



THE FOREST HILL NEWS

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Can You Recommend Your Religion? (Part 2)

George W. Bailey

Observe Thomas' reasoning. He had in his mind two marks of identification for which he would look when one claimed to be the risen Christ. He said, "I won't believe until I see those identifying marks." They were: (1) The nail print in his hand; and (2) The scar in his side. So that he would be sure, he not only wanted to see these, but feel them as well.

Is there anything wrong with Thomas' reasoning? Suppose a man loses an automobile. He turns it in to proper authorities, and one in charge inquires, "What make? What color? What body style, etc.?" Would the owner of the car take these questions to indicate doubt on the part of the authorities as to whether the man actually lost his car? Certainly not; rather, he would understand that they would become marks of identification, since there are many cars, and they needed to know just which one belonged to him, should they find it.

One week later, Christ met again with his disciples, behind the same locked doors. This time Thomas was present. Jesus said to Thomas, "reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side; and be not faithless, but believing" (verse 27).

When Thomas saw the marks for which he was looking, he answered and say, "My Lord and my God" (verse 28), as if to say, "Now I believe." The closing verse of that chapter is for our admonition: "But these things are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name" (verse 31).

Let's be as cautious as Thomas, but let's be as yielding to testimony as was he. Why not, in reading the Bible, discover certain marks of identification regarding the Lord's church, and look for the church today bearing those same marks of identification?

Can you recommend your religion, in light of the scriptures? What about the church of which you are a member? What about its teaching regarding how to be saved? These are very important matters. Don't be deceived, but be sure that you are a member of the church you can read about in the New Testament!

Can You...by the Life You Live?

We come now to the second question: Can you recommend your religion by the life you live? This gets rather close to home. Do your life and your religion complement each other? Does each make the other more attractive, and easier to see?

If a man's *religion doesn't change him*, then *he need to change his religion!* The religion of Christ will change a man; it makes him into a new creature (2 Cor. 5:17). Christianity is not just a *life of convenience*; it is a *life of conviction!* If yours is not a religion of conviction, something is drastically wrong!

(continued on page 2)

Forest Hill

Church of Christ

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Elders:

Anthony D. Callahan
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Gregory D. Mangrum
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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Our lives must “adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things” (Tit. 2:10). The Pharisees did not adorn the doctrine of God, for they would say one thing, and practice another (Matt. 23:3). Paul condemns the practice of “having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof” (2 Tim. 3:5).

The way you use a thing is the greatest recommendation for that thing you could give. One is often heard to say, “I drink occasionally, but I wouldn’t recommend it.” In this he is woefully mistaken, for his doing it is, within itself, his recommendation. He might not recommend it in word, but he does in practice.

Only let your conversation (or manner of life) be as it becometh the gospel of Christ” (Phil. 1:27). “Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit” (Matt. 7:16-18).

“*Shew Me Thy Faith*”

What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him? Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me they faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works” (Jas. 2:14, 18).

Your Christianity should be seen in your every day deeds. Are others seeing it in you? Through the kind of life you live, would others be constrained to live more righteously? Are you showing your faith — not only in word, but also in work?

Faith deals with the way a man thinks. Can you see that which is locked up within a man’s mind? How can one see your faith? Is it not through its manifestations of good deeds? You cannot see a man’s thoughts, except as he expresses them in some way. You cannot see a man’s faith, except as it expresses itself in some way!

By the way you express your faith, from day to day, you are either recommending or renouncing the religion to which you hold. If not, why not? You show your faith by your works (Jas. 2:18). You show it by your love (Gal. 5:6). you show it by your obedience to God (Rom. 1:5; 16:26). You show it by the purity of your life (Acts 15:9).

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven: (Matt. 5:16). A light bulb doesn’t shine that you might merely see the bulb itself, but that you might see what is in the room. A Christian’s light must shine, not that the Christian might be seen and glorified by his fellow men, but that his fellow men might see and glorify God!

Oh how we need to practice more of what we preach! There is too much of a *professing* of Christ, and not enough *possessing* of Christ! Paul said of some, “They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate” (Tit. 1:16).

The word “reprobate” has become more limited in its meaning than when it occurred in this passage. Originally, it meant “worthless.” It referred to old coins that had lost their value. they were said to be reprobate. Today, the word seems to be limited to the idea of “mean, vile, wicked, scoundrel.” There are many who do not come into the latter category, but who are reprobate in that they are worthless, useless, having lost their true value to the Lord!

People are watching us six days during the week, to see if we mean what we do and say on the first day of the week! Can we truly recommend our religion by the way we live?

