

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

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A Beautiful Woman

Recently, People Magazine published its annual issue which contained a list of "The Fifty Most Beautiful People in the World." A picture of Julia Roberts, a talented and attractive movie star, graced the cover. The editors considered her to be the most beautiful person in the world today.

Who is the world's most beautiful woman? She is not a movie star. She does not live in Hollywood. She has never been in a beauty contest. She may be living in your city and, for the most part, go unnoticed as a person. We can learn of her by reading and studying 1 Peter 3:1-6. Let us read and see what a truly beautiful woman is like.

She is a Christian. The apostle Peter wrote this epistle to Christians (1 Pet. 1:1-2). She is included in it.

She is a godly person. Peter speaks of her as being like "the holy women" of former times.

As one who is married, she is in subjection to her husband. Since this is a command from God (Eph. 5:22), she believes that a woman gets her greatest happiness and fulfillment in submitting entirely to the will of God.

She is characterized by chaste behavior. Such behavior properly influences others. She realizes she must be a "light" in the world (Matt. 5:14-16), especially to her family. The conduct of the modern, worldly woman would never lead her husband or anyone else to Christ.

Her adornment is not outward but spiritual. She is not obsessed with carnal attractiveness. She does not prize what the Proverbist calls "passing beauty" (Prov. 31:30). Rather, she esteems "the beauty of holiness" (Psa. 29:2). Her beauty is that of "the hidden person of the heart." She has "the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet

spirit." Peter says that such a beauty is "very precious in the sight of God." It should also be precious to us.

She is meek and humble—gentle and quiet. She is not as the daughters of Zion were in Isaiah's time. Isaiah writes of them in Isaiah 3:16-26: "Moreover the Lord says: 'Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with outstretched necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, making a jingling with their feet, Therefore the Lord will strike with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, and the Lord will uncover their secret parts.' In that day the Lord will take away the finery: the jingling anklets, the scarves, and the crescents; The pendants, the bracelets, and the veils; The headdresses, the leg ornaments, and the headbands; the perfume boxes, the charms, and the rings; the nose jewels, the festal apparel, and the mantles; the outer garments, the purses, and the mirrors; the fine linen, the turbans, and the robes. And so it shall be: instead of a sweet smell there will be a stench; instead of a sash, a rope; instead of well-set hair, baldness; instead of a rich robe, a girding of sackcloth; and branding instead of beauty. Your men shall fall by the sword, and your mighty in the war. Her gates shall lament and mourn, and she being desolate shall sit on the ground." Rather than being like these women, the one Peter describes is a woman whose spirit is not only meek but also "quiet." She is neither a nag nor a complainer.

Conclusion

What a wonderful woman Peter describes in this text. What an earnest, spiritual, attractive woman she is. She is a true wife and a godly Christian. She has a remarkable, pervading influence for good.

Many women have been molded into such beauty by God's word. It presents several to us: Mary, mother of Jesus (Luke 2:30); Phoebe (Rom. 16:1-2); Priscilla, wife of Aquila (Rom. 16:3-4); and Lois, grandmother of Timothy, and Eunice, his mother (2 Tim. 1:5).

Who is the most beautiful woman in the world? She is the godly woman who is living her life by the word of God.

- Gene Taylor

The Truth Does Not Fear Investigation!

There's a good saying that brethren have used over the years to show our sincerity in what we practice and preach: "Truth does not fear investigation." The idea is that if one is genuinely concerned about doing right, he'll not be afraid of someone else questioning what he does. By frequent examinations and regular defenses one is constantly kept "in

check." If by an "investigation" one's preaching and/or practice is proven true, great. If however it is proven to be false, there's a sense in which this is also great, for now the sincere individual can make the necessary changes to get back on track and be right.

Unfortunately, not everyone is interested in truth. Some are content to go on in their error hoping no one will ever challenge them. If they are questioned, too many write it off as being "bothered" and ignore the "investigator." How sad!

