



THE FOREST HILL NEWS

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Forest Hill Church of Christ

3950 Forest Hill-Irene Rd
Memphis, TN 38125

Office: 901-751-2444
Info Line: 901-531-8849

www.foresthillcofc.org
office@foresthillcofc.org

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

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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“Are You Homophobic”

Jason Jackson

“We need to be tolerant of other people, especially those of a different sexual orientation,” so goes the common saying. The homosexual agenda is everywhere. Those who preach “tolerance” are not tolerant of you, if you disagree with them.

That’s what Elliot Chambers learned when he wore a sweatshirt to Woodbury High with the words, “Straight Pride.” The next day, he was called into the principal’s office and told *not* to wear the sweatshirt to school. It was offensive to several homosexual teens who complained.

His parents talked with the principal, Dana Babbit, to resolve the issue. When they expressed their concern about the school’s overt support of homosexuality and bisexuality, Babbit called them “homophobic” (<http://www.afa.net/activism/aa040401.asp>).

Schools are supposed to teach reading, writing, and arithmetic, but they have been transformed into institutions of social engineering.

The homosexual agenda is not trying to get into the schools; it is *in* our schools. The Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) is leading the assault. The organization includes 70 school districts in 46 states, overseeing more than 700 “gay” student groups. It vows to eliminate “homophobia and heterosexism” from our schools.

Is the message getting through? Yes! A lady (not a member of the church) was talking with a Christian lady; she said, “If my son [a toddler] ends up being gay, that will be O.K. with me. If that is what he chooses, I will support him.” The agenda has been embraced. Unbelievable!

Is “sexual orientation” a matter of chance or choice? Dr. Robert L. Spitzer is a psychiatry professor at Columbia University in New York, and formerly he had engaged in the homosexual lifestyle.

He reported his study to the American Psychiatric Association on May 9, 2001. He said that his study, consisting of extensive interviews, demonstrates that people *can* change. He talked with former homosexuals (both men and women) who have changed, and many of these people are now in heterosexual relationships.

Dr. Spitzer does *not* advocate that homosexuality is wrong. He says that what consenting adults do is their own business, and he is highly sympathetic to homosexuality. He is also concerned about the possible misuse of his study. In spite of these things, he says: “We conclude that, contrary to conventional wisdom, some highly motivated individuals, using a variety of change efforts, can make substantial change in multiple indicators of sexual orientation and achieve good heterosexual functioning” (slide 36, http://www.dupontbglad.com/Newsletters/Spitzer_APA_Presentation_051201.pdf)

The homosexual community despises any suggestion that individuals can take responsibility for their sexual behavior. Their claim is that a person does not choose his sexual orientation — a position they cannot defend.

With all the confusion about human sexuality, consider what God, Creator of man and woman, says. “Male and female created he them” (Gen. 1:26). God made humans as sexual beings of *different* genders.

God regulates sexual behavior. “A man shall leave father and mother and cleave unto his wife, and the two shall become one flesh” (Gen. 2:24). “Let marriage be had in honor among all, and let the bed be undefiled: for fornicators and adulterers God will judge” (Heb. 13:4). A

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“HAVE YOU BEEN EATING RIGHT?”

Colten Wilson

“It is funny how mortals always picture us as putting things into their minds: in reality our best work is done by keeping things out,” (C. S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters*).

Satan is a cunning foe. In Genesis 3:1, one can read of how God created the serpent as the most cunning land animal there is. Satan not only took on the form of a serpent, but he is often referenced as and compared to a serpent in Scripture (2 Cor. 11:3; Rev. 12:9). Additionally, he is compared to a lion (1 Pet. 5:8-9) which further aids us in understanding the nature of Satan. He is known as a deceiver (Rev. 12:9) or liar (John 8:44). Two words, one Hebrew and one Greek (Rev. 9:11), further demonstrate the nature of Satan: Abaddon (which means “the destroyer”) and Apollyon (synonymous with Satan, “the arch fiend”).

