



THE FOREST HILL NEWS

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Forest Hill Church of Christ

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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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BUILD YOUR HOPES ON THE ETERNAL GOD (Part 2)

Barry Grider

HOW DOES GOD'S ETERNAL NATURE AFFECT MAN AND HIS WORLD?

Christianity is not some self help religion crafted by man to help man get through life. Rather, Christianity was formulated by an eternal God, founded upon eternal principles, and for the benefit of eternal beings. This system of religion is not necessarily about making life easier, but about preparing hearts, minds, and lives for eternity.

But just what is eternity? It is that which is everlasting or lasts forever. It is an expanse that has no beginning and has no ending. When a child is conceived that child becomes part of this vast expanse. Often it is asked, "where will you spend eternity?" Correctly speaking, however, one cannot spend eternity. For example, if one has been convicted of a crime and sentenced to prison for 25 years, that individual can place a calendar on his cell wall and after the first day mark that day off. He can keep on marking off the days until finally his sentence is completed. However, the lost in hell do not mark off day one on their calendars because they live in one eternal day.

Paul wrote, "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse" (Romans 1:20). Do not try to contemplate eternity with a finite mind. "Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it" (Psalm 139:6).

God is eternal in His being, His power, and in His character. The members of the divine Godhead - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit - have the same eternal characteristics.

Man was created to live eternally. He that inhabiteth eternity (Isa. 57:15), hath set eternity in their hearts (Eccl. 3:11). For this reason, man has difficulty finding satisfaction here on earth. The things of this earth were never meant to fully satisfy the deepest longings of the human heart. This is clearly seen in the lives of two great heroes of faith, Abraham and Moses.

By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God (Heb. 11:8-10).

By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward" (Heb. 11:24-26).

Man cries out for more and there is more but only an eternal God can fill that void.

(continued on page 2)

Build Your Hopes on the Eternal God (continued from page 2)

HOW DO WE BUILD OUR HOPES ON THIS ETERNAL GOD?

Man's physical being is clearly outlined in the following passage:

Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them; While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain: In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened, And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird and all the daughters of music shall be brought low: Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and the almond tree shall flourish and the grasshopper shall be a burden and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets: Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken or the pitcher be broken at the fountain or the wheel broken at the cistern. Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit unto the God who gave it (Eccl. 12:1-7).

Man will depart this earth one day but his spirit will live on. The separation of the body and spirit is how the Bible defines death (James 2:26). Jesus said to the thief hanging beside him, "Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43). Both Jesus and the thief would die, but the spirit within each one would go to Paradise.

Jesus gives a glimpse into eternity in the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus as recorded in Luke 16. The rich man in torment was described as being conscious, maintaining his memory and identity, and had the ability to feel. In eternity there are two distinct places that exist in this expanse called eternity. One is identified as Hell and the other is Heaven. On the day of judgement, Jesus said, "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal" (Mat. 25:46).

But just as there is an eternal place of punishment there is an eternal place of reward. "For God so loved

the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Did Paul believe life would be over when he died? Did he have no hope for the future?

For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing (2 Tim. 4:6-8).

There comes a time when our bodies grow old and no longer can function. The spirit within, which is constantly being refreshed and renewed, needs to exit into something more permanent.

For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day...For we know that, if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens (2 Cor. 4:16; 5:1).

The most pertinent question that can be asked is, "where will I be throughout eternity." God does not want us to live our lives in fear of eternity but in view of eternity.

CONCLUSION

The one constant in our lives that is reassuring and fills each one with hope is the eternal God who does not change his nature. Man may change his view of sin, but God does not. Man may try to reach heaven another way than God's way, but it will not work. Because God is eternal and His nature does not change, one can be assured of the judgment. God cannot lie (Tit. 1:2) and hence, He will fulfill His promises. Time is filled with swift transition but we can hold to God's unchanging hand. God is right where He has always been and always will be. Therefore, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever" (Psalm 23:6).

