



THE FOREST HILL NEWS

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Forest Hill Church of Christ

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Ministers:

Barry M. Grider,
Pulpit Evangelist

Matthew Jones,
Personal Evangelist

Garrett Olney, Youth
Jordan Pugh, 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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In Times Like These We Need the Bible

Barry Grider

Like Josiah of old, surely we recognize that in our world today the Book of God has been forsaken (2 Kings 22:8-14). Several generations have now been reared who know the physical, psychological and spiritual pain caused by a secular humanistic society. Many now have become cynical about life seeing no hope in their future. Many of us have witnessed congregations of the Lord's church exchanging God's word for the philosophies of men. The development of an entertainment mentality has left so many spiritually and morally bankrupt. The principles of righteousness that make nations great have been cast aside in our beloved country as "progressive" liberals have mounted an all out assault on the Bible and our constitution. As in ancient Israel, evil is called good, and good evil (Isa. 5:20). God's people are destroyed for lack of knowledge (Hos. 4:6) and brethren cannot discern between right and wrong (Heb. 4:12). Self acclaimed intellectuals "professing themselves to be wise, they became fools" (Rom. 1:22).

Many of the problems facing man today could have been avoided if our people had stayed true to the Bible. Why do we need the Bible? Listen to the apostle Paul,

But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works (2 Tim. 3:14-17).

The Bible makes the unwise wise. It will lead the lost to salvation. Quoting the venerable Marshall Keeble, "The Bible is right." The Bible is right in its doctrine or teaching. Whatever the good Book says concerning marriage and family, it is right. Whatever the good Book says about salvation in Christ, it is right. Whatever the good Book says about the church, it is right. Whatever the good Book says about morality and decency, it is right. Whatever the good Book says about the second coming, the judgment, heaven and hell, it is right.

The Bible is right in its reproof. We can know when we have violated God's commands. The Bible serves as a mirror to the soul (James 1:23, 24). God's Book reproves us when we have sinned and provides warnings to help us repent.

The Bible is right in its correction. We are not helpless when we violate God's commands but are told through His word how to make things right and be reconciled unto God. Through the Bible the alien sinner learns he must hear and believe the gospel (Rom. 10:17), repent of sins (Acts 17:30), confess Jesus (Acts 8:37), and be baptized so that his sins may be forgiven (Acts 2:38; 22:16). The child of God understands through the holy Scriptures that repentance and prayer is necessary for correction to be made in his life (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:7, 9).

The Bible is right in instruction in righteousness. By keeping the word of God man remains in a saved condition. David said, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Psa. 119:11). Jesus said, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed" (John 8:31).

In times like these may every one of us who name the name of Christ learn the Bible, love the Bible, live according to the Bible, and lift up the Bible for all to see.

Don't Forget the Fundamentals

J. A. McNutt

[Editor's Note: The editor had the privilege of studying under the good and godly J. A. McNutt, while a student in Memphis School of Preaching, 1990-1992. Brother "Mac," as he was affectionately known by his students, was already well into his eighties at the time. Several years have now passed since he went to his reward, but his legacy for the cause of Christ continues.]

Every faithful preacher should realize that there are certain basic truths, some primary principles, and some foundational facts that must be proclaimed in preaching the gospel of Christ. A wise builder is always aware of the supreme importance of a good foundation in the erection of a building. Whether a building stands or falls depends upon the strength and durability of that foundation (Matt. 7:24-27). Sand has never been a dependable foundation, and the shifting sands of human opinion which results in unbelief and disobedience always results in disaster.

Building upon the Foundation

It would be foolish indeed for the builder, after having laid the foundation, to continue working at the ground level, and never proceed with the superstructure. The Holy Spirit has instructed Christians to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the truth (2 Pet. 3:18). Whenever Christians receive spiritual food, stay in the right environment, and practice walking in the light for exercise, they can and will grow.

“Therefore, leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God” (Heb. 6:1).

It should be noted however, that Paul did not say “forgetting,” but we are to “leave” or press on beyond these foundation principles to a higher level of spiritual maturity. The “therefore” of (Hebrews 6:1) is directly connected with concluding verses of chapter five, where Paul is urging the brethren to no longer be babes in their perception of divine truth, but to develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of God's word. They are urged to advance from a milk diet to the strong meat which is suitable for mature Christians (Heb. 5:12-14).

Should We Forget the Fundamentals?

Where did the idea ever develop that gospel preachers ought to cease preaching on the “first principles” of the gospel? Is it too simple, and too elementary for us to continue to preach faith, repentance, and baptism for the remission of sins? How could a man who professes to be a gospel preacher deliver several sermons in a meeting without mentioning the plan of salvation? Surely such a series could not be called a “gospel meeting.”

Why is it today, that we sometimes hear sermons, in which the specific terms of pardon are not mentioned, either in the sermon, or in the invitation that is offered? If some respond to the invitation, to what are they responding, unless they have been taught the truth elsewhere?

We cannot allow the pride of intellectual attainments in the field of modern scholarship to keep us from preaching the simple gospel. We cannot allow the devil to corrupt our minds from “the simplicity that is in Christ” (2 Cor. 11:3). Let us be careful lest we allow ourselves to be wise above that which is written. The preaching of the cross no doubt seemed foolish to the Grecian philosophers, and was a stumbling block to the Jewish rabbis of Paul's day. It was scorned and rejected by the pseudo-intellectuals at Athens, but it was, and still is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16).

