

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

841 Old Hickory Blvd.
Jackson, TN 38305
oldhickorycofc.com

February 24, 2019

Volume 39, # 09

Someday, The Most Popular Day!

What is your favorite day? Friday? It is the end of the work week, and beginning of the week-end, a time of relaxation for many. Monday? You are back into the swing of your work schedule after dreading the start of the new week. Wednesday? This is the "over-the-hump" day, and since the week is "half over", the rest of the week will be a breeze. Sunday? For many in the world, this is the day to just be lazy, sit in front of the television, become a "couch-potato", and watch all those sporting events.

Many of our friends in the world would have given those answers and many others. However, in conversations with my Christian friends, those who "have left their first love" or have become "slothful" in their duties toward God, the most popular day is...SOMEDAY!!

When we read about Felix in Acts 24:25, what day was he waiting for? "A convenient season", another way of saying, SOMEDAY! Then in Acts 26:28, we have King Agrippa whom Paul "almost persuaded to be a Christian..." SOMEDAY! The rich young ruler in Mark 10:17-22 had great wealth and riches. Maybe he would leave them behind him....SOMEDAY!

Most of us will never live to see all of our earthly plans accomplished. Even if we could suppose for a moment that we had time to fulfill all of the great plans that we have made for ourselves, our plans had better include the Lord, if we are going to be prepared for eternity!

The rich man, in Luke 16:20-31, learned the truth, but it was too late to remedy the situation and change for the better. Is it worth the chance to wait? Do you want to be like the rich man? I'm reminded of the words of the apostle Paul, "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out." 1 Timothy 6:7. Riches couldn't help him then, could they?

What of the attitude displayed by the apostle Paul in Philippians 1:21-24? For Paul, "to live is Christ, and to die is gain...having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ, which is far better." Paul did not put off for tomorrow what he could do today!

Why is SOMEDAY so popular with so many people? Many want to continue enjoying the pleasures of sin and "SOMEDAY" gives them a false sense of security. "I have time to obey God, but later- at my convenience." It allows us to postpone doing that which is truly important for those things we believe to be much more "fun." After all we reason, "I have not forsaken God, I have just put Him on hold." By avoiding a sense of guilt, we can really get into the flow of life! Sadly, graves are full of the bodies of men who looked forward to "SOMEDAY" in which they would obey God...but for some unforeseen reason, that particular SOMEDAY never came! How tragic that this record could be played over and over again!

What can we do? Personally, I hope people live to see the day when "SOMEDAY" is not so popular with mankind. After all, "today is the day of salvation." (2 Corinthians 6:2). Today can be the day of your salvation...or it can be the day you leave this earthly abode, bound for eternal damnation. Why? The Lord has provided for us today, but He has not promised us SOMEDAY!

We must consider each day as if it were the last day to prepare for death and the judgment which awaits. Is SOMEDAY worth the price of your soul? Matthew 16:26. "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (Hebrews 10:31). "Someday you'll stand before the bar on high, someday your record you'll see; someday you'll answer the question of life, WHAT WILL YOUR ANSWER BE?"

Many of the chief rulers believed on Jesus, but would not confess Him because of the Pharisees. Yet, they might have..."SOMEDAY." (John 12:42, 43). My friends can you not see a pattern which develops in all these examples? Can we learn anything which is worthwhile? God gave us these "examples" even the bad ones, so we might make the better choice, and choose the better path!

Recently, I talked with one who has never come to know God, or accept His teachings. He is now "living in sin", when I tried to persuade him by teaching him the truth, he replied, "I know you are right. The Bible does indeed teach that I'm living in sin. I plan to obey God, SOMEDAY, but not right now, I've got time." Why must people be so prone to learn the lessons of life the hard way! In another conversation with an erring brother, I heard a statement often made by other brethren too, "I know what my responsibilities are, and I plan to return to the Lord. But, first I must get some things worked out in my own way. I

still love God, and I'll be back...SOMEDAY!" May God allow them the opportunity to see that SOMEDAY!

