

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

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Stirred Up!

Every Christian reaches a point at times where he needs to bestir himself or to be stirred by others. Constantly we face the problem of growing stale, lukewarm, indifferent. Sometimes this condition grows out of discouragement, indecision, opposition, cares, or a heavy burden. Whatever may be the cause with us, or had been the cause in Peter's day, the apostle sought to stir them up by bringing them to remembrance.

STIRRED BY BEING PUT IN REMEMBRANCE. Though one knows the truth and is established in the truth, because of the tendency of the mind to lag in its own discipline, one needs constantly to be stirred by being put in remembrance. This was one of Peter's aims as he wrote his second epistle (2 Peter 1:12-13). He would "stir you up by putting you in remembrance."

One needs to be stirred to remember things to be done, such as the adding of the spiritual virtues, and of making one's own calling and election sure (2 Peter 1:5-11). While apparently concerned about the condition of others one may forget his own house.

Each should be stirred to be on guard against false teachers. As there had been false prophets among the Jews, so among the Christians of that day, and of our day, there would be false teachers. These the apostle describes, as he warns, as he stirs us to be on guard.

False teachers fail in their purpose when the Christians are stirred in their remembrance of the words spoken by the prophets, the Savior, and the apostles. (2 Peter 3:1-2.)

STIRRED BY THE EXTERNAL CONDITIONS. Paul, in the city of Athens, was stirred to the point of having his spirit provoked within him as he beheld the city given over to idolatry (Acts 17:16). The sermon which followed was in rebuke of the idolatry of the day, as the apostle presented the one God, and called upon the people to repent (Acts 17:22-31).

Today we live in a world largely pagan, given over to idolatry of various sorts. There is the idolatry of foreign countries, and of our own. Roman Catholicism is as much idolatry as the worship of the calves introduced by Jeroboam, the first king of Israel. (1 Kings 12).

Our own world is given over to lust, immorality, false standards, drinking, and pleasure. We stand shocked at times by what we see: but who is stirred by it to do anything to correct the condition? False teaching and prejudice are rampant. Such conditions in Jesus' day so stirred Him that He wept over the city of Jerusalem, and began to cleanse the temple (Luke 19:41-45). Even in this age of "hush, hush," one properly stirred will be moved to act.

- Homer Hailey in *The Instructor*, October, 1967

Clippings ...

"HYPOCRITES IN THE CHURCH"

The man who says he is kept away from church by hypocrites is not influenced by them anywhere else. Business is full of them; but if he by chance sees where he can make some money, he does not hesitate because there are hypocrites making money. Society is crowded with them, and yet he never thinks of becoming a hermit. Married life is full of them, but that does not make him remain a bachelor. Hell will be full of them, and yet he is not doing anything to keep from going there. He makes you think he is trying to avoid hypocrites; and yet he takes not one single step towards the only place where no hypocrites can go - heaven. Honestly now, is he not being a little hypocritical?

- Unknown

A HYPOCRITE

A hypocrite is neither what he seems nor does he seem what he is. He is condemned by the world for seeming a Christian and by the Lord for being one. On earth he is outwardly the picture of a saint - a wolf in sheep's clothing but in eternity, stripped of his ill appropriated apparel, he will appear at the Judgment in his true colors and in his hideous deformity. "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." (Hebrews 4:13).

- Unknown

HAPPINESS

Happiness goes out from the heart before it comes in. It never by any chance stays home. You can harvest it for the common good, but you cannot store it for your individual use. You lend it, but you cannot borrow it. You can earn it, but you cannot buy it. You can spend it, but you cannot accumulate it. A man must contribute to the stock of human joys

before he can participate in its profits. To seek happiness without giving it is a futile quest, and all our longings for it, if we have not learned to give it to others, are empty bottles in the wine cellar of the soul. Happiness never really was any good in this world but to give away.

- Unknown

Share A Quote...

"And not only is there courage needed for the application of the principles of conduct which God has given us, but you will never have them handy for swift application unless, in many a quiet hour of silent, solitary, patient meditation you have become familiar with them. The recruit that has to learn on the battle-field how to use his rifle has a good chance of being dead before he has mastered the mysteries of firing. And Christian people that have their Christian principles to dig out of the Bible when the necessity comes, will likely find that the necessity is past before they have completed the excavation. The actual battle-field is no place to learn drill. If a soldier does not know how his sword hangs, and cannot get at it in a moment, he will probably draw it too late."

- Alexander Maclaren (1826 - 1910)

THE FINALITY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Jesus PROMISED that ALL truth would be given to His Apostles: "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you **all** things, and bring to your remembrance **all** that I said to you." (John 14:26, emphasis mine - GFS). Jesus further promised: "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into **all** the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come." (John 16:13, emphasis mine - GFS). Think carefully about the inclusiveness of the word "**all**" in these verses. Jesus was intending to include the stated extremes of the totality of the whole truth. Jesus did not promise His Apostles only a partial revelation, a limited amount, a part or a share of truth. Jesus promised them **all truth!**

The Apostles RECEIVED ALL truth. Speaking of the truth which God revealed to them, Peter said: "seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence." (2 Peter 1:3). Since "everything pertaining to life and godliness" was "granted," that left nothing "pertaining to life and godliness" that was not. Paul spoke of the words of revelation that were made known to him: "which in other generations was

not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;" (Ephesians 3:5). Paul spoke of this "testimony of God" in this way: "For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God." (1 Corinthians 2:10). He went on to say that these things were "freely given to us by God" (1 Corinthians 2:12). Just as surely as Jesus promised, the Apostles received all truth!

The Apostles DELIVERED ALL truth. (cf. Jude 3). "The faith" that was "handed down" to Christians was to be delivered faithfully: "The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." (2 Timothy 2:2). "The faith" was to be "handed down" by those who maintained their faithfulness to the message. "The faith" was clearly a permanent standard of authority. The Apostles were promised all truth, they received all truth and they delivered all truth to others who faithfully delivered it to still others.

The apostles and prophets were specially chosen by God to be the recipients of **all truth**. The revelation they received in the first century was written down and comprises the New Testament. In order to know all truth today we look to the New Testament. After the New Testament was completed there was no additional truth that would be revealed later. There was no additional truth that awaited the coming of any "Pope" of the Roman Catholic Church. There was no additional truth that awaited the coming of Joseph Smith or any other Mormon. There was no additional truth that awaited the coming of Judge Rutherford or anyone in the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society. There was no additional truth that awaited the coming of anyone claiming continuous revelation from God. To advocate this is to deny the truth that God revealed to the Apostles. Would you deny that The Apostles of Christ were given "**all the truth**?"

Friend, would you deny "that His divine power has granted to [the Apostles and prophets of the first century] everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence?" Friend, won't you believe the truth?

- Gary Smalley

* "You cannot become a saint by comparing yourself with another sinner!"

* "We rise by the things we put under our feet!"

* "Spiritual sickness cannot be cured by religious quacks!"

* "Love is the one commodity the more of which you give away the more you have!"

* "A happy marriage is one where the man knows what to remember, and the woman knows what to forget!"

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)