



# THE FOREST HILL NEWS

Volume 44

April 18, 2017

Number 16

## Forest Hill

### Church of Christ

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#### Elders:

Anthony D. Callahan  
Warren Davenport  
Gregory D. Mangrum  
Harold D. Mangrum  
Keith B. McAlister

#### 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:

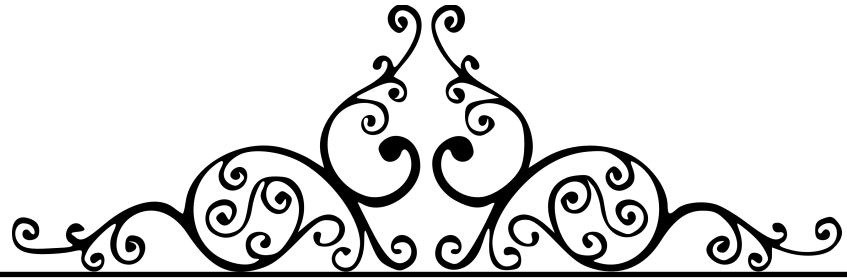
Bible Study ..... 7:00 P.M.

HOME OF THE  
MEMPHIS SCHOOL  
OF PREACHING  
[www.msop.org](http://www.msop.org)

#### Missions Supported:

Far East/World Evangelism  
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Gospel Broadcasting Network  
House to House, Heart to Heart  
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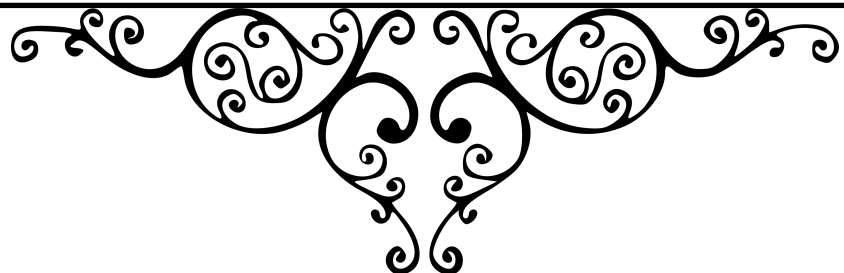


## Wednesday 2017 Summer Series “New Testament Worship”

### “The Way of Salvation”

<b>July 5</b>	<b>“Jesus the Savior”</b>	<b>Billy Bland</b>
<b>July 12</b>	<b>“Salvation Through Hearing”</b>	<b>Robert R. Taylor, Jr</b>
<b>July 19</b>	<b>“Salvation Through Believing”</b>	<b>Keith Mosher, Sr</b>
<b>July 26</b>	<b>“Salvation Through Repentance”</b>	<b>B. J. Clarke</b>
<b>August 2</b>	<b>“Salvation Through Confession”</b>	<b>Bobby Liddell</b>
<b>August 9</b>	<b>“Salvation Through Baptism”</b>	<b>T. J. Clarke</b>
<b>August 16</b>	<b>“Salvation Through Faithfulness”</b>	<b>Dan Cates</b>

**Wednesday evenings in the auditorium at 7:00 p.m. for 7th grade and up.**



## Commands, Examples, and Necessary Inferences

Hugh Fulford

It has often been pointed out that God communicates in Scripture through commands, examples, and necessary inferences. This tripartite formula has been reduced to an acronym — CENI. By many in churches of Christ it has been viewed as a hermeneutic (a way of interpreting the Scriptures). While hermeneutical value is to be derived from recognizing commands, examples, and implications from which we draw certain necessary inferences, my contention is that commands, examples, and necessary inferences (CENI) are not themselves a hermeneutic but ways, means, or avenues by which God has set forth His will in Scripture and to which a valid hermeneutic must be applied.

“Command” does not really capture the fullness of what one intends to convey with this term. A more accurate way of stating the matter is to say that God communicates His will through various kinds of statements. Some statements may be declarative, such as the beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12). These are not commands per se, yet all understand that Jesus expects His followers to possess these qualities. Other statements may be interrogative, hortatory, or imperative (having the force of a command). Of course, direct commands also are found in Scripture (cf. Matthew 22:37-40; Mark 16:15; Acts 10:48; 1 Corinthians 14:37; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; etc.).

Examples likewise are used by God to communicate His will to humanity. When God was ready to deliver His ultimate Word to mankind, He incarnated (made flesh) that Word in Jesus of Nazareth (John 1:14). “No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him” (v. 18 NKJV). Literally, the word “declared” means “explained” or “exegeted.” Thus, through Jesus Christ, God exemplified Himself so fully that Christ could say, “He who has seen Me has seen the Father” (14:9). Christ served as the perfect example of who God is and what He is like, and He serves as the example by which we are to live (1 Peter 2:21). Paul urged: “Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1). Numerous precedents and examples are found in the New Testament that God expects His children to follow today (cf. Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2).

