

# **The Old Hickory Bulletin**

## **Old Hickory Church of Christ**

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

---

**August 11, 2019**

**Volume 39, # 33**

---

### **We Are Having A Gospel Meeting!**

We want people to believe the gospel of Jesus Christ! No person can be saved without faith. Jesus said, "...I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins." (John 8:24). Just prior to His ascension into heaven, Jesus commissioned His chosen apostles: "And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.'" (Mark 16:15-16). By faith those who hear the gospel can be saved. Without faith they will be lost. One important purpose of our Gospel Meeting is to win the lost.

We preach the gospel today in order to create and stimulate faith in those who hear. That is God's ordained purpose for having men preach. "How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?" (Rom. 10:14). The only means which God has of reaching the hearts of men is through the preaching of the gospel.

Notice also that it is the gospel that must be preached, not some other message. Paul declared, "For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe." (1 Cor. 1:21). The "message" is the gospel, the word of Christ. That very message produces, builds and strengthens saving faith. Notice: "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ." (Rom. 10:17). It is this message that will be preached in our Gospel Meeting, as well as any other time we assemble. Faith in Christ is the result we desire.

We want sinners to come to our Gospel Meeting. If they do, God will be calling them to salvation through the message preached. We want erring Christians to come to our Gospel Meeting. The truth will be taught, and they will be encouraged at every meeting to repent and be restored to fellowship with God. Many are caught in trespasses (Gal. 6:1), and many stray from the truth (Jas. 5:19). We preach for the purpose of turning them

back, turning them from the error of their way, saving their souls from death and restoring them to the Lord by covering a multitude of sins (Jas. 5:20).

We want Christians to come to our Gospel Meeting. To the elders at Ephesus upon his departure, Paul declared, "And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified." (Acts 20:32). Many Christians have been built up by the preaching of the gospel. That's what strengthens faith and fidelity to the Lord. Marriages have been strengthened by hearing and heeding gospel instruction of the family. The discouraged have been encouraged to stronger faith and lasting hope. Prayers are offered and answered by God in the strengthening of Christians in the inner man. We can know the hope of His calling and the greatness of His power (Eph. 1:18-19) through the preaching that will be done in our Gospel Meeting.

Are you interested? Will you attend our Gospel Meeting? Will you ask others to come to our Gospel Meeting?

- Gary Smalley

---

## WOULD YOU LIVE FOR JESUS?

Our question asks for a simple yes or no answer. However, it is the most important question of life with eternal consequences that must be carefully considered.

Would you live for Jesus? We are not just asking if you would be baptized and attend services frequently, although these are two important obligations for children of God. We are asking you the same questions the Lord is asking you:

Would you die to sin and self? One of the Lord's ambassadors put it this way: "How shall we who died to sin still live in it?" (Rom. 6:2b); "our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;" (Rom. 6:6); "Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts," (Rom. 6:11-12; cf. 2 Tim. 3:2).

Would you live for Christ daily? Would you live the life that Christ lived? Would you give up everything you are and have for Him? There is no place for selfishness here! Jesus said: "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me." (Luke 9:23). Dying to this world must be a "daily" endeavor (1 Cor. 15:31). Would you relay God's instructions to others who need them without letting the consequences hinder you? "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of

Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory, and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.” (Luke 9:26); “If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.” (1 Pet. 4:14). Would you bear the reproaches and ridicule of family and friends for the sake of truth? Would you take gladly the spoiling of your goods and physical abuse, or would you retaliate viciously (Heb. 10:34; cf. Acts 5:41)? In essence, would you follow Christ wherever He may lead?

Will you follow Christ wherever He may lead? Friend, if you are willing to live for Jesus He will bless you with heaven after awhile. But don't expect heaven if you are pretending to be a Christian. The Lord knows man's hypocrisy, and He will recompense justly. Discipleship is more than a mere profession of Christianity — it is a life that is lived in submission to God and harmony with His will. The Lord is waiting to bless you. Won't you come to Him? May we assist you?

- Gary Smalley

---

## Questions about Your Baptism

Three important questions need to be answered about our baptism to be confident it was valid.

Was the action of my baptism proper; was I buried in and raised up from a watery grave (see Acts 8:36-38; John 3:5)?

Was I a proper candidate for baptism; had I been taught the gospel and was I a penitent believer in Jesus Christ (Matt. 28:19, 20; Mk. 16:15, 16; Acts 2:38)?

And, did I understand that I was being baptized as a symbol of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus (Rom. 6:3, 4, 17, 18), for the remission of all of my past sins, (Acts 2:38 Mk. 16:16) and into the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13)?

If one can answer all these questions in the affirmative then he can be sure his baptism was valid.

It is possible for a person's baptism to be invalid. Paul baptized twelve men who had been immersed previously (see Acts 19:1-7) because they had not been properly taught misunderstanding the purpose of their baptism. I have re-baptized some folks who, were baptized while young, came to feel their understanding of the purpose of baptism was inadequate. I have also baptized some who had only been sprinkled earlier, and others who had only been babies when they were "baptized."

When thinking of the validity of his baptism, the following should not be of concern:

It makes no difference whether a person is baptized in the ocean, a river, pond, or tank; in either running or still water. If a person is immersed in water, the action of his baptism is scriptural. I've known of some to be baptized in a bathtub when better facilities were unavailable. If the person is immersed in water, the action of his baptism is valid.

It makes no difference who baptized you! My dad, a faithful gospel preacher baptized me and I'm glad of that. However, it would have been valid if I had been baptized by anyone else, even if it were not by a faithful Christian. Who baptizes us cannot be important because we cannot know the heart of another, his faithfulness as a Christian. If he must be a faithful Christian, we would have to trace an unbroken line of faithful "baptizers" back to the first century. If just one person in the "line" were not faithful, then everyone baptized afterwards would have an invalid baptism. Obviously, no one can do this, and the Lord does not require the impossible of us in obeying Him. If one "obeys Christ", the one who does the baptizing is of no consequence to its validity.

- Ben Shropshire

---

- > "A friend is one who is a source of sunshine when you are under the weather!"
  - > "A friend is one who strengthens you with his prayers, blesses you with his love, and encourages you with his hope!"
  - > "A friend is one to whom distance is no barrier to communication, concern, or caring!"
  - > "A friend is one who transforms your loneliness into happiness, your sadness into joy, your gloom into gladness!"
  - > "A friend is one who believes in you when you have ceased to believe in yourself!"
- 

**THIS WEEK'S LESSONS:** Sunday a.m. #1 - Reverence - A Response to God; Sunday a.m. #2 - Reverence - You Can't Fake It; Sunday p.m. - Reverence for God's Word; Monday - Taking Spiritual Inventory; Tuesday - We're Still Talking About Grace; Wednesday - Get Your Head Right; Thursday - O We of Little Faith; Friday - Things to Remember.