is a good one to consider as we try to develop a Biblical view of economics.

"He who withholds grain, the people will curse him, but blessing will be on the head of him who sells it" (Proverbs 11:26).

If people need grain, but one person possesses all of it and refuses to part with any of it, then it is understandable for the people who need grain to think negatively of the one who hoards it.

But if one person has all of the grain and the people need some grain, what should be done? Should he be forced to give it away? Should the government confiscate his grain and redistribute it to those who need it? Should an angry mob come and steal his grain? No, no, and no. What does the Scripture say? He should "sell" it.

There are several reasons why it is preferable to sell the grain:

1. The grain is rightfully his in the first place and the Scriptures teach that personal property rights are to be respected (Exodus 20:15; Ecclesiastes 5:19; Acts 5:3-4).

2. Work was done in order to grow and gather the grain and the laborer is worthy of his wages (1st Timothy 5:18).

3. When man is able to work for something (or work for the money to be able to purchase something), he is expected to do so. Those who are unwilling to work are unworthy to receive the fruits of another man's labor (2nd Thessalonians 3:8-10).

Other points could be made from this verse as well, but these are a few to consider. One who "sells" a needed product to people is "blessed". Those who believe this man's property ought to be forcefully taken from him (either by a civil government or an uncivil mob) cannot make their case from the Bible.

- Andy Sochor

WHY I ATTEND BIBLE CLASSES

1. In the Bible classes the word of God is taught. I am in need of all the knowledge that I can gain concerning God's holy will. The principals that will make me what God wants me to be are in the Bible.

2. I go to the Bible classes because the things which I learn there help me to become a better person in every relationship of life. I am made a better partner in my family, a better friend to my fellowman, and a better citizen of my country when I walk in the way of my Lord.

3. The Bible classes are worthy to me because they help me to become more useful in the service of God. Whatever ability I may possess has been granted to me from the Almighty, and the work of the Bible class helps me to increase my talent and so become more useful in the service of my God.

4. Again, attendance upon the study of God's word is of value to me because I realize that trials, temptations, sorrows, and burdens are always upon me. It is not possible for me to bear these alone. When I study the word of God and apply that knowledge to my own life, I find out how to accept my trials in the right way; I discover the way to find escape from temptation; I find comfort for my sorrows and the Lord's divine help in bearing my burdens. When I miss the Bible study I may very well miss the very lesson that would show me the way through troubles, grief, and temptation.

5. Bible classes are good to attend because the word of God answers in the best possible way the great questions of life. Where did I come from? What am I here for? Where am I going? What is after death? How can I go to heaven? How can I accomplish the very best possible with my life? How can I be happy here and after this life is ended?

6. I go to Bible classes because I want to please my God! He delights in those who delight in His word, and I want to cultivate such a yearning for the Words of Life that my heart will cry out for more and more of His blessed will. I am responsible to God for the effect of my actions on others and I want to be built by the Lord so that I will not lead others astray by my example.

7. I attend Bible classes because I see the good that such studies accomplish in the life of the congregation and the individual.

- Leonard Mullens

Is the Grade too Steep?

Researchers have found that most people recognize a hill to be steeper than it really is. This is especially true if they are carrying something or are tired. Participants consistently misjudged the slope of a hill. Often they would estimate up to four times what it actually was, believing a five degree slope was nearly twenty degrees! No one thought they could be so far off.

It goes to show that when we are tired, burdened or exhausted, even a small problem can seem too big for us to handle. When we encounter a trial in life, we might be tempted to just sit down and stay there. Perhaps we think the grade of the hill is too steep for us.

That is why we need to find the encouragement of God's Word. It draws our attention to God, who does not tire and knows our need. Isaiah wrote: "The Creator of the ends of the earth neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength" (Isaiah 40:28-29).

Since we so easily over-estimate life's difficulties, we need courage to keep going when we are tempted to quit. Take a step of faith today and join those who depend on the Lord.

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (Isaiah 40:31).

In His strength, you can conquer any steep grade. God always gives us the strength to carry on.

- Shane Williams

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- > "Wouldn't life be 'rosy' if you could settle your own problems as easily as you can settle the problems of others?"
 - > "We are born with the fear of falling but lose that fear when we accept Calvinism!"
 - > "Some people are more concerned about being politically correct than being spiritually correct!"
 - > "Bible heroes spent their time doing what they knew God required, not worrying about things they didn't understand!"

> “If you don’t know where you are going, you will not like the place you finally reach!”

THIS WEEK'S LESSONS: Sunday morning: “*The High Price of Compromise!*” (Text: Gen. 34:1-2, 7); Sunday evening: *Bi-monthly Singing!*