By what little examined here, one could easily determine that Satan is a force not to be underestimated. These similes referencing Satan’s nature and these names of which he is known by are insights into his character. Just as one can use the names and likenesses of God for insight into His character, the same can be done concerning the devil.

With that in mind, how might Satan overcome you? As Christians, he is our enemy, and one that cannot be underestimated. However, does Scripture not teach, “If God be for us, who can be against us?” (Rom. 8:31). If God gives the victory (1 Cor. 15:57), then can we, if we stand with God, truly fail at the hands of Satan? No. Sadly, however, when we are standing is usually not when Satan attacks, but rather, when we are sitting down.

Abaddon does not wait to attack you when your defense is up, but when it is down. As subtly as a thief in the night, he will strive to creep into your life and the lives of your family, and to do that, he must first enter your mind. Does he literally enter your mind and put things in it via possession? No. However, it is the case that most of us put the ways of Satan into our own minds of our own accord. One of Satan’s greatest tactics is to poison your mind. What we watch, read, hear, and most importantly, what we dwell upon, can affect us in negative ways. Jesus, in his answer to the Pharisees and his own disciples concerning the traditions of men and what truly defiles a man said, “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man.” (Mat, 15:19-20a). For those who think they stand, remember this: Satan’s greatest weapon against you is your own mind. Keeping good things out (Mat. 12:43-45, the general application applies today) and

bad things in (Phil. 4:3-8) is how he will win. The question is, what are you putting into your mind? The children’s song, “Read Your Bible, Pray Every Day” is one we as Christians cannot forget. Many of us can understand the concept of healthy eating vs. unhealthy eating concerning our diet, so why should we think the rules concerning our mental/ spiritual diet should be any different?

(Colten Wilson is a 2017 graduate of MSOP. He is 22 years old and single. Presently he preaches for the Lord’s Church in Kimberly, Idaho.)

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husband and wife are authorized by God to engage in sex. Fornication, adultery, homosexuality, and all other forms of sexual perversion, are sinful. They are, therefore, destructive, demeaning, and damnable.

God teaches the value of sexuality. Remember, He created us as sexual beings, and He did so with a purpose. The marriage relationship is the most intimate of human relationships. The home was designed by God, ultimately for our spiritual welfare. This act of intimacy is to draw married couples closer together in unselfish devotion to each other. Our “if-it-feels-good-do-it” society has turned it into a perverse thing. But, God designed it for our *good*, not just for our pleasure.

God forgives sexual sins. But for forgiveness, there must be repentance (Lk. 13:3; 1 Jn 1:9). Some Christians in Corinth were former homosexuals (i.e., abusers of themselves with men, ASV). But, Paul says they were forgiven, as they had obeyed the gospel. We do not have to rely on Dr. Spitzer’s study. The Bible teaches that people can overcome sin and be saved. One can stop the sinful behavior and utilize the motivation of the gospel of Jesus Christ to overcome the power of sin (Rom. 8:13).

God condemns homosexuality. And what of Sodom and Gomorrah? They had given themselves over to fornication, having gone after “strange” flesh. Where are those cities today? They are gone! But the people of those cities “are set forth as an example, suffering [present tense] the punishment of eternal fire” (Jude 7).

Yes, we ought to be “homophobic” — not that we should ever treat someone in a hostile way because of their sin. Rather, we ought to fear God’s judgment concerning sinful lifestyles. We ought to be “phobic” of all sinful conduct, and “Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man” (Ecc. 12:13).

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Genesis 1:26; Genesis 2:24; Hebrews 13:4; Luke 13:3; 1 John 1:9; Romans 8:13; Jude 7; Ecclesiastes 12:13

(from *Christian Courier* June 2017)

HEARTS AND HANDS

PRESIDE: Raymond Pipkin
ASSIST: Bob Bergstrom
 Paul Connell
 Isaac McLaurin

Dennis Woods
 Danny Braddock
 Jerry Manning
 Edison Ray

A.M. OPENING: Irwin Thomas
A.M. CLOSING: C.J. Stafford
P.M. OPENING: Harold Mangrum
P.M. CLOSING: Randy Elliott

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

RECORD, WEEK of August 13, 2017

BIBLE STUDY: 250
 A.M. WORSHIP: 315
 P.M. WORSHIP: 190
 CONTRIBUTION: \$13,926.00

OUR SICK

Darrell Beard, grandfather of Jonathan Beard, North Mississippi Medical Center, Tupelo, ICU.

