



THE FOREST HILL NEWS

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Forest Hill Church of Christ

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VISIT US SOON!

Sunday:

Bible Study..... 9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship.... 10:30 A.M.
Afternoon Worship.... 1:30 P.M.

Wednesday:

Bible Study 7:00 P.M.

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A Common Love

Barry Grider

The title of this article is the title of a sweet and simple little song that has captivated my heart since I first heard it over 30 years ago while I was in college.

A common love for each other,

A common gift to the Savior,

A common bond holding us to the Lord;

A common strength when we're weary,

A common hope for tomorrow,

A common joy in the truth of God's Word.

The word love is used so flippantly in our society today. The same word we use to describe our adoration for God is also used to describe our favorite foods, autos, or vacation destinations. The Greeks, however, used four different words for our one English word love. Of course, the highest form of love expressed in the Greek is agape. Agape is God like love. This love looks out for the interests of others. Jesus demonstrated this highest form of love when He died on the cross for our sins. Jesus owed us nothing but because of love did for us what we could not do for ourselves. Paul wrote, "in due time Christ died for the ungodly" and "while we were yet sinners Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:6,8). Agape love always gives what one needs not what one deserves.

The word common means something that is shared jointly. When we try to force people together it rarely works. How could Paul pray and cry with the Ephesian brethren with so much fervency and passion (Acts 20:36-38)? It was because they jointly shared in the work of Christ. If someone asked do you have anything in common with another, how would that be determined? Would it be shared interests, talents, tastes, music, etc.? What Christians share in common is something profound and deep. They share a common love.

Concerning those who were baptized on the day of Pentecost, we read, "And all that believed were together, and had all things common" (Acts 2:44). Those early Christians shared a common love for God (1 John 4:19). They shared a common love for truth (Eph. 4:15). They shared a common love for each other (1 John 4:20,21). They shared a common love for the future (2 Tim. 4:6-8). May the same common love found in first century Christians, likewise, be found in those who wear the name of Christ today. Let us not just sing the words to this song but really mean these words by allowing the love of Jesus to shine through us.

7 Things That Lead to the Sin of Neglect

Jared Jackson

The writer of Hebrews notes that under the Law—which was spoken through angels (2:2)—every transgression and act of disobedience received a just recompense of reward. He then poses this question: “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great a salvation?” (v. 3). The immediate context implies a more severe punishment to Christians who NEGLECT their salvation...better salvation than that available under the Old Covenant. Why the warning? Because this “great salvation” that we enjoy was delivered by Christ himself and further confirmed by his holy apostles (under the first oversight of the Holy Spirit). This OUGHT to send a red-flag warning to every sincere Christian about the danger of NEGLECT.

Neglect is one of those topics we all understand. We look in the mirror and honestly confess: “Yes, there are things *I know* that I neglect.” Of course, some things you can neglect and escape uninjured; but if we neglect other things...critical things...that neglect can cause permanent, even eternal damage. So why would anyone neglect something so important. I’ll suggest seven different things...mental states...that cause us to neglect that which we should not.

OVERCONFIDENCE: We neglect things about which we are overconfident. We ignore warning signs and red alerts because “It could never happen to me.” This is a fatal flaw common to young risk takers. If they survive life long enough, they may finally learn to respect risk. But when we don’t, we will neglect wearing the life vest until it is too late. **SOLUTION:** *Learn to respect the possibility of being wrong.*

INATTENTIVENESS: We neglect that to which we don’t pay close attention. If I stop checking the scale, I tend to neglect my exercise and healthy food. Companies that pay no attention to the numbers usually end up in financial trouble. What we do not measure, we tend to neglect. **SOLUTION:** *Learn to put a number to spiritual activity and measure results. Not as a checklist of human works but as a measurement of personal growth.*

LACK OF URGENCY: We neglect that which we do not see as urgent. There’s always tomorrow. Except that sometimes tomorrow never comes. When was the

last time we did something completely selfless, something in service to God with a real sense of dire urgency? **SOLUTION:** *Do it now. Write a list of at least three things that must get done, and put a deadline on each. Then take whatever steps are necessary to meet the deadlines. GET IT DONE.*

TOO PAINFUL: We tend to neglect what is too difficult or painful. We avoid unpleasant topics with others for fear of discomfort or conflict. Or we put off what is difficult because it is HARD...just like the sluggard who fails to work during the spring and summer, only to find a bare harvest and cold winter. **SOLUTION:** *Respect the law of sowing and reaping. After all, it is a law. Pain cannot be avoided. It’s just a matter of source.*

DIVIDED INTEREST: When you are in love with two competing things, one is going to win and one will lose. Irritation with the loser will soon lead to neglect...and eventually a withering on the vine. **SOLUTION:** *Decide early what are the most important things, values, relationships. Measure all competing things, values, relationships as to their support for the primary. Discard incompatible things, values, relationships quickly...before they take emotional root.*

IGNORANCE: We all neglect that which we are ignorant about. The problem is...we do not know what we do not know. **SOLUTION:** *Become a more active learner and never stop. If you can’t find an engaging meaty Bible study, start one in your home. And READ.*