The apostle Paul did not think it too repetitious, or too simple, to bring to remembrance of the brethren certain facts which they already knew (2 Pet. 1:12). How does the preacher know that there is not in his audience, some precious soul who does not know the truth, and who may never hear another sermon? Again, how many denominational preachers do you know that think it is too simple, or elementary, to preach salvation by “faith only” and stress it in every invitation? Have we become so sophisticated, so worldly wise, and so filled with pride, that we cannot condescend to preach with simplicity and clarity?

Providing a Balanced Diet

No doubt there was a time when the primary principles of the gospel were stressed almost to the exclusion of teaching on Christian duties and spiritual growth. This often led to a lack of love and understanding and the failure to add the Christian graces (2 Pet. 1:5-11). Some brethren did not manifest the spirit of kindness, or compassion toward each other, or toward their religious neighbors. The church needed to be edified and taught the principles of faithful Christian living, and such still needs to be taught.

But, today's trend seems to be away from basic and distinctive preaching on the plan of salvation. The undenominational stance of the church is not being emphasized, and religious error is not being exposed.

(continued on page 4)

LORD'S TABLE

PRESIDE:	Danny Braddock	Eddie Ray
ASSIST:	Bob Bergstrom	Jack Braddock
	Randy Elliott	Bob Gitter
	Cason Grider	Edison Ray

PRAYERS

A.M. OPENING:	Cedric Huff
A.M. CLOSING:	Marv Sowell
P.M. OPENING:	Steve Allmond
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 April 9, 2017

BIBLE STUDY:	250
A.M. WORSHIP:	330
P.M. WORSHIP:	200
CONTRIBUTON:	\$18,299

OUR SICK

ILL AT HOME: Mike Callahan, Kay Downey, and Cecil Sowell.

HOMEBOUND

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

INFORMATION LINE: 901-531-8849

REQUESTED PRAYERS: Madison Moore.

OUR SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED to Cindy Owens in the passing of her brother-in-law, Jimmy Vaughn. He was the husband of former Knight Arnold member, Carla Burgess Vaughn.

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, April 23.

CONGRATULATIONS to Keith & Dorothy Mosher on the birth of a great-grandson, Judah Landon Garey, born Monday, April 10.

Check out the new Forest Hill website!
foresthillcofc.org

NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Dear Forest Hill,

Thank you so much for the many calls and cards and prayers during my recent hospitalization. Please keep me in your prayers as I continue my recovery.

In Christian love,
 Kay Downey

HEARTS AND HANDS

TEAM "F" (Steve Allmond) will meet Sunday, April 23 after the morning service hall for a covered dish luncheon in the fellowship hall.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LADIES' and MEN'S CLASSES meet each Tuesday morning at 10:00. We will meet at Cracker Barrel, April 18 at 8:45 for breakfast.

90th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION honoring Jim Woody, Saturday, April 15, 2:00-4:00 in the fellowship hall. RSVP to Edwyna (call or text) 901-484-1569.

YOUNG ADULT DEVO Saturday, April 15 at 5:00 p.m. at the home of Danny & Melinda Braddock.

EGG HUNT for toddlers-6th grade, Sunday, April 16 following the afternoon service. All are invited to participate or watch.

AREA-WIDE YOUTH DEVO hosted by Forest Hill, Monday, April 17 at 7:00 p.m.

VBS WORK NIGHT Tuesday, April 18, 6:00-8:00 in the teacher's workroom. Contact Lynn Manning with any questions.

LADIES EVENING BIBLE STUDY Thursday, April 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the ladies classroom. We will be studying chapters 7 & 8.

YOUTH RETREAT at Meeman Shelby Forest, April 21-23.

SPRING FOOD DRIVE for Tennessee Children's Home A list of needed items is on the bulletin board. Please place donations in the box provided or in the ladies classroom. The deadline is Sunday, April 23.

2017 VBS June 5, 6 & 7. Theme: ***We Believe Because of Cause and Effect.*** Please see the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board.

Last week's solution:

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity. Matthew 23:27-28

CORNERSTONE

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

UTB SONLISGED TIWH TONNTNMEETC SI TRGEA NAIG.
 ROF EW UTROHGB GFTONNIH TONI TSIH WROLD, NDA
 TI SI TRNIECA EW NCA RYRCA TONIHGN UTO. NDA
 VANIHG OFOD NDA TARNEMI TLE SU EB TRHTRIHEW
 ETTONCN.

Solution next week

Don't Forget the Fundamentals (continued from page 2)

Many members of the church cannot bear to hear false teachers criticized, and will often defend those who teach error, and castigate those who oppose the teacher of error, and refer to them as being unloving and unkind. Some seem ashamed of their heritage in the great restoration movement, and to the pioneer preachers who fought the battles to defend the truth, and perpetuate the church in it's purity. Where would we be preaching, working and worshipping today, had it not been for the work of these men?

There is no way under heaven that we can develop right attitudes, and cultivate Christian character, without preaching "All things that pertain to life and godliness" and urging every Christian to acquire the Christian graces that will result in making our calling and election sure, and grant us an entrance into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord (2 Pet. 1:10-11).

Let it also be recognized that there is no way on earth that we can evangelize the world without preaching the specific conditions that are stated in that great world-wide and age-lasting commission given by the One who will judge the world in righteousness (Acts 17:31; Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16). The Lord's church, and this world need a balanced diet.

(from *Gospel Advocate*, September 20, 1984)

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