

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

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

June 07, 2026

Volume 46, # 23

God Wants People!

Jehovah called unto Moses out of the mountain, saying concerning the children of Israel, ". . . if ye will keep my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be mine own possession from among all peoples" (Exodus 19:3-6). And in Deuteronomy 7:6-ff., "For thou art a holy people unto Jehovah thy God: Jehovah thy God hath chosen thee to be a people for his own possession, above all peoples that are upon the face of the earth."

And when Hosea prophesied that Gentiles would be acceptable to God, he said, ". . . and I will say to them that were not my people, Thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my God." (Hosea 2:23; Romans 9:25).

God wants people! His creatures, made in His image, have sinned and turned from Him. The Father gave His Son to die on the cross because He loved us, and wants us to return to the fold. He does not want our money. He does not need anything "seeing He giveth to all life, and breath, and all things" (Acts 17:25). But He wants us because He loves us -- does not want to leave us lost in sin. (John 3:16). Are we grown so calloused we cannot be moved by such an unselfish love?

Christ died for people! "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). The whole plan of salvation, as respects us, is God's plan to change people. Our hearts are changed by faith, (Acts 15:9) as we come to put our trust in Him alone. In repentance we turn from our sins (Matthew 21:28-f) to do the Master's bidding. In baptism, the guilt of the old life is removed, and we rise to walk in a new life (Acts 2:38; Romans 6:1-4). We become new creatures in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:14-17) and no longer walk in the ways of the flesh. It is of such people that Peter writes: "Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy." (1 Peter 2:9-10).

God wants a people, to dwell in them! Christ says, "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him" (John14:23). In Hebrews 8:10, the Lord says, "I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people."

God wants a people, by whom He may be glorified (Rom.15:6-7)! God wants a people to save eternally! "He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God" (Revelation 21:3). We will never grasp the true significance of the scheme of redemption until we make it a very personal matter; until, in the words of the old spiritual, "it's me, it's me O Lord, standing in the need of prayer!"

God doesn't want a fine church building! Usually that is something we want. God doesn't want great numbers, for numbers sake. God wants a people -- who are truly His own.

- Robert F. Turner, via Plain Talk, February, 1967

Clippings . . .

INFANT BAPTISM

1. The Bible does not mention it.
2. The person must depend upon the testimony of others in after years.
3. It robs the individual of the joy of personal obedience.
4. It is [claimed to be –GFS] done in the name of the Father; the heavenly Father does NOT require it.
5. It is [claimed to be –GFS] done in the name of the Son; the Son never taught it.
6. It is [claimed to be –GFS] done in the name of the Holy Spirit; the Holy Spirit never authorized it.
7. It is practiced not only without the will of the child, but often against it.
8. Men say it comes in the room of circumcision; only male children could be circumcised.
9. Teaching must precede baptism (Matthew 28:18-19).
10. Preaching must precede baptism (Mark 16:15-16).
11. Faith must precede baptism (Hebrews 11:6; Acts 8:37).
12. Conviction of sins precedes baptism (Acts 2:37).
13. Repentance must precede baptism (Acts 2:38).
14. Baptism follows a confession of faith in Christ (Acts 8:37).
15. Only those who received his word were baptized (Acts 2:41).
16. Those who were baptized continued steadfastly (Acts 2:42).
17. It is sinful because it is without faith (Romans 14:23).
18. Infants are subjects for the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 19:14).

19. Originated in the idea that without it they would be lost (Wesley).
20. Must be traced to Rome, not to the Bible.

- A. G. Freed, from INFANT BAPTISM

The World Hates You!

The Apostle John wrote the words of Jesus thusly, "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before *it hated* you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you." (John 15:18-19).

Notice that John uses the term "world" six times in these two verses. The meaning of the term "world" is: human society that has organized itself without God.

Early Christians were, no doubt, persecuted severely for reasons that were promoted differently by the Roman Empire, or even the Jewish establishment. Americans today are not required to worship an Emperor, nor anyone in government. But hatred for the Christian remains a characteristic of the world. There will always exist a stark animosity toward the man who knows there is only one true, living God and lives accordingly, from the man who denies the Creator and views the concept as totally insignificant in his life.

Not only is life made troublesome for people who are different (cf. 2 Corinthians 6:17), who do not conform to the shabby standards of the world (Romans 12:2), but the world hates anyone who condemns the unrighteousness of their lifestyle (John 5:18; 7:19, 25, 43-44; 8:37, 40). Righteous Noah was just such an example (2 Peter 2:5), as well as Lot, who was "oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men" of Sodom and Gomorrah, and "felt *his* righteous soul tormented day after day by *their* lawless deeds" (2 Peter 2:6-8). The words of Christ, as well as His forerunner, John, laid the ax at the root of their wicked trees (Luke 3:9). Their preaching compelled men to examine themselves by the word of God. Both were hated and consequently murdered. Is the servant above his Lord?

It is not surprising that upright worldly men oppose the things of Jesus Christ. The world being what it is and Christians being who they are, a clash is inevitable. When hatred is created, who will do the hating, and who are the people who will be hated?

Are you a person of the world, or are you a Christian?

- Gary Smalley

- * "A sharp tongue may sever a good friendship!"
 - * "Action is the only true test of faith and love!"
 - * "Too many people are trying to shine for Jesus without burning for Him!"
 - * "If you do not stand for something, you will fall for anything!"
 - * "You cannot decide when or where you will die, but you can decide your spiritual condition when you die!"
-

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)