WHAT WE DO NOT VALUE: We tend to neglect that on which we do not place much value. Here’s a common refrain: “I just don’t get anything out of it [the worship assembly].” Hence, we tend to neglect the most important house of the week. Of course, we need no encouragement to attend a three-hour ballgame. We do not neglect the treasure that we value most in our hearts. **SOLUTION:** *You can decide what it is you desire. Make a decision. Write it down. Then feed that desire. HINT: It works both ways—for good or bad.*

(from *Fortify the Faith*, June 2016)

LORD'S TABLE

PRESIDE: Eddie Ray Marv Sowell
ASSIST: Pablo Horna Phil Houston
 Caleb Hull Kevin Knipple
 Isaac McLaurin Cecil Sowell

PRAYERS

A.M. OPENING: John Connell
A.M. CLOSING: Adam Maund
P.M. OPENING: Jackson Greer
P.M. CLOSING: Andrew Knipple

If you are unable to lead prayer or serve at the Lord's table, please contact Cedric Huff or Paul Connell.

RECORD, WEEK of July 17, 2016

BIBLE STUDY: 205
 A.M. WORSHIP: 280
 P.M. WORSHIP: 200
 CONTRIBUTION: \$16,007

OUR SICK

Virginia Ditto, Baptist Hospital Memphis, room 4116 (broken hip).
Corinne Elkins, St. Francis Hospital (no visitors).
Garland Elkins, Christian Care Center, 6500 Kirby Gate Blvd, room 206.
Velton Trimm, Memphis Jewish Home and Rehab, room 252.
Dorothy Faulk, mother of Brenda Woods, St. Francis Hospital, room 519.
Vadeen Stanfill is recovering from cataract surgery.

ILL AT HOME: Mary Alice Bergstrom.

HOMEBOUND

Bessie Berry Albert & Ruth House
 Virginia Ditto Clarine Justice
 Bertha Draughon Ryan McCullar
 Hazel Eskew Helen Palazola
 Tommy & Nell Herndon Jerry & Betty Robbins
 Anita Hopper

OUR SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO:

Nancy Price in the recent passing of her daughter, Terri Sanders. A memorial service will be held in the near future. Arrangements are incomplete at this time.

Betty Jones and family in the recent passing of her sister, Georgia Smith. The funeral service was Sunday.



KIRBY PINES Retirement Community worship service each fourth Sunday 8:00-8:45 a.m., conducted by Forest Hill. Our next service will be Sunday, July 24.

LEGACY ESTATES worship service each Sunday afternoon 3:00 p.m. conducted by Forest Hill.

INFORMATION LINE: 531-8849

REQUESTED PRAYERS: Heather McLaurin.

HEARTS & HANDS

TEAM "E" (Jim Woody) will meet Saturday, July 23 at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Harold & Carol Mangrum for a covered dish dinner. Please see Carol for what to bring.

TEAM "F" (John Connell) will receive assignments the week of July 31.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY EVENING SUMMER SERIES June 22-August 10, "New Testament Worship" in the auditorium for ages 7th grade-adult. Wednesday, July 20 "Worship Upon the First Day of the Week" taught by T. J. Clarke.

YOUNG ADULTS DEVOTIONAL Saturday, July 23 at the home of Jonathan and Kathleen Beard, 4380 Hargreaves Lane #301, Memphis, TN 38125.

ICE CREAM SUPPER following Bible Study, Wednesday, July 27. If you cannot bring a bucket of homemade ice cream, please bring a favorite dessert.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED We are providing 20 cakes for the Southaven lectureship lunch Tuesday, July 26. Please see the sign up sheet, if you are willing to provide a cake. Also, we need 8 people to help serve that day. There is a separate sign up sheet for volunteers.

REMEMBER to Check Your Box!

Last week's solution:

Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? II Corinthians 13:5

CORNERSTONE

Unscramble the letters in each word below to reveal the passage of scripture.

VER ERPLRBW YRMCPXR VER SCJXG JO SJY; PBV VER
 OKXUPURBV WEJNRVE EKW EPBYKNJXD. YPG IBVJ
 YPG IVVRRXVE WTRRME, PBV BKSEV IBVJ BKSEV
 WEJNRVE DBJNCRYSR. VERXR KW BJ WTRRME BJX
 CPBSIPSR, NERXR VERKX LJKMR KW BJV ERPHY.

M = C

Solution next week

S = G

God, The Supreme Reality

Frank L. Cox

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” This is the first verse of the Bible. It tells us something that God has done: He “created the heavens and the earth.” But there is something that precedes this Divine action. God himself must exist. Before the creation, there must be a Creator. The sacred Book speaks of God’s power, of his compassion, of his goodness, of his infinite wisdom; but it makes little or no attempt to prove the being of God. Every writer assumes that God is and on that assumption proceeds. This is a remarkable fact. How do we account for it? “One certainly is,” says one scholar, “that God has set the proof of his existence so abundantly on his other handiwork that he did not need to rewrite them in his book. He has even put them in the very constitution of our mental nature. We can never see anything without at once thinking there must have been a *cause* for it; and we follow the chain of causes until we find some living agent.” Before a book, there must be an author. Before the architecture, there must be an architect. Before a garden, blooming in beauty, there must be a gardner. Before a work of art, there was an artist. And before the creation, there was a Creator. This is axiomatic, self-evident. It needs no words of proof. Only a fool says, “There is no God.”

(from *The Minister’s Monthly*, April 1964)

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