



THE FOREST HILL NEWS

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Forest Hill Church of Christ

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Harold D. Mangrum
Keith B. McAlister

Ministers:

Barry M. Grider,
Pulpit Evangelist
Matthew Jones,
Personal Evangelist
Garrett Olney, Youth

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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OF PREACHING
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George W. Bailey
1922-2017

“George, you’ve really had a wonderful life”

Many of you perhaps recognize the above caption from Frank Capra’s holiday classic, *It’s A Wonderful Life*. The words were spoken by Henry Travers who played Clarence, a guardian angel of a man named George Bailey, played by noted actor Jimmy Stewart. The world seemed to be caving in around George and he thought about giving up. However, through a series of events, Clarence showed him just how important his life had been.

The subject of this article is another George Bailey, who was not a fictional movie character, but very much a real person. This George Bailey lived an exceptional and exemplary life. While many accolades were deservedly bestowed upon him during his life, he did not seek such. On one occasion, he said to me, “just introduce me as George Bailey—gospel preacher.” This gospel preacher is one I shall forever hold in high esteem. I loved hearing him preach and even more loved being in his presence.

George Bailey was a man who was *polished* in the pulpit. It is said of Apollos, he was “an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures” (Acts 18:24). Brother Bailey was an orator. Combine his speaking skills with the truth of God and that made for a powerful combination. As a result, many souls will be in heaven because of his preaching.

George Bailey was a *positive* man. His wonderful life can be summarized by Peter’s words,

Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous, Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers (1 Pet. 3:8-10).

Spending time with George Bailey meant that you would be greatly encouraged and you would see a man who exemplified the Lord.

George Bailey was a man of *piety*. The highly regarded homilist, John A. Broadus, listed piety as the first requisite for effective preaching. In his book, *Sermon Design and Delivery*, brother Tom Holland defines piety as “earnestness that comes from continuing fellowship with God and respect and reverent devotion to the Will of God.” George Bailey knew God’s holy book divine and lived it. He faithfully followed Paul’s admonition, “Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ” (Phil. 1:27).

George Bailey passed away Saturday, November 11 at the age of 95. A memorial service was held in his honor in Abilene, Texas a week later. His sweet wife Ela Beth preceded him in death. I treasure my book of sermons by George W. Bailey. He autographed my copy on one occasion with these words, “To Barry, my love, prayers, and best wishes. Keep up the great work you’re doing and I plan to meet you in Heaven.” As the days and years go by I look forward more and more to being in the home of the soul with so many I love. Though he is now gone from this life, it can be said of George Bailey, “he being dead, yet speaketh” (Heb. 11:4). His influence lives on.

Barry

Can You Recommend Your Religion?

George W. Bailey

This question might appear to you to be out of place, but I believe it is indeed a timely one. We take too much for granted. We had rather drift with the crowds, rather than put forth the effort to see for sure whether or not we stand with Christ.

David said, "Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul" (Ps. 66:16). This was the Psalmist's way of saying "I can honestly recommend my religion to the whole world!" What about you; can you recommend yours?

It goes without saying, and I think most all would agree, that *some* religions in the world aren't worth recommending; they are vain, shallow, empty, inadequate. Perhaps it has never dawned upon us that ours might be in that class. Some have never stopped to find out.

Whether one realized it or not, he is, each day, either recommending his religion, or renouncing it as not being worth the effort! A man shows day by day, through his speech and actions, what kind of a recommendation he places on his religion.

May I ask this question in four ways, and, before discussing each one at length, place them all before you, that you might have some idea of how our lesson will be developed.

- (1) Can you recommend your religion, in light of the scriptures?
- (2) Can you recommend your religion, by the way you live?
- (3) Can you recommend your religion, by the way you support it?
- (4) Can you recommend your religion, by the way it works for you?

Can You...in Light of the Scriptures?

Here are two questions: (1) Can you *prove* your religion; (2) Does *God approve* it? God cannot *approve* a religion that cannot be *proved* by His Word! "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason for the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1Pet. 3:15).

What answer would you be able to give to him who asked you for a reason of the hope that is within you? You cannot let a parent, forefather, friend or neighbor, give that answer for you. Each man must be able to find his own reason, for "every man shall bear his own burden" (Gal. 6:5).

"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (1 Thess. 5:21). "Believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. (1 John 4:1).

"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves" (2 Cor. 13:5). "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15).

If these passages teach anything, they teach that we dare not take another's word for a thing, religiously, but that we must take our Bibles to see "whether these things spoken be so" (Acts 17:11). The Bereans did just that, for they wanted to have a religion they could wholeheartedly recommend!

Jesus said of some, "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoreth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Matt. 15:8, 9).

The Bible teaches, "whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son" (2 John 9). We must keep in mind that "The Lord knoweth them that are his" (2 Tim. 2:19).

Man might be deceived, but God cannot be deceived. He keeps an accurate record of those who truly belong to Him. One might be prone to argue with God, but he cannot change the record, nor alter the divine arrangement. God's word must be reckoned with!