When I speak to the young people about directing their footsteps in the pathway of God, sometimes the answer is, "I have plenty of time yet, I'm young. I want to sow my wild oats, have some fun out of life. There is much to see, and things I want to do that as a Christian I could not do, but I firmly plan to obey the gospel and become a Christian...SOMEDAY!" Sadly, some of these people died at a very early age, with their life supposedly yet ahead of them. What makes any of us think we have the promise of SOMEDAY? Sometimes, we live like we do not understand the words recorded in Hebrews 9:27. "It is appointed unto man to die, but after this the judgment." Death and judgment are two appointments we will have to keep. "...For what is your life? It is a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and vanishes away." (James 4:14). Life is so brief, when compared to eternity! People want to live like they will live on the earth forever, and still have enough time to have a right relationship with God. Yet, we forget the Lord may come again! (2 Peter 3:10; 1 Thessalonians 5:2). When He comes, will you be prepared, or still waiting for SOMEDAY? No one likes to think about death. It happens to others, not me. Even when slapped repeatedly in the face with the harsh reality as friends and loved ones are overtaken by death, but not me! Death is no respecter of persons. It takes the young, middle aged, and the old, those in the prime of life and those who are in the "later years." Two things are certain: we have no guarantee how long we will live on this earth, or if we will be alive when the Lord's returns. My dear friend or brother, are you prepared for that day? Or are you still waiting for SOMEDAY? May God help us to see that SOMEDAY is a no win situation!

- Keith Greer

Courtesy

Webster defines Courtesy as, "1. excellence of manners or social conduct; polite behavior. 2. a courteous, respectful, or considerate act or expression. 3. favor, help, or generosity."

God's word has much to say about courtesy and its place in the Christian's life. In the sermon that Jesus preached from the mount, he said "Let your light so shine that others may see your good works and glorify your father who is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16). What sort of light shines from a person who is rude and unkind? Consider the following passages:

Matthew 7:12 - "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."

1 Corinthians 10:24: "Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth."

In 1 Corinthians 13:4-5, Paul, speaking of love and describing it, said: "Charity suffereth long (is patient), and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself (is not rash), is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly (is not rude), seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil."

Ephesians 4:31-32: "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Philippians 2:3-4: "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory (selfishness or empty conceit); but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others."

In every situation, I need to put myself in the place of the other person, consider the impact of my words and actions, and consider the intent of the person who is speaking to me.

Mankind is God's creation. We revere God, and we should revere His creation. This is not always easy, because some choose to be unappealing. Another's lack of courtesy does not excuse mine. We must do right, regardless whether it is easy.

Consider Jesus and the example He set:

- In Mark 10:13-16, he received kindly the little children whose mothers brought them to Him to be blessed. His disciples were not so inclined.
- In Mark 10:17-22, a rich, young, ruler came asking Him what he must do to be saved. Jesus could have answered him rudely. After all, he interrupted; he came, a rich man, to God's son who had no earthly possession, to ask a question to which he should have known the answer. Yet, the verses tell us that Jesus loved him and answered kindly.
- Consider how He treated the woman caught in the act of adultery; and the Samaritan woman at the well.

We must forgive when others sin against us. It is never right to speak to or treat others unkindly. Seize your opportunities. Look for ways to be kind and courteous.

"I expect to pass this way but once. If, therefore, there be any kindness I can show or any good I can do for my fellow human beings, let me do it now. Let me not defer it nor neglect it, for, I shall not pass this way again."

- Carolyn Rix

“The Monkey’s Disgrace!”

Three monkeys sat in a coconut tree
Discussing things as they are said to be.
Said one to the other, "Now, listen you two,
There's a rumor around that can't be true,
That man descended from our noble race.
The very idea is a great disgrace.

No monkey has ever deserted his wife,
Starved her babies and ruined their life.
And you've never known a mother monk
To leave her babies with others to bunk,
Or pass from one on to another
'Till they scarcely know who is their mother.

Here's another thing a monkey won't do --
Go out at night and get on a stew,
Or use a gun or club or knife
To take another monkey's life.
Yes, man descended, the ornery cuss;
But, brother, he didn't descend from us!!

- Anonymous

- > "To know *God's* will is man's greatest treasure; to do *God's* will is life's greatest privilege!"
- > "Procrastination is the devil's chloroform!"
- > "The poorest man is he whose only wealth is money!"
- > "A really brave man is never afraid to retreat if he finds he has been wrong!"

> "It doesn't take a lot of muscle to give the heart a lift!"

THIS WEEK'S LESSONS: Sunday morning: *"Who Is The Lord?"* (Text: Exod. 5:1-4);
Sunday evening: *Bi-monthly Singing!*