



THE FOREST HILL NEWS

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Forest Hill Church of Christ

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Barry M. Grider, Pulpit
Matthew Jones, Associate
Haston Handley, Youth

VISIT US SOON!

Sunday:

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

Wednesday:

Bible Study7:00 P.M.

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Hell Is a Hot Topic These Days

Wayne Jackson

[Editor's Note: The Christian Courier is a treasure chest of scholarly and insightful biblical articles written by Wayne Jackson and his sons, Jared and Jason, to help Bible students grow and mature in the faith. I whole-heartedly and unreservedly recommend their website to our readers.]

Some years ago the British philosopher, Bertrand Russell, produced an essay titled, "Why I Am Not a Christian." One of the reasons he cited was the fact that Jesus, the founder of Christianity, believed in hell.

When I first read that observation, my inclination was this: "Well, at least Russell understood what Jesus believed about that matter"—which is considerably more than can be said for many religionists today who profess an acquaintance with Christian doctrine.

The issue of hell is pretty "hot" these days. This topic was the cover feature of the January 31, 2000, edition of *U. S. New & World Report*. Among other things, the article says that "the 20th Century was nearly the death of hell." The article then focuses mostly upon the nature of the punishment, i.e., literalism versus symbolism.

In recent years a number of prominent religious journalists have repudiated the biblical concept of eternal punishment. Clark Pinnock, theology professor at McMaster Divinity College in Ontario, Canada, once a highly respected conservative, has renounced the scriptural affirmation of eternal, conscious suffering for the wicked. He contends that a being who would cause one to suffer endlessly partakes more of the nature of the devil than deity!

Another scholar advocating annihilation is John R. W. Stott, a popular theologian in London. Philip E. Hughes, an Anglican clergyman, has similarly argued that the rebellious will simply go out of existence ultimately.

Among churches of Christ, several have also contended for this "conditionalist" notion, which has more in common with cultism (Watchtower dogma, Seventh-day Adventism, etc.) than it does biblical revelation.

Edward Fudge of Houston, Texas authored a book with the revealing title, *The Fire That Consumes*. F. LaGard Smith, former law professor at Pepperdine University—now affiliated with David Lipscomb University (Nashville, Tennessee)—has argued similarly.

Stephen Clark Goad (Blythe, California), whose articles occasionally appear in Christian journals, has produced an essay titled, "Believer In Heaven & Hell: A Non-Traditional View," in which he has contended at length that "Jesus spoke of eternal punishment but he never hinted of continual torture of souls that live on and on in some state of anguish and torment." Goad credits Fudge and others for his conversion to the annihilationist position.

While the advocates of these views claim that within the church today there are numerous "closet" conditionalists that agree with them, their boasts likely are more wistful than substantive.

(continued on page 4)

Some Observations on the Death of a Supreme Court Justice

Robert C. Veil, J.D.

[Editor's Note: Only once during my editorship of the Forest Hill News have I paid tribute to a non-member of the church of Christ and that was in 2004 upon the passing of President Ronald Reagan. I did that because no president in my lifetime has done more to defend biblical values and religious liberty, while serving in that office, than President Reagan. The same could be said of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, during his 30 year tenure on the high court. Appointed by Reagan, Scalia was a strict constitutionalist and a man of high character and integrity. The following was written by Robert C. Veil, Jr., attorney, gospel preacher and A. P. auxiliary writer.]

Were you as saddened as I was to hear of the recent death of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia? I remember when President Reagan appointed him in 1986. His brilliant mind quickly caught national attention. He believed what all of the Supreme Court justices formerly believed, namely that it was not his job to create or invent the law, but merely to discover the original intent of the founding fathers who wrote the *Constitution*.

I see in that approach a striking parallel to our efforts in following the Bible as the inspired word of God. I know there are those who claim that the meaning of the *Constitution* must change, like a "living organism" in order to keep up with modern society. Likewise, in the church, there are those who claim that the Bible must change as society changes. They say that the original intent of the inspired writers should take a backseat to the wishes of modern society. I learned a long time ago that such reasoning essentially makes the Constitution (or the Bible) say whatever I want it to say. It has also been my observation that those judges (and religious people) who argue that way are typically the most intolerant and dogmatic of all.