Christianity is not some push-button affair, that can be turned on and turned off at intervals. Rather, it is something that must permeate every fiber of our being. People often say, “Religion and business won’t mix,” but if a man can’t mix his religion with his business, then he’d better change his business, for he has the wrong kind.

How often have you heard, “recreation and religion won’t mix”? If you can’t mix your religion with your recreation, then you had better change your recreation! In fact, if you can’t mix your religion with everything you do, then you had better not do that thing!

Christianity is a way of life. It will go with us into our homes and make better fathers and mothers of us. It will go with us into our occupations, and make better men of us there. It will make better neighbors, schoolmates, better citizens. Christianity will just make a man better, that’s all!!!

“*Those Things Which Ye Have Heard and Seen in Me, Do*”

What a recommendation Paul put on his religion by the way he lived. Hear him in these words: “Those things, which ye have both learned and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you” (Phil. 4:9).

It was Paul who said, “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ” (1 Cor. 11:1). Paul preached what he believed, and he believed what he preached. Through his life we see Christianity become flesh and blood, as it were. He was such an example of right living.

(From *Great Preachers of Today*)

(to be continued)

PRESIDE: Steve Allmond Dan Dawson
ASSIST: Nick Aubrey Cason Grider
 Jagger House Gene Kuehn
 Billy Rodgers Jack Woods

A.M. OPENING: Paul Connell
A.M. CLOSING: Ty Phillips
P.M. OPENING: C.J. Stafford
P.M. CLOSING: Evan Manning

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 26, 2017

BIBLE STUDY:	280
A.M. WORSHIP:	295
P.M. WORSHIP:	185
CONTRIBUTON:	\$13,822.00

OUR SICK

Joe Baxter, Room 104, Methodist Hospice Residence, 6416 Quince Rd.

Sherry Brown, Room 1058, Baptist Desoto Rehab.

Bobby Gitter, father of Bob Gitter, blood sugar problems, Batesville, MS.

Helen Palazola, Room 127-2, Highlands of Memphis Rehab.

Carol Stover, sister of Helen Sharp, Room 4415, Baptist East.

Brooke Tate, sister of B.J. Clarke, scheduled for surgery in Little Rock, AR December 5.

Avis Terry, Room 3121, Baptist East.

ILL AT HOME: Marsha Beliew (recovering from a fall), Karen Fairley, Pearl Washington, and Pati Wright.

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	

To My Forest hill Family,
 Thank you so much for all of the calls, texts, cards, visits and food that were provided during my recovery. Your love and thoughtfulness through that time helped me both physically and spiritually. I don't know what I would do without the love of my church family.

In Christian Love,
 Shaunna Hanel

HEARTS AND HANDS

TEAM "F" (STEVE ALLMOND) will have a covered dish luncheon in the fellowship hall after morning service Sunday, December 10.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LADIES BIBLE STUDY tonight at 6:30 in the fellowship hall.

LADIES AND MEN'S CLASSES meet each Tuesday at 10:00. We will meet at Cracker Barrel for breakfast, Tuesday, December 5 at 8:45.

ST JUDE TOY DRIVE is underway. Please see the young adult bulletin board or Jackson or Katharyn Greer for details. Deadline is Sunday, December 3.

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

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, December 24.

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.

REQUESTED PRAYERS: Cedric Huff, Gene and Jan Kuehn, and Sterling Main.

CONGRATULATIONS TO B.J. and Tish Clarke on the birth of a grandson, Adam Clarke. The parents are Michael and Meagan Clarke.

Last week's solution:

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.
Galatians 2:20

CORNERSTONE

Scriptogram: Each letter in the passage is replaced with another.

VTG WYGH FHM SGWSHGWM FCD FWHGB BT DWVJ BFW
 AHI TV BFW ATGM, HKM BT MT CB, HKM BT BWHNF CK
 CDGHWB DBHBOBWD HKM LOMUPWKBD.

K=N Solution next week. L=J

December Coordinating Elder-Harold Mangrum

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Carson Jenkins
3 Linda McCullar Jonathan Rickles	4 Ashley Callahan	5 Kourtland Brown	6 Lyle Summitt	7	8	9 Ashley Alston John Palazola
10 Raymond Pipkin	11 Daniel Manning Cindy Owens	12	13 Rusty Kennedy Jerry Robbins	14 Douglas Tibbits	15	16
17 Keegan Brown Eddie Ray	18 Albert House	19	20	21	22 Brandi Beavers Ruth House	23
24/31	25	26	27	28 Lesleigh Albritton Patricia Chandler	29	30

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