

# The Old Hickory Bulletin

## Old Hickory Church of Christ

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### Unteachable People

Jesus taught that there are some who are unteachable. They have imposed certain obstacles in their own way and until they remove them, the truth will not be appreciated by them.

"Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.'" (Matthew 13:13-15, NKJV).

With stopped ears, closed eyes and hardened hearts these were unteachable. They had the capacity to learn, but not the willingness. It is unfortunate that we yet have unteachable people.

1. Prejudice has so blinded the minds of some that they will not be taught. Through campaigns of misinformation which dwell upon themes which are known to trigger definite reactions against those who preach the truth, the minds of some are closed. During the period of rapid growth of the church in this country in the decades from 1820-1850, the advocates of denominational error coined a term which automatically incited an adverse reaction with some: "Campbellite" was the term. A further prejudicial appeal was made to the religion of the "fathers." Some could not hear the sound of the truth for thinking, "This man condemns my parents."

In the present hour prejudice is yet incited by some within the church by the use of epithets and the circulation of rumors which distort what honest brethren believe. The fear of being called "anti" has prompted some to align themselves with popular movements or causes among brethren. Have you closed your eyes to truth because of prejudice?

2. A conglomeration of errors and half-truths has congested the minds of some. Until these can be removed, such people are unteachable. Some of our brethren become unduly exercised over what they call too much "negative" teaching. Of course, all negative teaching would leave no time or occasion for impressing the positive elements of the gospel. Before a field can be plowed, planted and cultivated, it must be cleared of trees, roots, stumps, or rocks. I have tried to talk with Jehovah's Witnesses or others whose minds were filled with such an abundance of misinformation or such a hodge-podge of half-truths that very little was accomplished.

Through the years an ignorance has beclouded the minds of many brethren and the minds of some are cluttered with concepts of denominationalism. Even basic principles, such as the way to establish scriptural authority, the realm of generics and specifics, the difference between collective and individual action, and elementary rules for the interpretation of Scripture, are commonly misunderstood. In order to teach some the truth it is necessary to start from "scratch," lay again the foundation and step-by-step build thereon.

3. Know-it-alls are unteachable until they decide that wisdom will not perish with them and that there just might be some truth they have not perceived or some truth which they have not fully comprehended. As one matures in Christ, his appreciation even of truths he has already known should be deepened and enhanced. Anytime we think we have no further need of study, and that we have a corner on truth, we need to study once again what humility is. "For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself." (Galatians 6:3, NKJV).

We all need to study the Bible with open and honest hearts that the full light of truth may guide our feet. Let us not be of the number who are "always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." (2 Timothy 3:7, NKJV).

- Connie W. Adams, via Truth Magazine, 08/05/1999 [slightly edited – GFS]

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## **Inheritance for You in Christ!**

Paul wrote to the Ephesian Christians and assured them, "we have obtained an inheritance" (Ephesians 1:11). Who gave us this inheritance? God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Where is it? It is in Christ: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ," (Ephesians 1:3). According to this verse, this is where every spiritual blessing is found.

The inheritance from God is reserved only for that person who enters and remains in a fellowship relationship with Christ. Apart from Christ, we can expect nothing of an

inheritance from God (cf. John 15:1-8). So, the crucial question for the sinner, the one outside of Christ, is this: "How do I get into Christ so that I may become an heir of the promised inheritance and thus obtain all spiritual blessings?"

When does an outsider, a sinner pass from being lost in sins ("excluded from the life of God", Ephesians 4:18; "alienated", Colossians 1:21) to being in Christ? Paul makes the answer clear; it happens at the point of baptism: "Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?" (Romans 6:3). When a penitent believer is baptized, the Lord adds him to the body of the saved, the church (Acts 2:47). This constitutes the process of becoming and being "in Christ," thus becoming an heir of God. Paul wrote, "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ." (Galatians 3:26-27). So we have a double-affirmative by the Scriptures that believers clothe themselves with Christ, or come into Christ when they are baptized.

Water baptism in obedience to the Lord's command marks the point in time when God grants one to be a recipient of His glorious inheritance. If you have been baptized in water as the New Testament commands, then you are in Christ and stand to inherit. If you have not, then you are not in Christ and will not participate in God's inheritance. The heir must be in Christ.

May we help you enter Christ today? It is vital that you enter and remain in Him!

- Gary Smalley

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- \* "The man who forgets he was once a boy is the man whom the boys dislike!"
  - \* "Beware of your spiritual condition when the most pleasing part of the service is the closing song and the dismissal prayer!"
  - \* "Maturity is shown by the ability to do a job whether you are supervised or not; finish a job once started; carry money without spending it; and the ability to bear an injustice without wanting to get even!"
  - \* "The emptier the pot the quicker it boils—watch your temper!"
  - \* "The disciples were not losing time when they sat down beside their Master, and held quiet converse with him under the olives of Bethany or by the shores of Galilee. Those were their school hours; those were their feeding times. The healthiest Christian, the one who is best fitted for Godly labors, is he who feeds most on Christ. Here lies the benefit of Bible reading and study!"
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# ***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)