About the "living organism" theory, consider this quote from Justice Scalia:

That's the argument of flexibility and it goes something like this: The Constitution is over 200 years old and societies change. It has to change with society, like a living organism, or it will become brittle and break. But you would have to be an idiot to believe that. The Constitution is not a living organism, it is a legal document. It says something and doesn't say other things.¹

Can you see the application of that reasoning to the Bible?

Or, maybe you can appreciate this from Scalia:

The body of scientific evidence supporting creation science is as strong as that supporting evolution. In fact, it may be stronger... The evidence for evolution is far less compelling than we have been led to believe. Evolution is not a scientific "fact," since it cannot actually be observed in a laboratory. Rather, evolution is merely a scientific theory or "guess"... It is a very bad guess at that. The scientific problems with evolution are so serious that it could accurately be termed a "myth."²

Or this:

God assumed from the beginning that the wise of the world would view Christians as fools...and He has not been disappointed. Devout Christians are destined to be regarded as fools in modern society. We are fools for Christ's sake. We must pray for courage to endure the scorn of the sophisticated world. If I have brought any message today, it is this: Have the courage to have your wisdom regarded as stupidity. Be fools for Christ. And have the courage to suffer the contempt of the sophisticated world.³

And on the existence of the devil:

You're looking at me as though I'm weird...Are you so out of touch with most of America, most of which believes in the devil? I mean, Jesus Christ believed in the devil! It's in the Gospels! You travel in circles that are so, so removed from mainstream America that you are appalled that anybody would believe in the devil! Most of mankind has believed in the devil, for all of history. Many more intelligent people than you or me have believed in the devil.⁴

I see in these statements some deep insights by a Supreme Court justice. I see where he tapped into, and was influenced by, the truth of God's Word. That's one big reason I was sad to see him go.

Endnotes

¹ Franck, Matthew (2006), "That Rascal Scalia!" *National Review*, February 14, <http://www.nationalreview.com/bench-memos/52625/rascal-scalia-matthew-j-franck>.

² *Edwards v. Aguillard* (1987), No. 85-1513, 482 U.S. 578, Legal Information Institute, Cornell University Law School, https://www.law.cornell.edu/supremecourt/text/482/578#writing-USSC_CR_0482_0578_ZD.

³ McIntyre, Ken (2016), "The Wit and Wisdom of Scalia: Nine Zingers," *Newsweek*, February 14, <http://www.newsweek.com/wit-wisdom-antonin-scalia-426548>.

⁴ Senior, Jennifer (2013), "In Conversation: Antonin Scalia," *New York Magazine*, October 6, <http://nymag.com/news/features/antonin-scalia-2013-10/index3.html>.

(from *apologeticspress.com*)

LORD'S TABLE

PRESIDE:	Warren Davenport	Jerry Manning
ASSIST:	Bob Bergstrom	Kalon Brown
	Randy Elliott	Caleb Hull
	Jordan Pugh	Billy Rodgers

PRAYERS

A.M. OPENING:	Andy Ammons
A.M. CLOSING:	Nick Aubrey
P.M. OPENING:	Paul Connell
P.M. CLOSING:	David Lopez

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

RECORD, WEEK OF March 6, 2016

BIBLE STUDY:	230
A.M. WORSHIP:	325
P.M. WORSHIP:	215
CONTRIBUTION:	\$19,239.00

OUR SICK

Ann Caughron, sister-in-law of Julia Grisham, Baptist Hospital Memphis.

Donald Rhodes, MSOP graduate and brother-in-law of Jerry Wright, will undergo surgery this week.

ILL AT HOME: Julia Grisham, Carolyn Jones, John Palazola, David & Carolyn Richardson, Sam Rickles and Sabrena Sowell.

HOMEBOUND

Bessie Berry	Albert & Ruth House
Irby Cole	Clarine Justice
Hazel Eskew	Ryan McCullar
Tommy & Nell Herndon	Helen Palazola
Anita Hopper	

REQUESTED PRAYERS: Sabrena Sowell.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: Rufus & Pearl Washington, 7659 Carter Creek Cove, Memphis, TN 38125, 753-5960.

