

# **The Old Hickory Bulletin**

## **Old Hickory Church of Christ**

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

---

**July 23, 2023**

**Volume 43, # 30**

---

### **A Creator of Dissension**

When the apostle Paul was arrested and put on trial before Felix, Tertullus said of him, "For we have found this man a plague, a creator of dissension among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes" (Acts 24:5). In modern terms, Paul was said to be a "trouble-maker!" Was this true? Did Paul's actions or attitude warrant such accusations? We submit to you that Paul was of high character and deserved only commendation for his service to the Lord and Savior, not condemnation. So, why did men despise him? He taught the truth and exposed their error!

Paul was constantly battling the Jews, teaching that Jesus was the Christ, and for this they sought to run him out of town or to kill him (Acts 9:20, 23; 13:44-46, 50-51; 14:19). The problem was not Paul who spoke truth, but it was the ones who could not stand the light of truth (cf. John 3:19-21). Instead of honorably discussing and debating the issue at hand, they sought to stop Paul by whatever means were necessary.

Today there are religious people who react to truth in the same way as the Jews. Instead of open and honest discussion, they cast aspersions and act as if they exist on a higher plane – sort of like the scribes and Pharisees (cf. Luke 18:11-12; John 7:45-49; 9:34).

For the sake of numbers and a pseudo-peace, some will seek to appeal to all men, not just lovers of the truth. Jesus addressed those who were liked by all men — "Woe to you when all men speak well of you, For so did their fathers to the false prophets" (Luke 6:26). When a person stands for truth, most people will not like him (cf. Matthew 7:13-14). Paul said, "...For if I pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ" (Galatians 1:10). If your church or preacher is liked by the masses, there is a problem!

Locally, we are seeking to please God first and foremost — not men. We love our fellow-man and therefore seek to teach him the truth (Galatians 4:16). Often this brings great criticism upon us, but does not "put us out" because Paul and others experienced the same thing. If you are one who desires to follow Christ and His gospel above all others,

then won't you study with us? We will point you to the Bible alone, giving book, chapter, and verse for all we do or teach.

- Steven F. Deaton [slightly edited – GFS]

---

## **Satan says, "One Church is as Good as Another!"**

When you consider the clean, upright people in all churches, Satan has an easy job getting you to believe his whisper, "One church is as good as another." And as long as you look at those upright people instead of your Bible, Satan has you just where he wants you. But when you start reading your Bible, you discover that God never did establish many different churches, and you also discover that more than the one church built by Christ is sin.

Christ did not say, "Upon this rock I will build my churches," but rather He said, "Upon this rock I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18). If two churches are right, then two shepherds are right, but Jesus said, "There shall be one fold and one shepherd" (John 10:16). Though the United States Census Bureau lists hundreds of different kinds of churches, God says that even two are too many. Open your Bible to the Book of Ephesians. God gave Christ "to be head over all things to the church which is his body" (Ephesians 1:22, 23). The Holy Spirit says there is "one body" (Ephesians 4:4), and "but one" (1 Corinthians 12:20). For the Gentile Christians to be in one church and for the Jewish Christians to be in another church are ideas opposite to God's idea, for He wants "both in one body" (Ephesians 2:16) with every wall of partition (Ephesians 2:14) broken down. You are not following God's will when you answer to any denominational name, for every one is a "wall of partition."

In Bible times, that one church (body) was neither Catholic nor Protestant, and you have to close your Bible and pick up something else before you can ever read of Catholic or Protestant churches. The Bible church was called "the church" (Ephesians 5:23), "the church of the Lord" (Acts 20:28), "the church of God" (1 Corinthians 1:2). Various congregations were called "churches of God" (1 Thessalonians 2:14), and "churches of Christ" (Romans 16:16), but they were not different denominations. All of them together made up "the church" (Ephesians 5:23), "the household of God" (Ephesians 2:19), "one body" (Ephesians 4:4), "my church" (Matthew 16:18). Originally, there was only "one faith" (Ephesians 4:5). This fact surprises many people.