Christ said to some, "I never knew you" (Matt. 7:23). May we so follow the New Testament pattern that the Lord will not fail to recognize us as being His. "Whatsoever he saith to thee, do it" (John 2:5).

"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31, 32). Here the Lord so plainly tells us how to be *disciples indeed* namely, *by continuing in his word!*

Now, in checking your religion, do you have the Lord's word for everything you practice and preach? If not, something is wrong with that religion. Let Thomas be a good example to you in this matter of making sure your beliefs.

(continued on page 4)

PRESIDE: Danny Braddock
ASSIST: Wade Braddock
 Lewis Elliott
 Ian Huff

Cedric Huff
 Paul Davenport
 Randy Elliott
 Sam Rickles

A.M. OPENING: Lawayne House
A.M. CLOSING: Andy Ammons
P.M. OPENING: Jackson Greer
P.M. CLOSING: Allan Hart

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

RECORD, WEEK of November 19, 2017

BIBLE STUDY:	265
A.M. WORSHIP:	330
P.M. WORSHIP:	215
CONTRIBUTON:	\$15,494.00

OUR SICK

Joe Baxter, Room 316 South, Methodist Germantown.

Sherry Brown, Room 1058, Baptist Desoto Rehab.

Karen Fairley, recovering from surgery, Baptist East.

Helen Palazola, Highlands of Memphis Rehab.

Carol Stover, sister of Helen Sharp, recovering from surgery, Baptist East.

Brooke Tate, sister of B.J. Clarke, recovering from surgery and scheduled for another surgery in Little Rock, AR this week.

HOMEBOUND

Joe Baxter	Anita Hopper
Bessie Berry	Albert & Ruth House
Ann Castleman	Clarine Justice
Virginia Ditto	Helen Palazola
Hazel Eskew	Jerry & Betty Robbins
Tommy & Nell Herndon	

We would like to thank you all for your expressions of love during this difficult time for us with the loss of our loved one. Thank you for all of the delicious food, your words of encouragement, and most of all your prayers.

In Christian Love,
 Timothy Nichols and Family

HEARTS AND HANDS

TEAM "E" (JIM WOODY) will receive assignments the week of November 26.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LADIES AND MEN'S CLASSES meet each Tuesday at 10:00.

ST JUDE TOY DRIVE is underway. Please see the young adult bulletin board or Jackson or Katharyn Greer for details.

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, November 26.

Annual Christmas Party at the home of Eddie and Diane Ray on Friday, December 8. Dinner will be \$4 per person. Please bring a \$5 gift to exchange per person or couple.

Ladies Christmas Party at the the home of Connie Streiber on Tuesday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m. Please bring your favorite dish.

NEW CLASS TO BEGIN

B.J. Clarke will begin teaching the Wednesday night adult class in room 201 of the education building on November 29. It is entitled "If They Say That, Show Them This." As we interact with people in everyday conversation, they often say things that are unbiblical and untrue. If you would like to be more equipped to show them lovingly just the right passage(s), then this class is for you. The class will address things that people commonly say and show how to answer them with scripture.

NEW SERMON SERIES TO BEGIN

Barry Grider will begin a Sunday afternoon sermon series beginning Sunday, November 26, entitled "Attitudes that Crucify."

PLEASE CHECK YOUR BOX!

Last week's solution:

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. II Corinthians 5:10

CORNERSTONE

Bible Scramble: Unscramble the letters in each word to discover the passage.

I MA URIIFEDCC WTIH TSRIHC: VTSSRNLHEEEE I VLIE; YTE
 TON I, UTB TSRIHC VTLIHE NI EM: NDA EHT EFIL WIHHC I
 WON VLIE NI EHT SLHFE I VLIE YB EHT TIHFA FO EHT NOS
 FO OGD, WOH VOLED EM, NDA VGEA SMLIHF ROF EM.

(continued from page 2)

As long as I can remember, Thomas has been called a doubter. The Bible doesn't so refer to him. Hear the facts relating to him. In John, chapter 20, we have the account. Based upon the evidence we have in that chapter, I believe it is unfair to Thomas to refer to him as a doubter.

Jesus met with his disciples, following his resurrection. They met behind locked doors for fear of the Jews. On that occasion, "he showed unto them his hands and his side" (verse 20). "But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came" (verse 24).

Later, "the other disciples therefore said unto him (Thomas), We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print to the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe" (verse 25).

Stop and reason for a moment. The other disciples had some first-hand information that Thomas didn't have. Now, why he was absent on that occasion, we don't know, and perhaps he should be censored for it, but the fact is, he was not present to see the evidence Jesus presented. Thomas was the kind of man that would not believe just anything. He had to have the proof, or the convincing testimony.

Had not Thomas, along with the other disciples, been warned: "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves" (Matt. 7:15)? Had not Jesus said on another occasion: "Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many" (Matt. 24:4,5)?

Thomas had seen his Lord die only a few days before. It was a scene he could not easily forget. No doubt, the warnings of Jesus about false-Christ's were still fresh on his mind. I wouldn't be surprised, if he didn't think of some of those warnings the moment the other disciples said, "We have seen the Christ."

(from *Great Preachers of Today*)

(to be continued)

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