

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

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

November 20, 2022

Volume 42, # 47

CAN WE ALL SEE THE BIBLE ALIKE?

If a statement is made often enough people will come to believe it even though it is not true. A good example is that which you hear so often in religion, "We can't all see the Bible alike." The Apostle Paul disagrees with this idea in 1 Corinthians 1:10, "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."

If we can't all see alike, why would Paul, the inspired apostle, tell us to do so?

WE DO SEE ALIKE IN EVERYDAY AFFAIRS

- We see alike on the point that each automobile must have a state license. Those who cannot see this are punished.
- We see that all must stop for a red light. What is your interpretation of a red light? Does it mean "stop" to one and "go" to another? It means "Stop" to all. One who will not see this endangers his life and the lives of others. He is required to pay a fine.
- We see the time of day exactly alike. Those who refuse to see like all the rest of us miss their appointments. If we should disagree on the time of day we simply go to the recognized authority and correct BOTH our watches.
- The objection may be made that we do not see alike on the kind of automobile to buy or the kind of clothes to wear. But there is NO LAW that tells us we must purchase a certain make of car or wear a certain type of clothing. Where there is a law that tells us what to do we MUST and we DO see alike in everyday matters. Where there is no law we are at liberty to do as we please. BUT THE BIBLE IS GOD'S LAW - NOT MAN'S OPINION.

CAN WE ALL SEE THE BIBLE ALIKE?

James 1:25 tells us that we are under a perfect law of liberty. We must see the commands of this LAW alike. Can we do so?

- The Bible tells us there is only one God. Can we all see this? The heathen in Paul's day did not think they could. Why? Simply because they would not accept what the Bible said. All who believe the Bible can see this alike.
- The Bible affirms that Jesus is the Son of God. Can we all see this? Some do not. Why? Do they not understand what the Bible says? Does it tell one man that Jesus IS the Son of God and another that He is NOT? Some simply will not believe the Bible.
- The Bible tells us there is but one body (1 Corinthians 12:20), and that body is the church (Ephesians 1:22-23). American people are as hard to convince concerning the oneness of the church as Romans and Greeks were concerning the oneness of God. Yet Ephesians 4:6 says there is one God. Ephesians 4:4 says there is one body. Does the word "one" have two meanings? It means ONE in both passages.
- Jesus tells us to believe in Him, John 3:16. The Bible tells us to repent, Acts 17:30. Peter commanded men to be baptized, Acts 10:48. Some will not obey. Is it because they are uncertain whether God wants them to repent and be baptized? Do we have trouble seeing these commands or do men simply refuse to believe and obey God?

CONCLUSION:

Since the Apostle Paul commanded us to see the Bible alike (1 Corinthians 1:10), and since Jesus prayed that all should be one (John 17:20-21), and since God does not require of us that which is impossible, we CAN see the Bible alike!

- via *The Northeast Exhorter*, Gainesville, FL, October, 1964, Hiram Hutto, Editor

“Set Thine House in Order”

Many times we have planned, and made arrangements for expected guests, sometimes having weeks, or even months, to set things in order. But how many times have you suddenly learned that otherwise unexpected visitors are to arrive in a very short time? You rushed around to "set the house in order," to tidy up things. Even if you manage to get things looking "decent," chances are that you are not nearly so pleased to invite your guests in when they arrive, as when you had been forewarned earlier, and therefore had more time to "get ready."

But That Is Not The House Of Which We Ask!

Although we cannot expect God to give us a special warning, as He did Hezekiah (2 Kings 20:1), He is, in His Word, warning us to set our spiritual house in order. He shows us what it means to be ushered into eternity, either prepared or unprepared, in Luke 16. Lazarus had made proper preparations, and was at rest "in Abraham's bosom," while the rich man had failed to "make ready," and therefore awoke in flaming torment!

So many of us have things "deranged" in our spiritual houses: Envy, strife, bitterness, etc. have moved into our hearts, crowding out the "furnishings" of love, forgiveness, sober thinking, meekness, etc. Still others, through unfaithfulness, indicate they are not really

concerned about the appearance of their spiritual house. And, of course, there are so many, many others, some of whom will read this, who have made no preparation at all — they have not obeyed the gospel of our Savior! (See 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

Stop!