Those fearful of investigation need reminding of what Peter wrote, "But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence." (1 Peter 3:15). When a person gets to the point where they cannot defend or give an answer for what they're doing, it's time to do something else. While error may clam up, get aggravated and run from it, truth does not fear investigation. What about you?

- David McPherson

Reimagine It?

The current political buzzword seems to be "reimagine!" Some progressive politicians have advocated that we need to "reimagine" how to provide energy to our communities, "reimagine" how to provide energy to our automobiles, "reimagine" how to provide free tuition and health care to some of our citizens, "reimagine" how to provide citizenship to illegal aliens, and "reimagine" how to provide law enforcement to our communities. All this reimagining is about to make my head hurt. I knew it would not be very long before some religious writer would advocate the reimagining of something having to do with the Lord God that heaven has already established as unchangeable.

John, by heaven's inspiration, declared, "I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book." (Revelation 22:18-19). It was not long after these words were recorded that progressive religionists began to reimagine the words of the book of this prophecy.

Long, long ago, Jeroboam, son of Nebat, was made king over ten tribes of Israel. He was told, "Then it will be, that if you listen to all that I command you and walk in My ways, and do what is right in My sight by observing My statutes and My commandments, as My servant David did, then I will be with you and build you an enduring house as I built for David, and I will give Israel to you." (1 Kings 11:38). It was not long before Jeroboam

reimagined what was right in the Lord's sight, reimagined the Lord's statutes and commandments. Thus, his reimagining perverted the right ways of the Lord (1 Kings 12:25-33; cf. 2 Chronicles 11:14; 1 Kings 13:33). Notice the result of Jeroboam's reimagining: "This event became sin to the house of Jeroboam, even to blot it out and destroy it from off the face of the earth." (1 Kings 13:34). There are no more seriously destructive consequences for reimagining what God has established.

Reimagining seems right to men, but notice the declaration of God: "There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death." (Proverbs 14:12). Ecclesiastical history since the death of the apostles of Christ has had no misgivings about reimagining all sorts of directives from the Lord, so it is no surprise to pick up the Jackson Sun newspaper (June 5, 2021), turn to the religious section and read Chaplain Norris Burkes' article, "Reimagining how we worship." In the article, he advocates searching the internet for ideas for alternative worship. Have we not learned from Jeroboam the eternal destruction that results from such reimagining?

Consider the unchanging doctrine of Christ that has been abandoned so long ago that men cannot even imagine a Lord that established sound doctrine that was not to be changed and perverted in any way (Galatians 1:6-12). The apostle Paul warned, "I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths." Reimagining is not enduring sound doctrine. (See these other stern warnings: Acts 20:29-30; 2 Peter 2:1-2; Matthew 7:21-23; Colossians 3:17.)

The Lord Jesus declared, "The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Matthew 13:41-42). Reimagining the doctrine of Christ presents a stumbling block to people. Reimagining the doctrine of Christ is lawlessness (acting without approval of law either because of ignorance or rebellion; cf. 3 John 9-11). Reimagining the doctrine of Christ sends souls to the furnace of fire. It is spiritual death to reimagine anything that has as its source the mind of God.

- Gary Smalley

* "All too often we offer deedless faith and faithless deeds!"

- * "Aspire to inspire before you expire!"
 - * "Count your blessings, not your problems!"
 - * "Become an organ donor, give your heart to Jesus!"
 - * "Any person, whose knowledge of sacred truth is dependent solely upon what he receives in the public services, will never be a student of the deeper things of God."
- Wayne Jackson, *The Acts of The Apostles From Jerusalem to Rome*, p. 256.
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What Must I Do To Be Saved?

HEAR THE GOSPEL

(Romans 10:14-17; John 20:30-31; Romans 1:15-17)

BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST

(Acts 8:37; John 8:24; Hebrews 11:6)

REPENT OF PAST SINS

(Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30)

CONFESS CHRIST

(Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:37)

BE BAPTIZED

(Romans 6:3-4; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:36-39; 1 Peter 3:21)

LIVE A FAITHFUL LIFE

(Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 1:5-11; John 15:1-8; Hebrews 10:23-25)