

# The Old Hickory Bulletin

## Old Hickory Church of Christ

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

---

October 12, 2025

Volume 45, # 41

---

### Who to Trust?

No matter what task you want to accomplish, there is someone who is willing to tell you how to do it. In fact, the chances are good that there are several someones who will offer advice, often conflicting. From lawn care to cancer treatment, from parenting techniques to trading in the stock market, we are overwhelmed with the amount of advice that is available.

Take bad advice about the care of your lawn and the worse that may happen is that you harvest a bumper crop of crabgrass and dandelions in the fall. There are some areas of life, however, in which following bad advice can be extremely costly in terms of the seriousness and longevity of the consequences. Quite frankly, we want to "get it right" the first time with some things because we can't easily undo mistakes. Parenting is like that, as is the marriage relationship. All parents make mistakes, just as all spouses are imperfect (except my wife, of course!).

There's the rub. I want to get it right the first time, but to whom do I listen? Whose advice is best? Pick any topic and we don't lack for "authorities" on the subject. Unfortunately, the "authorities" often don't agree with one another and their opinions change like the direction of the wind! The gurus of parenting spend years writing and speaking about how it is not good to spank your child and the tide of popular opinion suddenly turns and corporal punishment is okay and even encouraged! In one best-seller, spouses are told that a little martial infidelity can "spice up" the marriage relationship; another popular author on marriage declares that sexual faithfulness is absolutely necessary for a lasting marriage. Whom are we to believe?

The sad truth is often we simply follow the counsel which most closely fits what we already believe; it may be bad advice, but we like it! We may know little about the one offering us guidance and thus discover to our dismay at some point in the future that we have been misled.

Where are you getting your information ... about life? Paul wrote to Timothy, "But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:14-15).

Timothy could trust the information which he had received because he knew the trustworthy guide because it is the Word of God. It is not within the scope of this article to present evidence for the divine origin of the Bible, but the evidence exists and it is convincing. From marriage to parenting, from interpersonal relationships to eternal salvation from sin, the Scriptures are an accurate source of information. Best of all, the divine counsel doesn't change with the whims of men!

- Allen Dvorak

---

## They Can't Live It!

Many who have never entered the Lord's service explain their hesitancy with the words, "I'm afraid I just can't live it." We usually try to quell their fears, but the truth is, they can't live it, for their concept of what it is they are trying to live is a completely false concept.

Consider the man whose wife became a Christian. He was sure she couldn't "live it." He watched her carefully, and sure enough, one day under considerable stress, she lost control, yelled at the children, and said some things a Christian ought not to say. "If she were a Christian," the man thought, "she wouldn't talk like that; I knew she couldn't live it."

On another day the preacher came around, and in reaction to something someone said, he turned a bit red, although he otherwise controlled his temper. But the man saw the tinge of redness, and immediately he concluded, "That preacher can't live it either." He eventually observed faults in other Christians, and finally concluded that none of them could "live it," that the whole church was a bunch of hypocrites. Of course he never even tried, for he knew his weaknesses all too well. He knew he couldn't "live it."

Poor man! He thinks that the Christian life is a life of perfection; that all "Christians" fall into one of two categories: either they are perfect or they are hypocrites. He knows he can't live up to perfection, to the standards he has set for others, and is thinking with an almost self-righteous attitude, "One thing about it, Preacher, I'm not going to be a hypocrite."

But, there is pardon for the sincere Christian's imperfections. "If anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2:1). And that Christian who sincerely strives to live for the Lord, and daily seeks His forgiveness, though he should have a thousand weaknesses, is no hypocrite.

There are hypocrites in the church, and we offer no defense in their behalf. But weaknesses do not necessarily imply hypocrisy. Let the faithful Christian, then, not be intimidated by the constant charge of "hypocrites in the church." And let the sinner forget about living "it," if by "it" he means perfection, and let him come to Christ, through whom he can go to heaven.