Regarding Acts 20:7, J. W. McGarvey made this insightful observation: “It is very generally admitted, even among parties who do not observe the practice themselves, that the apostolic Churches broke the loaf weekly; but it is still made a question whether, in the absence of an express commandment this example is binding upon us. This question is likely to be determined differently by two different classes of men. Those who are disposed to follow chiefly the guide of their own judgement, or of their denominational customs, will feel little influence by such a precedent. But to those who are determined that the very slightest indication of the divine

will shall govern them, the question must present itself in this way; ‘We are commanded to do this in memory of Jesus. We are not told, in definite terms, how often it shall be done; but we find that the apostles established the custom of meeting every Lord’s day for this purpose. This is an inspired precedent, and with it we must comply. We can come to no other conclusion without assuming an ability to judge of this matter with more wisdom than did the apostles.’”<sup>1</sup>

God also implies certain truths in the communication of His will to man. For instance, an orderly universe implies (and we infer) the existence of an all-powerful, all-wise and beneficent Creator (Romans 1:19-20; Acts 14:14-17). In refuting the Sadducees’ lack of faith in the resurrection, Jesus pointed out that God is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, but that He is not the God of the dead but of the living (Mark 12:24-27). Therefore, the Sadducees could necessarily infer that those patriarchs were alive. (Note: One needs to be careful to not use “implication” and “inference” interchangeably. A writer or speaker implies; a reader or hearer infers. A writer or speaker may definitely imply something that the inattentive reader or hearer never “picks up” on. On the other hand, a reader or hearer may unnecessarily infer something that the writer or speaker never at all implied!)

Thus, through direct statements, examples, and implications, God has communicated His will to us. However, statements, examples, and implications do not constitute a hermeneutic. It is after we have read the various kinds of statements, examined the numerous examples, and considered all the implications that we find in Scripture that the diligent work of interpreting God’s word (employing a valid hermeneutic) and properly applying it to our lives then begins.

In recent years it has become fashionable among those who want to incorporate practices into the church that are not authorized by Scripture, and which denigrate and attempt to dismantle what they refer to as “the CENI hermeneutic.” In so doing they attack a “straw man.” I repeat: In my judgment, CENI is not a hermeneutic! Rather, to the statements, examples, and implications of Scriptures we must apply a valid hermeneutic. But we must respect what the Lord has communicated to us by means of direct statements (including commands), examples, and implications, and not add to, take from, nor substitute for that which He has revealed. “If any one speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God” (1 Peter 4:11).

### Endnote

1. J.W. McGarvey, *Commentary on Acts of the Apostles*, ed. B. C. Goodpasture (Nashville: 1863, 1957), 247.

(from *Gospel Advocate*, April 2017)

**LORD'S TABLE**

**PRESIDE:** Ty Phillips                      Jason White  
**ASSIST:** Brad Bynum                     John Connell  
               Eddie Graham                     Jerry Manning  
               John Pope                             Jack Woods

**PRAYERS**

**A.M. OPENING:** Tony Callahan  
**A.M. CLOSING:** Marv Sowell  
**P.M. OPENING:** Paul Davenport  
**P.M. CLOSING:** Steve Ulrich

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 16, 2017**

BIBLE STUDY:	230
A.M. WORSHIP:	330
P.M. WORSHIP:	190
CONTRIBUTON:	\$16,045

**OUR SICK**

**John Connell** is scheduled for surgery Monday, April 24 at St. Francis Hospital.

**ILL AT HOME:** Kay Downey.

**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

**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.

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR BOX!**

Check out the new Forest Hill website!  
[foresthilcofc.org](http://foresthilcofc.org)

**HEARTS AND HANDS**

**TEAM "A" (Paul Connell)** will receive assignments the week of April 23.

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

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**LADIES' CLASS** will meet for their final class of the quarter, Tuesday, April 25 at 10:00 a.m. Ladies' and Men's classes will resume in the Fall.

**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.

**COUPLES BABY SHOWER** honoring Aaron & Lindsay Ownbey. Saturday, April 22 at 11:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Everyone is invited. Gift cards are preferred. IT'S A GIRL!

**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.

**SHOES FOR HAITI** Parkway Village congregation has asked us to help by collecting gently worn shoes for the people of Haiti. Please NO open-toed shoes & NO ladies' shoes with heels. You may place these in the ladies classroom.

**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:***

*But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. I Timothy 6:6-8*

**CORNERSTONE**

Replace each letter with a different letter to reveal the scripture.

ZXH K IKQQ JLGC GJLX VUN ULGWN LB HZAKH, ZXH  
 GJLX VUN KXUZMKVZXVW LB YNCGWZQND, VUN  
 WJKCKV LB RCZEN ZXH LB WGJJQKEZVKLXW ZXH  
 VUNS WUZQQ QLLP GJLX DN IULD VUNS UZAN  
 JKNCENH, ZXH VUNS WUZQQ DLGCX BLC UKD, ZW  
 LXN DLGCXNVU BLC UKW LXQS WLX, ZXH WUZQQ  
 MN KX MKVVNCXNWW BLC UKD, ZW LXN VUZV KW  
 KX MKVVNCXNWW BLC UKW BKCWV-MLCX.

J=P                      Solution next week                      H=D

## Carrying Your Cross

This past Friday, commonly called in Christendom, Good Friday, I noticed numerous individuals and entire families carrying beautifully carved white crosses around the sidewalks of our fair community in Collierville, Tennessee. I do not mock those who were doing so because I am confident they are sincere, religious people, who, likewise, have a degree of courage to do what they were doing. However, I do believe they, along with many others in the religious world, are misguided concerning what it means to carry one's cross. It the same view that I hold toward those who allow themselves, for religious reasons, to be crucified on a cross to reenact what Jesus did or those who think they are doing the Lord a favor by showing up at a service because men have deemed a particular Lord's day as more holy than other Lord's days.

What did Jesus say about carrying one's cross? "And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me" (Mark 8:34). Jesus died upon a cross. The cross is a means of execution. There is a sense in which Jesus calls upon each one of us to put ourselves to death and follow Him. When one is baptized into Christ such a person dies to the love and practice of sinning (Rom. 6:6). By so doing we deny ourselves and refrain from the passions and lusts that war against the soul. It is in this way that the Christian has taken up his cross and not by carrying on his back a piece of wood which symbolizes the instrument by which our Lord died.

Barry Grider

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