



THE FOREST HILL NEWS

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The Power of Christian Living

Barry Grider

The Christian life is not just about gaining heaven but, also, leaving a legacy of good on earth. Paul admonished, “And let us not grow weary in well doing for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not” (Gal. 6:9). All of us can become discouraged. However, living for Jesus really is worth all we put into it.

First, faithful Christian living glorifies God. Christianity is the religion of Christ. The goal of the Christian is to imitate Him. Notice Jesus’ primary goal as He dwelt upon this sod, “I have glorified thee [the Father] on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do” (John 17:4). Jesus always honored the Father while on earth. Paul admonished, “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 2:5). Peter exhorted, “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps” (1 Pet. 2:21). Indifference to the Father’s will and apathy for His cause is a serious problem among God’s people. Have we become so desensitized toward sin that we have forgotten the meaning of holiness, righteousness, and purity? God lamented this state of His people when speaking through Jeremiah, He said, “Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time that I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the Lord” (Jere. 6:15). Peter reminds us, “But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy” (1 Pet. 1:15,16). Though we are creatures of choice, God has the right to demand our allegiance. Remember, “For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s” (1 Cor. 6:20). When we conform our lives to the will of the Father, we honor and glorify Him (Mat. 5:16).

Second, faithful Christian living is for the stabilization of society. Many of the major issues facing our nation could be resolved with a return to respecting moral and spiritual values. Lascivious lifestyles, lack of respect for authority, scoffing at the sacred, crude and vile entertainment, and a lack of compassion all demonstrate that debauchery is more acceptable than Christian living. However, the religion of Christ if practiced in its pristine purity will lead man to a higher and more noble way of living. I suppose that the greatest sermon on Christian living was preached by Jesus on the mountaintop as recorded in Matthew chapters 5,6, & 7. How much better would the world be if everybody sought to be meek, merciful, and pure? Just ponder for a moment if all practiced the golden rule. “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets” (Mat. 7:12). If all practiced the teachings of this sermon, truly Louis Armstrong’s “What a Wonderful World It Would Be” could become a reality. Christian living leads to a happier, healthier, and prosperous way of life.

Third, faithful Christian living is for the salvation of souls. Paul wrote, “Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee” (1 Tim. 4:16). To “take heed” and “continue in” means to apply. We apply the teachings to ourselves and others. Our responsibility as Christians is to proclaim the gospel to all, while living in harmony with the message we teach.

How many will never know the life changing message of Jesus and His plan of redemption because they never saw Christianity demonstrated? Faithful Christian living says, “I want to go to heaven and I want others to go with me.” The life you and I live on earth should validate the message of the One we claim to follow. If it does not, our words are empty.

Forest Hill

Church of Christ

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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.

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Five Facts About a Faithless People

Neal Pollard

The percentage of Americans who identify as atheists doubled from 2007 to 2014 (Michael Lipka, Pew Research Center). But that hardly tells the whole story. Our culture is drowning in a political correctness that stigmatizes Christian Values and that makes nearly any public stand or statement regarding what Scripture says about such things as homosexuality, objective truth, the sanctity of life, and creation a point of fierce contention and object of greatest scorn. A moral erosion and slippery slope has been in motion for several generations that has brought us to our current position. The Bible foresaw such decline as comes when a people turn their backs on God (cf. Prov. 14:34). In discussing the universal problem of sin, Paul points out five facts about a faithless people (Rom. 1:18-32):

Faithlessness ignites God's fury (18). Wrathfulness is as much a part of God's nature as graciousness. In fact, we appreciate grace so much because God gives it when we deserve His wrath. Paul says the object of His wrath is all ungodliness and unrighteousness. The unrighteous behavior Paul specifies is "men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness." They don't live the truth and they don't want the truth to be told. Paul ends the section by pointing these out as those who practice ungodliness and heartily approve of those who do the same (32). It is clear that those who remain faithless are "sinners in the hands of an angry God."

Faithlessness ignores the facts (19-20). Paul says that faithlessness is not due to an absence of facts, but a willful ignorance of them. He says that even the faithless can see God as they look inside themselves and outside themselves at the creation. It takes a deliberate effort to arrive at a position of unbelief. So much has to be continuously ignored.

Faithlessness includes futility (21). Faithlessness is built upon a flimsy foundation. It's the slab of speculation. The faithless spend their lives running from the facts in favor of a worldview that makes no sense, gives no purpose, and instills no hope.

Faithlessness involves folly (22-23). It's not just empty, it's foolish. Paul's words here are akin to David's words in Psalm 14:1 and 53:1, that "the fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.'" Paul describes intelligent people who have made the most fundamentally foolish decision of all. They exchange faith in an infallible God for faith in fallible man.

Faithlessness instigates a fall (24-32). Paul pictures how a person arrives at wholesale immorality. One must first turn from God and run the other way. Then, God lets them go to find out what lies at the end of that broad way. He gives them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity (24), He gives them over to degrading passions (26), and He gives them over to a depraved mind (28). The lusts led to the wrong object of worship and submission. The passions led to unnatural desires. The depraved minds led to every imaginable behavior, a long list of actions that have in common the fact that they lead to spiritual death. It encompasses both the perpetrators and those who validate them and tell them it's OK to do them.

