

# **The Old Hickory Bulletin**

## **Old Hickory Church of Christ**

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

---

October 19, 2025

Volume 45, # 42

---

### **The Real Evidence of Our Sincerity**

What is your first impression of these stories?

A young man explains that he places great importance on his health and that he wants to have clear, strong lungs. He is a habitual smoker. A lady speaks strongly about her commitment to her husband, while she is involved with another man. A member of a local church says that he would love to know more of the Word of God, but he spends several hours a day watching the television.

What do these stories have in common? Just this: Sometimes what we claim verbally, we deny in our behavior. We may say what we think people expect to hear from us, but without sincerity of heart. It could be, we are trying to convince others (and ourselves) that we are better than we really are. The words that we speak seem to send just the right message, but in our daily behavior we betray what we have claimed. The New Testament addresses this issue plainly.

Some who came to John's baptism claimed relationship to Abraham. Indeed there may have been a genealogical connection, but apparently no evidence of kinship with Abraham was apparent in their lives (Matthew 3:9). They claimed something that was not evident in the way they lived.

Likewise, one of the final speeches given by Jesus made the same point. "Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, saying: 'The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do.'" (Matthew 23:1-3). There was verbal correctness or soundness, but no observance of correct teaching in their daily lives.

James makes the point well in James 2:18 - ". . . someone will say, 'You have faith, and I have works.' Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works."

And John:

"If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us." (1 John 1:6-10).

The real evidence of our sincerity lies in behavior not claims; in practice not profession; in heart, not just in speech. "They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work," (Titus 1:6).

- Warren E. Berkley, via Expository Files, Vol. 8, No. 1; Jan., 2001

---

## Because I Believe

Do you believe that the Bible has a Divine, Supernatural origin, as opposed to a derivation that is merely human? Peter did: "for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God" (2 Peter 1:20).

If this is so, what practical impact should it have upon my life? James 2:14-16 teaches that believing something to be so is one thing, demonstrating that belief by what we do is quite another. In other words, we must prove our faith. So how do I prove to myself and others that I believe the Bible is the word of God? Let me suggest just three of many ways I can demonstrate my confidence in God's word.

Because I believe in the Divine source of the Bible . . .

I will teach it to others. "So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:15-16). Since it claims to be God's power to save sinners, all sinners I know should be exposed to its teaching, and who is better to do that than you.

I will look to it first as the solution to my problems, the answer to my questions. "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 3:16-17). Do you want to know how to engage in the good work of

raising children? Do you need training in the righteous undertaking of being the very best husband or wife you can be? Why not look first to biblical instructions? We're assured it equips us adequately for these, and all other, worthy endeavors. Unfortunately, many today are characterized by the ignorance of those in Hosea's day: "Though I wrote for him ten thousand precepts of My law, They are regarded as a strange thing" (Hosea 8:12).

I will apply it as I need to.

"For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does" (James. 1:23-25).

None of us likes what we see in the mirror when we arise in the morning. Our hair and face need some attention. We look in the mirror to see what needs correction. It is foolish to look in the mirror but then walk away and do nothing about the mess we've just looked at. Do you get the point? Why look in to (read) the mirror (God's word) and, having seen (learned) what needs corrected, walk away and do nothing about it?

The Bible was not intended to be an impressive coffee table item. It is either "a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalms 119:105) or it is nothing at all. Let's use the Bible in the way God intended that it be used and receive the bountiful blessings that follow.

- David Smitherman

---

## *Clippings . . .*

Appearing in the introduction of every Bible produced by the Gideons International: This book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrine is holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe in it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. Here paradise is restored, heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand object, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayer- fully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be opened in the judgment, and be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.

- unknown anonymous

\*\*\*\*\*

Once nothing arrived on this earth out of space;  
It rode in on nothing; it came from no place;  
It landed on nothing - the earth was not here —  
It worked hard on nothing for year after year;  
It sweat over nothing with mighty resolve —  
But just about then things began to evolve:  
The heavens appeared, and the sea and the sod:  
This Almighty Nothing worked much like a god.  
It started unwinding without any plan,  
It made every creature and ended with man.  
No god here was needed—there was no creation;  
Man grew like a mushroom and needs no salvation.  
Some savants say this should be called evolution  
And that ignorance only rejects that solution."

- unknown

---

## Speaking of "Strong and Courageous," . . . !

It is interesting to note the number of times Joshua was told to "be strong and courageous" in Joshua 1:6-18. I counted four times! This was a very special time for Joshua and the people of God. He had taken over the leadership of God's people following Moses, and was preparing to lead them into the Promised Land, the land their forefathers had been too fearful to enter forty years earlier. A strong faith in God would be needed, as the battle belonged to the Lord (as in 1 Samuel 17:47). However, courage and strength were still required to overcome the natural fear of the people and lead them to the blessings of God that would be theirs as a result of demonstrating strong faith!

For most of us, it does not require a mustering of strength and courage to meet together on the first day of the week to worship God. But that is only one demonstration of faith. We may not even be able to envision such a situation where the Joshua kind of strength and courage would be required from us, but don't you agree that it would be very beneficial to possess them when the unexpected day arrives when they are sorely needed? Our Father will open doors of opportunity for each of us that we may not see at present. Better for us to be working to increase strength and courage now! We will need it.

In your self-examination, how would you rate your strength and courage?

- Gary Smalley

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

---

- \* "When you are right you can afford to keep your temper; when wrong, you can't afford to lose it!"
  - \* "The mighty oak tree was once a little nut that held its ground!"
  - \* "Half of the hurts of the world could be healed if people would only lavish on the living the tenderness they feel for the dead!"
  - \* "A man may fall several times, but he isn't a failure until he starts saying someone pushed him!"
  - \* Deuteronomy 5:15a -- "You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out of there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; . . . ."
- 

## ***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)