Allan Hart is recovering from surgery on his Achilles tendon.

Shirley Gregory, former Knight Arnold member, is recovering from cancer surgery, Baptist East, Room 5105.

Frances Maund, Mother of Marion Maund, will have cancer surgery Thursday, August 24 at Flowers Hospital in Dothan, AL.

Maxine Meadors, sister-in-law of Kay Downey is recovering from injuries received in a car accident.

Helen Palazola has returned to Memphis Jewish Home, Room 112.

Jim Woody will have surgery for a pacemaker on Friday.

ILL AT HOME: Joe Baxter and Marylon Green

HOMEBOUND

Bessie Berry
 Ann Castleman
 Virginia Ditto
 Hazel Eskew
 Tommy & Nell Herndon
 Anita Hopper

Albert & Ruth House
 Clarine Justice
 Ryan McCullar
 Helen Palazola
 Jerry & Betty Robbins

REQUESTED PRAYERS: Lynn Manning

OUR SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO: Kay Downey in the death of her brother, J.C. Meadors, in an automobile accident. Funeral service will be Tuesday, August 15 at Munford Funeral Home.

TEAM "E" (JIM WOODY) meeting for Saturday, August 19 has been postponed and will be rescheduled.

TEAM "B" (WARREN DAVENPORT) will meet Saturday, August 19 at 5:00 p.m. at the pavilion for a fish fry. Food will be provided.

TEAM "F" (STEVE ALLMOND) will pass out assignments Sunday, August 20 during the congregational luncheon.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY SUMMER SERIES continues. Theme: *The Way of Salvation*. This week's topic: *Salvation Through Faithfulness* by Dan Cates. 7th grade and up will meet in the auditorium.

CONGREGATIONAL LUNCHEON Sunday, August 20 following morning worship. **ELDERS AND DEACONS MEETING** immediately after luncheon beginning at 12:30.

NEW CLASSES TO BEGIN Wednesday, August 23:
Auditorium: *A Glorious Church* taught by Barry Grider.

Room 201 (Education Bldg.): *Studies in Proverbs* taught by Tom Wacaster.

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, August 27.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR BOX!***Last week's solution:***

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Psalm 27:1

CORNERSTONE

Unscramble the letters in each word to discover the passage.
 UMLHEB YVUSSROLEE TRROHFEEE URNED EHT
 YTMHIG NHDA FO OGD, TTHA EH YMA XTLEA YUO NI
 UED TMIE: TSNIGCA LLA YURO RECA NOPU MIH; ROF
 EH TRHECA ROF YUO.

Solution next week.

The Sunny Side of Life

In the midst of a world filled with negativity, pessimism, division, and world-wide disturbances, somebody has to stay positive, optimistic, upbeat, and hopeful. Who else can fulfill that but New Testament Christians? Despite all that is happening around us, we are reminded that our God is good. The psalmist reminds us of this. "O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him" (Psa. 34:8). James writes, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (James 1:17).

I challenge you today to look on the sunny side of life. The Carter Family, legends in the history of country music, sang "Keep on the sunny side, always on the sunny side, Keep on the sunny side of life, It will help us every day, it will brighten all the way, If we keep on the sunny side of life."

To stay on the sunny side one must look internally and keep the mind focused. Paul writes, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5). With this mind a Christian can, "Rejoice in the Lord always" (Phil. 4:4). Notice, one is rejoicing in the Lord, not in one's circumstances. It is so important to keep the proper perspective one has in Christ. That means to keep a filter in our minds to get rid of whatever is negative, including bitterness and lewdness. Again, hear the words of the apostle, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of a good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Phil. 2:8).

If we ever turn people to Christ we must demonstrate what Christ has done for us. Spread a little sunshine to those around you. It will be good for you and for them.

Barry

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