In Bible times no one thought of a person's being saved out of the church. Even if some hypocrites nominally claimed to be in the church, nobody who was saved remained outside of the church for the Lord added to the church "day by day those that were being

saved" (Acts 2:47). If a man were saved, he, by that same process became a church member, became a "Christian."

In Bible times, people were not saved the moment they believed in Jesus, but after they believed they were commanded: "Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins" (Acts 2:38). "Then they that received the word were baptized" (Acts 2:41). And the Lord added them to His church (Acts 2:47). If you believe, repent, and are baptized, the Lord will not add you to any man-made denomination, but He will add you to His church.

In Bible times, the saved people (church members) met on the first day of the week to break bread, to lay by in store of their money, to sing, to pray, and to study the Word of God (Acts 20:7; 2:42; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 4:16).

It is true that there are clean upright people in all different churches, but they have not learned the Way of the Lord as it is written in His book. If it is right to say, "One god is as good as another," then it is right to say, "One church is as good as another."

Be not deceived.

- Windell Fikes, in *Glad Tidings of Good Things*, 01/30/2003 [slightly edited – GFS]

---

## **The Bible and Science**

Christians are willing to say that they have the highest regard for true science and its achievements. I say "true" science because many Scripture-contradicting messages are promoted as "science." They are false, mere pseudoscience. Sadly, God's revelation to mankind of Himself and His works (the Bible) is disregarded as being unreliable and untrustworthy. It is alleged that the Scriptures are at odds with science.

What righteous person opposes the careful systematic study of man and the world? I do not know of any. What Christian holds contempt for the true scientist who has been blessed by his Creator with the skill and desire to investigate prudently and objectively in order to learn things beneficial to humanity? I know of none.

Nature certainly speaks to man! "The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge." (Psalms 19:1-2; cf. Psalms 104). All created things are God's witnesses. Who can be faulted for the noble task of carefully listening?

No person who honors Jehovah God, the Creator of the universe and all it contains, takes upon himself the practice of disparaging scientists who study the world and its wonders. How else can the marvels of creation be known and understood? "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made," (Romans 1:20a; cf. Acts 14:15-17; 17:24-28).

When the facts of our world are discovered, when nature reveals true science to investigators, whatever are those true details, they will never contradict the Bible! The same infallible Author is speaking in both. For the word of God to be read and understood correctly, no true scientist, reading and understanding nature correctly, will discover any disagreement. Contradiction between the two is not possible.

Let us not forget that the Bible was never intended to be a textbook on science. Holy men of God spoke God's revelation through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:16-21): "men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God." (cf. 1 Corinthians 2:3-13). What was God's purpose in "the sacred writings," the Holy Scriptures? "to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." Notice: " All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:15-17). God's intention in the Bible is to produce faith in the heart of the person who receives it (Romans 10:17). By its teaching, the person having faith in Jesus Christ is drawn to God (John 6:44-45), who has provided "eternal life" (John 6:47), "eternal salvation" (Hebrews 5:9), through the gospel of Christ (cf. Romans 1:16).

Certainly the Bible deals primarily with man's relations with his Creator, spiritual matters, matters of invisible things, God's blessings in Christ (Ephesians 1:3), and the heart of mankind. But we would be foolishly mistaken to conclude that when the Bible does declare facts related to scientific research, such statements are false. Men enjoy the freedom to advocate whatsoever they wish. Eventually, we notice that their theories and speculations are discredited and disputed by later generations. The Bible is infallible in whatever subject it addresses because its Author is the source of all truth! Truth never changes!

- Gary Smalley

---

- \* "Spiritual investments always bring heavenly interest!"
  - \* "There are two ways to be rich: one is to have all you want; the other way is to be content with what you have!"
  - \* "The growing Christian is like a head of wheat: the riper he grows the lower he bends his head!"
  - \* "Some people's hearts are so full of the world, there is no room for the fruit of the Spirit!"
  - \* "The devil is never too busy to rock the cradle of a sleeping saint!"
- 

## ***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)