Why does Paul mention these faithless ones? It is proof of divine inspiration, because although this was written 2000 years ago it perfectly describes the current culture. But, there is a more important reason for Paul to write this. This horrible condition has a remedy. The theme of Romans is contained in the four verses prior to this section. The gospel has the power to save us from this. The solution is faith. Faith saves (1:16) and it gives life (1:17). The world is being swallowed by spiritual darkness, but God's light is brighter. We who have faith have the light. We must share it. When we do, we help people have the most important possible commodity: faith!

(from *The Word of Truth*, Jan/Feb 2017)

LORD'S TABLE

PRESIDE: Steve Allmond Cedric Huff
ASSIST: Brad Bynum Paul Davenport
 Jackson Greer Gene Kuehn
 Sam Rickles Billy Rodgers

PRAYERS

A.M. OPENING: Jason White
A.M. CLOSING: Jerry Manning
P.M. OPENING: Lawayne House
P.M. CLOSING: Jim Woody

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

RECORD, WEEK of February 26, 2017

BIBLE STUDY: 225
 A.M. WORSHIP: 285
 P.M. WORSHIP: 180
 CONTRIBUTION: \$14,546

OUR SICK

Tish Clarke recovering from surgery.
Virginia Ditto, Christian Care Center, room 222.
Mark Owens, Methodist Hospital Germantown, room 444W.
Les Sharp, St. Francis Hospital, room 511.
Velton Trimm, Kirby Pines Rehab.
Bill Sanders, brother of Wayne Sanders, Mercy Hospital, Oklahoma City.
Linda Adams, sister of Wayne Sanders, NMMC Tupelo, MS.
Woody Mitchell, nephew of Jim Woody, under hospice care in St. Louis, MO.
ILL AT HOME: Rufus Washington.

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

REQUESTED PRAYERS: Fritzi Rickles.

DIRECTORY CHANGES:

Hazel Eskew, 4580 Forest Hill-Irene Rd, #146, Memphis, TN 38125.
Annette Cates, 645 Lost Key Dr #605D, Pensacola, FL 32507, (901)299-5323.

OUR SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED to MSOP student, Chase Green, and family in the passing of his grandfather, Don Thomas Earl Green.

INFORMATION LINE: 901-531-8849

NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Dear Forest Hill,
 Thank you so much for your care, cards, calls, food and especially your prayers while I have been recovering from recent health issues.
 I'm so blessed to be a part of this congregation.
 With Christian love,
 Helen Newsom

HEARTS AND HANDS

TEAM "B" (Warren Davenport) will receive assignments the week of March 5.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LADIES' and MEN'S CLASSES meet each Tuesday morning at 10:00.

GIRLS LUNCH & DEVOTIONAL Saturday, March 4 beginning at 1:00 p.m. at O'Charley's in Olive Branch.

BRIDAL SHOWER honoring Lindsay Roscoe, Sunday, March 5 after the morning service in the fellowship hall. Lindsay and C. J. are registered at Kohl's, Target and Bed Bath & Beyond.

YOUNG ADULT DEVO Saturday, March 11 at 5:00 p.m. at the home of Jerry & Lynn Manning.

HEARTS & HANDS REORGANIZATION LUNCHEON Sunday, March 12 after the morning service in fellowship hall. **ZONES 1 & 2** are responsible for set-up and clean-up. **ZONE 6** is responsible for supplying drinks and set-up, serve and clean-up the drink area.

2017 YOUTH DAY, March 25. Theme: *In Christ Alone*. Flyers are available in the foyer.

2017 MSOP LECTURESHIP, March 26-30. Theme: *Build Your Hopes on Things Eternal*. Copies of the schedule are available in the foyer.

2017 VBS June 5, 6 & 7. Soup cans and vegetable cans are needed for VBS. They need to be clean and label free. Gallon milk jugs are needed. These may be put in the Ladies classroom. Also, artificial trees of any size and camping equipment are needed. See the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board if you are able to loan any listed items.

Last week's solution:

And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing. I Thessalonians 4:11-12

CORNERSTONE

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

ROF EW UTSM LLA RPPEAA ROFEEB EHT UTMJGED
 TSEA FO TSRIHC; TTHA YVREE ENO YMA VRIEEEC EHT
 TSNIHG ONED NI SIH YODB, RONIGDCCA OT TTHA EH
 TTHA ONED, WTRHHEE TI EB OOGD RO DBA.

Solution next week

Forest Hill Church of Christ

Adult Classes Spring Quarter, 2017 (March, April, May)

<u>Location</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Topic</u>
<u>Sunday Morning</u>		
Auditorium (A)	Greg Mangrum	The Parables of Jesus
Chapel Hall (E)	Keith Mosher	Love Life in Christian Marriage
Break Room(E) (Young Adults)	Robert Berch	<i>The Book God "Breathed"</i>
<u>Wednesday Night</u>		
Auditorium (A)	Barry Grider	Hebrew History: A Study of Samuel and Kings
Room 201 (E)	Don Walker	Ephesians
<u>Tuesday Morning</u>		
Ladies Class (A)	Celicia Grider	<i>Successful Christian Living in Today's World</i>
Men's Class (A)	Barry Grider	<i>Blessed Assurance</i>
A - Auditorium Building E - Education Building		

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