

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

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

May 26, 2019

Volume 39, # 22

"Thou Hast Revealed Them Unto Babes"

In one of the prayers He addressed to His Father, Jesus said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight" (Matthew 11:25-26). He then said to those who would hear Him, "All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and he to whom the Son wills to reveal Him" (v. 26). In Luke's recording of these words, He adds that Jesus turned privately to His disciples and said, "Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see" (Luke 10:23). God has revealed truth unto man. In this present time, the Father has revealed His Son, Jesus Christ, to those who will see and hear. In Christ is revealed all truth for man to know and please God. Jesus said that God gave this revelation unto "babes," and hid it from the "wise and prudent." When Jesus used these terms, He referred to the world's judgments as to who was wise and who was naive. The "wise and prudent" are those who, due to their worldly wisdom and self-righteousness, rank themselves highly. "Babes" are those who humble themselves before the altar of God's wisdom, leaving behind human assumptions and preconceived notions. Revealed truth is "hidden" from the wise and prudent because they refuse to acknowledge it. Truth is "revealed" to babes because they are of a mind to hear and heed God's word.

Paul, in speaking of the fact that some would deem the message of the cross (the gospel) as foolishness, wrote: "For it is written: 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.' Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe" (I Corinthians 1: 19-21). Education can be very helpful, but filling the mind with large doses of worldly wisdom (whether religious or secular), can endanger the soul. The more enamored we become with worldly philosophy and wisdom, the more difficult it is for us to perceive spiritual truths. "But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are

foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (2:14). This is why Paul warned the Colossians to beware of being "plundered" by "Philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ" (Colossians 2:8). One commentator noted correctly: "it is paradoxical but true that study can separate a person from the truth as well as bring a person to truth. It is the attitude of the learner that determines the result" (Robert E. Mounce, NIBC, Matthew, p. 107).

Again, Paul wrote, "For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty..." (1 Corinthians 1:26). Worldly wisdom is a trap that the devil sets to lure those who will not fully submit their minds to God's revealed will. Christians should not be ashamed of lacking worldly learning and prestige. We are still fully equipped to stand up and contend for the faith and give a defense for the hope that is within us (Jude 3; 1 Peter 3:15). You may be a "babe" in worldly wisdom, but you can understand the revealed mind of God.

- Marc Gibson

There Is A Generation ...

"One generation passes away, and another generation comes..." (Ecclesiastes 1:4). Let us consider the thought "there is a generation..."

There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother. (Proverbs 30:11). This is a sad commentary on any generation.

Under the Old Law such children were taken out and stoned! In the New Testament the punishment is not that quickly rendered. In Ephesians 6:1-3, children are to obey their parents, love them and treat them with respect. They may not always be right, you may not always understand the "whys," still, they are your parents. Those who fail to do so will answer to the Lord in the Day of Judgment.

There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet not washed from their filthiness. (Proverbs 30:12).

Pride and self-righteousness have led many a good man to sure destruction. Jeremiah told us "we cannot direct our own steps, (Jeremiah 10:13). Many ways look right to men -- but in the end are ways of death! (Proverbs 14:12; 16:25).

Some in the 60's and 70's thought they could "go their own way and do their own thing." This so-called "freedom" led to much immorality and heartaches for that generation. See, all things come at a price!

There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes and their eyelids are lifted up. (Proverbs 30:13). Arrogance goes hand in hand with pride. One of the things which the Lord's hates -- the proud look, (Proverbs 6:19).

James tells us that God will resist the proud but give grace to the humble, (James 4:4-6). Humility is a necessary characteristic that each child of God must develop and refine. Anyone who cannot look up to God is not fit for the kingdom of heaven!

There is a chosen generation. "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy." (1 Peter 2:9, 10).

These are elect of God, (1 Peter 1:2). They have a living hope, (1 Peter 1:3, 4). This group has received mercy and grace, (1 Peter 2:10). These have purified their souls by their obedience to truth, (1 Peter 1:22).

- Keith Greer [edited]

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 others 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. 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

> "Confessing your sins is no substitute for forsaking them!"

- > "There isn't any use trying to shine unless you take time to fill your lamp!"
 - > "If it doesn't affect your heart, your words, your hands, and your feet, it isn't Christianity!"
 - > "You can win more friends with your ears than with your mouth!"
 - > "People will believe anything if you *whisper* it!"
-

THIS WEEK'S LESSONS: Sunday morning: "*What the Word is Likened Unto!*" (Text: Jer. 23:29); Sunday evening: Hebrews Class: 12:25-29, p. 139-ff.