

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

841 Old Hickory Blvd.

Jackson, TN 38305

oldhickorycofc.com

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Brother Johnson's Singing

Years ago, the elders and deacons had met about brother Johnson's singing. He was loud and off-key most of the time. They didn't want to discourage brother Johnson, but some of the brethren had complained that his singing was sometimes distracting. Brothers Smith and Buford were elected to talk to Johnson and see if they could teach him how to sing more appropriately.

When they pulled up, brother Johnson was working in his field, plowing behind his mule. They pulled up in a cloud of dust and walked out on the field. They could hear Johnson's singing broken by various commands to the mule. Buford, who had drawn the short straw, started to speak, "Brother Johnson, we don't want to discourage you, but we have had some complaints about your singing..."

Johnson cut in, hanging his head, saying "I know, brethren. I sing too loud. I never had no training, so I'm off key. I can't carry a tune in a bucket. I tell myself each assembly that I'm not gonna sing that loud 'cause I know it bothers people."

"But I'll tell you brothers, every day I come out here and work this land. I see the sun rise over those mountains over thee. I hear the birds singing in the trees and see the fish jumping in the creek. At night I watch the stars sparkling down on me and the moon shining. I just can't stop thinking about this great world God has made. And how He lets me live in it and work it."

"Then I think about heaven and how great it must be if it is better than all that. I think about my parents, who died a couple years ago, singing around God's throne. I think about the voice I will have there. I think about how much I want to go."

"Then I think about how bad I have messed everything up and how Jesus Left heaven to come down to this world. I can hear those Jews shouting, "Crucify Him!" I can see those Romans beating Him with that scourge. I know He did that for me."

“Well, then I just can’t help it. I have to sing. I want God to know how much I love Him. I want my brothers to know how much God loves them. In fact, just thinking about it now makes me want to sing right now. Could you hold these reins for me? I just gotta let God know how great He is.”

With his tear-filled eyes looking skyward and his hands lifted up, Johnson began to sing “How Great Thou Art” as if his only audience were God Himself. He was loud and off-key. But Smith and Buford had never heard anything more beautiful. They couldn’t help but join in. When they finished, they thanked Johnson, hugged him and left.

At the next elders and deacons meeting, they reported they thought it might be a better idea if they had Johnson teach the complainers how to sing more appropriately.

By Edwin Crozier

“Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!” **Psalms 95:1-2**

SHIPWRECK!

The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island.

He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him, and every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming.

Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect him from the elements, and to store his few possessions.

But then one day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, the smoke rolling up to the sky.

The worst had happened; everything was lost. He was stunned with grief and anger. “God, how could you do this to me!” he cried.

Early the next day, however, he was awakened by the sound of a ship that was approaching the island. It had come to rescue him. “How did you know I was here?” asked the weary man of his rescuers. “We saw your smoke signal,” they replied.

It is easy to get discouraged when things are going bad. But we shouldn't lose heart, because God is at work in our lives, even in the midst of pain and suffering. Remember, next time your little hut is burning to the ground-it just may be a smoke signal that summons the grace of God.

"For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." **Hebrews 12:3**

Sentence Sermons

Man's way leads to a hopeless end – God's way leads to an endless hope.

A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.

He who kneels before God can stand before anyone.

Family Matters

Thank God for our precious spiritual family and the blessing of prayer!

THIS WEEK'S SERMONS: Sunday Morning: *"Is it Physical or Spiritual?"* (Zechariah 6:12-13); Sunday Evening: *"Hezekiah's Fear"* (2 Kings 18:3-7).

BIBLE CLASS: "Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican" Lesson 7-3, Luke 18:9-14.

Personal information and prayer requests are announced in the assembly. All are always welcome!

WEB: The church's web page: <http://www.OLDHICKORYCOFC.COM>

Elders: Kent Baumgardner, Gordon Percell & Gary Smalley

Evangelist: Chad Lynn

Sunday AM: 9:30 & 10:30

Sunday PM: 5:00

Wednesday PM: 7:00



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)