OUR SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO:

The family of Sherrie Clarke, wife of T. J. Clarke and mother of B. J. Clarke, who passed away Friday. The funeral was Tuesday at Forest Hill Church of Christ.

Nancy Jones in the passing of her grandfather, Richard Box. The funeral will be Wednesday in Alabama.

David and Olivia Barnes in the passing of their grandfather, Roy Barnes. The funeral will be Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. at Memphis Funeral Home Germantown Parkway.



KIRBY PINES Retirement Community worship service each fourth Sunday 8:00-8:45a.m., conducted by Forest Hill. Our next service will be Sunday, March 27.

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

INFORMATION LINE: 531-8849

REMEMBER TO SPRING FORWARD Daylight Savings time begins Sunday, March 13. Move your clocks forward before going to bed Saturday evening.

HEARTS & HANDS

HEARTS & HANDS Reorganization Luncheon Sunday, March 13 after the morning service. **Zone 5** is responsible for set-up and clean-up.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LADIES' CLASS and MEN'S CLASS meet each Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m.

YOUNG ADULTS DEVOTIONAL Friday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Warren & Lisa Davenport.

LADIES EVENING BIBLE STUDY Tuesday, March 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the breakroom.

YOUTH DAY Saturday, March 26. Theme: *Faithful Love*.

EGG HUNT Sunday, March 27 at 1:30 p.m. hosted by JCs and parents. Meet in the fellowship hall. Bring a basket.

50th MSOP LECTURESHIP March 27-March 31. Theme: *Preach the Word*.

VBS June 6-8.

YOUTH CAMPAIGN to Chalmette, Louisiana, June 11-17.

FOUNDATIONS June 25-July 1.



CONGRATULATIONS to 3rd & 4th grade students who completed all their memory work for New Testament Geography. They are: Ethan Bean, Jason House, Dekon Porter, Isaiah Thomas and Oakley White.

CONGRATULATIONS to the 4 and 5 year old class. Mary Claire Cox, Anna Ulrich, Stephen Ulrich and Anessa McLaurin memorized 100% of their cards. Ellie Bean, Kiernon Brown, Aspen White, Olivia Grieves and Liam Grieves memorized at least 75% of their cards.

CANNED Coca-Cola Products
are needed for Lectureship & Youth Day.
 These include Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite and Dr. Pepper.
Little Debbie Snack cakes are needed for Youth Day.

Last week's solution :
He that hath knowledge spareth his words: and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit. Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding. Proverbs 17:27-28

CORNERSTONE
 Unscramble the letters in each word below to reveal the passage of scripture.
 ROJIEEC VRROME EE. YRPA WUTTOIH SNIGECA. NI YV-TRNIHGEE VIGE TSNKHA: ROF TSIH SI EHT WLLI FO OGD NI TSRIHC USSJE RONNIGEECC YUO.
 Solution next week

Hell Is a Hot Topic These Days (continued from page 1)

There is scarcely a subject clearer than the scriptural teaching on eternal punishment. And Jesus had more to say about this theme than anyone else. (For a more thorough consideration of this subject, we refer the reader to **The Doctrine of Eternal Punishment** www.christiancourier.com.)

The Bible teaches that hell was originally prepared for “the devil and his angels” (Matthew 25:41). Satan knows what his ultimate fate will be. He will be “tormented day and night for ever and ever” (Revelation 20:10); and the wicked will be subject to the same fate (Matthew 25:41).

Perhaps some modern revisionist can explain to the tempter that these passages do not mean what they so clearly say—and that finally he will just evaporate!

Satan is the consummate “deceiver” (Revelation 12:9; 20:10). There is nothing that pleases him more than to see deluded men repudiating the idea of eternal punishment—which the Lord explicitly affirmed (Matthew 25:46). How tragic that some, who profess a relationship with the Son of God, would join with the enemy in this compromising denial of truth.

Scripture References

1 Thessalonians 5; Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10; Revelation 12:9, 20:10; Matthew 25:46

(from *ChristianCourier.com*)

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