

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

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Going to Heaven

By: Ron Boatwright

Our number one priority in this life must be to go to Heaven. Nothing else is as important. Jesus says in Matthew 6:33, *"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."* Our soul is the most precious thing we have. There is nothing that can equal its value. We read in Matthew 16:26, "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" One certainly does not profit in the tragic loss of his soul.

It is easy in today's materialistic society to get caught up in the pursuit of materialism if we are not careful. Our Lord says in Matthew 6:19-21, *"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is there will your heart be also."* Our bank account needs to be in heaven.

Everyday we need to tell ourselves that the main thing in this life is to go to Heaven. We read in Colossians 3:2, *"Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."* We should regularly think about going to Heaven.

Heaven is a prepared place (John 14:2-3) for a prepared people. It will be such a wonderful place, which is beyond our wildest dreams. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 2:9, *"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."*

There is no way that Heaven can be described so we as mortal human beings can understand how wonderful it will be.

A person will not accidentally go to Heaven. Going to Heaven is a lifelong race as we read in Hebrews 12:1, *“Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.”* Going to Heaven requires endurance, patience, and persistence. We must finish the race.

When we see the wonders of God’s creation here below, we get glimpses of what all God can make. And the God who has made such marvels on earth has prepared a place in heaven for the faithful. I can’t wait to see heaven’s grandeur and majesty!

THE BUTTERFLY

by Unknown

A man found the cocoon of a butterfly. One day a small opening appeared. He sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through that little hole. Then it seemed to stop making any progress. It appeared as if it had gotten as far as it could, and it could go no further.

So the man decided to help the butterfly. He took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon. The butterfly then emerged easily. But it had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings.

The man continued to watch the butterfly because he expected that, at any moment, the wings would enlarge and expand to be able to support the body, which would contract in time. Neither happened! In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shriveled wings. It was never able to fly.

What the man, in his kindness and haste, did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through the tiny opening were God’s way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon.

Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in our lives. If God allowed us to go through our lives without any obstacles, it would cripple us. We would not be as strong as what we could have been. We could never fly!

Sentence Sermons

When praying, don't give God instructions – just report for duty.

God doesn't want shares of your life – He wants a controlling interest.

Don't wait for six strong men to take you to church.

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)