Take a good look at your spiritual house. The Lord will return without warning, other than found in His word, and then you will find that it is too late to "straighten up things!" Have you obeyed the gospel? Are YOU living faithfully to Christ? Would you be happy to have Christ come and find your house in its present condition? If not, then why do you wait?

"Set thine house in order, for thou shalt die and not live." Do it now!

- Charles G. Maples (1920-2021), via *Gospel Guide*, March, 1981

Share a Quote ...

The fear enjoined here [1 Peter 1:17, "conduct yourselves in fear" – GFS] is, primarily, then, a reverential regard to the holy Father who is our Judge, and, secondarily and consequently, a quick sensitiveness of conscience, which knows our own weakness, and, above all else, dreads falling into sin. Such sensitive scrupulousness may seem to be over-anxiety, but it is wisdom; and, though it brings some pains, it is blessedness. This is no world for unwary walking. There are too many enemies seeking admission to the citadel for it to be safe to dispense with rigid watchfulness at the gates. Our Father is our Judge, therefore let us fear to sin, and fear our own weakness. Our Judge is our Father, therefore let us not be afraid of him, but court his pure eyes and perfect judgment. Such fear which has in it no torment, and is the ally of love, is not the ultimate form of our emotions towards God. It is appropriate only to "the time of our sojourning here."

- Alexander Maclaren sermon on 1 Peter 1:17, "The Father and Judge..."

Are We Ready to Receive More Christians?

We currently have empty seats in the auditorium of the church's meetinghouse. Are we ready to receive more Christians? What could we do to realize an influx of Christians?

(1) Sow the seed of the kingdom. In reference to the parable of the sower, "the seed is the word of God" (Luke 8:11). In reference to the making of Christians in Corinth, Paul used the figure of planting and growing a garden when he said, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth." (1 Corinthians 3:5-9). These "Servants through whom you believed" planted the word of God in the hearts of men by preaching the gospel to them. When the pure seed is received into "an honest and good heart" (Luke 8:15), it produces saving faith (1 Corinthians 1:21). Hence, "in humility receive the word

implanted, which is able to save your souls." (James 1:21). The word must be taught in its completeness, without alteration (cf. Acts 19:1-7).

(2) Sow the seed of the kingdom generously. Do not be stingy with the word of God. While at Ephesus, Paul "continued speaking out boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God." When opposition developed, he moved to a school "for two years, so that all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks." (Acts 19:8-10). The word of God must be communicated to people; it must be distributed generously into the soil of human hearts.

(3) Do good to people; help them when and how you can. The result is a favorable atmosphere (cf. Acts 19:11-12). Remember, Jesus "went about doing good" (Acts 10:38), and on many occasions they heard Him gladly: "the large crowd enjoyed listening to Him." (Mark 12:37). Soil preparation before you plant is very wise.

(4) Eliminate weeds that will hinder growth. Weeds of sin will "choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful." (Matthew 13:22). When the Lord Jesus is magnified, people will come, confessing and forsaking their sins (Mark 1:5; Ephesians 5:8, 11). When this happens, the word of the Lord grows mightily and prevails! (See Acts 19:13-20).

During the first Pentecost following the resurrection of Christ, in the city of Jerusalem, those desiring to be saved received the apostles' word and were baptized. These thousands continually devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, continuing day by day with one mind. "And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved." (Acts 2:41-47). By following the same example today, the result will be what it was those many years ago: Christians.

We have room for them in the meetinghouse! Will you do your part in bringing forth fruit? "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples." (John 15:8; cf. Colossians 1:3-8).

- Gary Smalley

* "The world needs more warm hearts and fewer hot heads!"

* "The optimist is often as wrong as the pessimist, but he is far happier!"

* "Life's greatest tragedy is to lose God and not to miss Him!"

* "It doesn't take such a great man to be a Christian; it just takes all there is of him!"

* "Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground!"

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)