- Bill Hall

---

## *Quotes . . .*

The book of Job is something of a microcosm of man's efforts to learn and understand the true wisdom with which to meet some of life's struggles and problems. The battle must be fought out in the heart of man. He must endure the pains of physical suffering and the anguish of mental and spiritual grief and despair, grappled with on the ash-heaps of dead and lifeless philosophies and theologies which have become static in the thinking of men. In his effort to learn truth man must endure the physical and mental torture of the struggle; but, also, he must have the boldness to think for himself and the courage to face the sneers, ridicule and false charges of the dreamers, the traditionalists and the dogmatic assumptions of the sponsors of error and slaves to the status quo.

Job symbolizes this spirit. It must characterize men of all ages if ultimately we are to arrive at divine truth. The road is not smooth, nor the achievement easy. As Job pointed out in the great chapter on wisdom (chapter 28), it must be sought for and then dug for in all the remote sections of God's physical, spiritual, and moral world. Even then perfect wisdom cannot be attained by man; it is a possession of God alone. In writing of Jesus, Paul said that "in [Him] are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge hidden" (Colossians 2:3); neither wisdom nor knowledge is lying around on the intellectual and spiritual surface any more than precious metal or gems of the physical world. They are to be found by only those willing to count the cost and pay the price; they are acquired only through the crucible and discipline of suffering and effort, enduring the ridicule and opposition of the ignorant and prejudiced. Job and Jesus faced these and set the pattern of meeting them for all time.

- Hailey, Homer, A Commentary on Job, 16.

---

# A Public Invitation!

Dear friend,

Have you realized, like so many others lately, that the place you attend on Sunday has gotten away from seriously studying the Holy Bible, and it appears that less Scripture is used in sermons?

- PEOPLE ARE STARTING TO SEARCH FOR GOD AGAIN in our country, just like they did in the city of Athens almost 2,000 years ago. There, an apostle of Christ told every person this: That God "made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, ... that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;" (Acts 17:26).
- PEOPLE ARE STARTING TO OPEN THEIR BIBLES AGAIN. We are happy about this because we have been encouraging people to return to the Scriptures for the many years of our existence in Jackson. When Jesus came He began His ministry by preaching the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." (Mark 1:14-15).
- PEOPLE ARE LOOKING TO JESUS CHRIST AGAIN. By the offer of gracious salvation to all men, He has shown us the true path to eternal life with Him. He calls us through His gospel (2 Thessalonians 2:14). We are determined to know it, live by it and encourage everyone we possibly can to embrace the message and life of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd of His sheep (John 10:11). The purpose of His work includes this blessing: that we may "have life, and have it abundantly." (John 10:10).

WE INVITE YOU TO COME AND SEE WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE ARE ABOUT. We are continuing in His word, serving Him according to the gospel He has given. We teach His word with His love in our hearts (Ephesians 4:15). We encourage all who would come to Him for salvation and forgiveness to "Put on the full armor of God," (Ephesians 6:11) "so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil." We must fight against discouragements and other deceptive offers from the devil (See 1 Peter 5:8).

The Christians of the Old Hickory church of Christ invite you to come to our services, where you will receive a warm welcome. Please bring your Bible along with some paper and a pencil. You may want to remember what you hear from the Bible by writing your own notes and questions.

May the Lord bless you is our prayer today!

The Old Hickory church of Christ, 841 Old Hickory Blvd., Jackson, TN 38305.

- Gary Smalley

[All Scriptures quoted are NASB, 1995 © The Lockman Foundation, unless otherwise noted.]

---

- \* "The length of one's life is of less importance than its breath and depth!"
  - \* "To be sure of the crown, we must not become weary of the cross!"
  - \* "To be safe in following our conscience, we must allow God's Word to guide it!"
  - \* "Keeping away from the mire is better than washing it off!"
  - \* "If all men would sow only good seed, the earth would soon be filled with good fruit. And if all would study and teach only the word of God, the world would soon be full of Christians!" (Mark 4:14; Luke 8:11, 15; Acts 11:26)
- 

## ***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)