LORD'S TABLE

PRESIDE: Francis Fairley Irwin Thomas
ASSIST: Andy Ammons Dan Dawson
 Robert Jeter Andrew Knipple
 Kevin Knipple Garrett Olney

PRAYERS

A.M. OPENING: Warren Davenport
A.M. CLOSING: Lawayne House
P.M. OPENING: Jackson Greer
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 April 2, 2017

BIBLE STUDY: 245
 A.M. WORSHIP: 315
 P.M. WORSHIP: 185
 CONTRIBUTION: \$16,791

OUR SICK

Mike Callahan, St. Francis Hospital Bartlett, room 390, gall bladder surgery.

John Connell has been diagnosed with advanced prostate cancer. He is waiting results of tests.

Jay Crowe, Methodist Hospital Germantown, room 409W, gall bladder surgery.

Albert McDaniel, MSOP graduate, ill in St.Louis, MO.

Helen Palazola, Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab, room 415.

Velton Trimm, Kirby Pines Rehab.

ILL AT HOME: Lawayne House, Leslie Sharp 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

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!

INFORMATION LINE: 901-531-8849

REQUESTED PRAYERS: Dale Neil

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: Walt & Leisa Safronoff, 840 W. Powell Rd. Collierville, TN 38017.

HEARTS AND HANDS

TEAM "E" (Jim Woody) will receive assignments the week of April 9.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LADIES' CLASS will resume Tuesday morning, April 11, at 10:00.

YOUNG ADULT SERVICE PROJECT Saturday, April 8 at 9:00 a.m. We will meet at the north entrance of the fellowship hall. Please bring trowels, gloves and other gardening tools. Donuts will be provided.

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

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.

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 for teachers and helpers and if you are able to loan any listed items.

Check out the new Forest Hill website!

foresthilcofc.org

Last week's solution:

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

CORNERSTONE

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

DJU FZGJ BJE, IVLRSUI WZX NTWLRIUUI, TBNJVLRGUI!
 KJL BU WLU PRQU FZGJ DTRGUX IUNFPVTULI, DTRVT
 RZXUUX WNNUWL SUWFGKRP JFGDWLX, SFG WLU
 DRGTRZ KFPP JK XUWX OUZI SJZUI, WZX JK WPP
 FZVPUWZZUII. UEUZ IJ BU WPIJ JFGDWLXPB WNNUWL
 LRATGUJFI FZGJ OUZ, SFG DRGTRZ BU WLU KFPP JK
 TBNJVLRIW WZX RZRMFRGB.

N = P

Solution next week

D = W

Two Incredible Weeks

This past week the annual lectureship of the Memphis School of Preaching was conducted. This year's noble theme was "Build Your Hopes On Things Eternal." Surely all attendees departed the lectureship with their faith strengthened and their zeal increased. Not only do the annual lectures provide a rich and rewarding study of God's holy word, but also, the bonhomous nature of the fellowship of so many Christians gathered in one place is a foretaste of Heaven above. Much appreciation is extended to each member at Forest Hill who played a role in helping the lectureship fulfill its goal for our brotherhood and in the effort to bring glory unto the Son of God.

While the lectureship is an annual event, this writer is now engaged in a biennial event with our students. This week, the MSOP student body, along with our secretary, Sherry Brown, and I, are enjoying the Restoration Studies Tour. This journey takes us through the states of Kentucky, West Virginia, and Ohio, visiting various sites of the 19th century American Restoration Movement, including the Cane Ridge Meetinghouse outside of Lexington, Kentucky, where we focus particularly upon the work of Barton W. Stone, and a visit to the home of the sage of Bethany, Alexander Campbell, and Bethany College, which he founded in Bethany, West Virginia (though still a part of Virginia at the time of its establishment in 1840. While we do not worship such men as Stone and Campbell, we do honor their scholarship and the sacrifices they made as they fought for the Bible and the Bible alone as our sole creed and guidebook pertaining to all things religious.

I love the church of Christ and God's simple plan of redemption found in His Son. This journey always helps me to have a greater appreciation for our heritage in Him. I pray, dear reader, that you will give consideration to joining us on our next journey in April, 2019.

Barry

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