



THE FOREST HILL NEWS

Volume 44

July 11, 2017

Number 28

“He Brought Me Back To Christ”

Barry Grider

Recently I preached the funeral service of one of my beloved high school teachers who, likewise, was a faithful child of God. While in my hometown for her service, a young lady whose family has long been acquainted with mine approached me and very lovingly embraced me while saying to others around us, “he brought me back to Christ.” It was such a joy to hear these unexpected words. Evidently at some point in the past, after hearing me preach, she made the decision to be restored and is, once again, faithfully following her Lord. The gospel of Christ has such great power (Rom. 1:16) and is still convicting the hearts of sincere and honest people today. Her words were thrilling to my soul and a reminder that even when we don’t realize it we are influencing men and women, boys and girls, to choose the Savior.

You do not have to be a preacher to win a soul back to Christ. In fact, God expects every one of His faithful children to be involved in restoring souls. This responsibility ought to be taken seriously because of the gravity of the condition of these erring brethren. Peter writes, “For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning” (2 Pet. 3:20). But what needs to be done when one falls away? Such an individual needs to be converted again. This requires teaching again the fundamentals that led to this person’s conversion the first time. James writes,

Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins (James 5:19-20).

When I was a boy I enjoyed going with my dad to a potential convert’s home to show the Jule Miller filmstrips. It could be those who have wandered away from God need to be taught these same lessons again. The story of the cross, Peter’s sermon on Pentecost, the establishment of the church, and the sobering fact of the judgment day need to be reemphasized in the life of one who has erred from the faith.

If one is to be converted from the error of his way, he must continually see Christianity exemplified in your life and mine. Such a one needs to know that he is not our enemy but a brother we love and want to help (2 Thess. 3:15). This brother or sister needs to know that we are fervently praying for his/her restoration.

When a child of God is restored there is joy in heaven and on earth. My heart rejoiced knowing that through my teaching I helped a sister come back to Christ. However, a haunting question remains. Could it be possible that I have led someone away from Christ? I pray every day that if I have hindered anyone on the path that leads to heaven that God will forgive me and that my negative influence will be overcome by the good influence of another.

In heaven, there will be such exuberant joy in the hearts of every one of us to know we made it, and that, likewise, we are the reason others are there. As so beautifully stated in the following lyrics,

One by one they came, Far as the eye could see.
Each life somehow touched by your generosity.
Little things that you had done, Sacrifices made,
Unnoticed on the earth, In Heaven, now proclaimed.

Forest Hill

Church of Christ

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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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[*Editors Note: Recently I had the honor of delivering the funeral message of my former high school science teacher, Rubye Thomas, who passed away Friday, June 23rd in my childhood home of Stevenson, Alabama. Mrs. Thomas was also a faithful child of God. She was 92 at the time of her passing. Her son asked my to read the following poem, which I did at the conclusion of the service. I thought our readers would find much comfort in the poem, as well.*]

The Inquiry
Charles Mackay

“Tell me, ye winged winds,
That round my pathway roar,
Do ye not know some spots
Where mortals weep no more?
Some lone and pleasant vale
Some valley in the West,
Where, free from toil and pain,
The weary soul may rest?
The loud wind dwindled to a whisper low,
And sighed for pity as it answered, No.

“Tell me, thou mighty deep,
Whose billows round me play,
Knows't thou some favored spot,
Some island far away,
Where every man may find
The bliss for which he sighs;
Where sorrow never lives
And friendship never dies?
The loud waves rolling in perpetual flow
Stopped for awhile and sighed to answer, No.

“And thou serenest, moon,
That with such holy face
Dost look upon the earth
Asleep in Night's embrace-
Tell me, in all thy round
Hast thou not seen some spot
Where miserable man
Might find a happier lot?
Behind a cloud the moon withdrew in woe,
And a voice sweet, but sad responded, No.

“Tell me, my secret soul,
Oh, tell me, Hope and Faith,
Is there no resting-place
From sorrow, sin and death?
Is there no happy spot
Where mortals may be blessed,
Where grief may find a balm
And weariness a rest?
Faith, Hope and Love, best boon to mortals given,
Waved their bright wings and whispered, Yes, in
Heaven.”



Dear Lord...

Please grant that I shall
Never waste my pain; for...
To fail without learning,
To fall without getting up,
To sin without overcoming,
To be hurt without forgiving,
To be discontent without improving,
To be crushed without becoming more caring,
To suffer without growing more insensitive,
Makes of suffering a senseless, futile exercise,
A tragic loss,
And of pain,
The greatest waste of all. [author unknown]

HEARTS AND HANDS

PRESIDE: Marion Maund
ASSIST: Kalon Brown
 Ty Phillips
 Johnny Royal

C.J. Stafford
 Bob Gitter
 Billy Rodgers
 Jack Woods

A.M. OPENING: Wayne Sanders
A.M. CLOSING: Isaac McLaurin
P.M. OPENING: Jason White
P.M. CLOSING: John 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 July 9, 2017

BIBLE STUDY: 195
 A.M. WORSHIP: 275
 P.M. WORSHIP: 180
 CONTRIBUTION: \$19,114.00

OUR SICK

John Connell, Jason and Lawayne House, Tim Nichols, and Pati Wright.

Carolyn Anguish, wife of former Southwind minister, David Anguish, hospitalized in Searcy, AR with renal cancer.

Robert Taylor will have knee replacement surgery Tuesday, July 11 at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital, Jackson, TN.

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

OUR SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO:

Don Walker, in the passing of his sister, Melinda Presswood.

The family of Herbert Gurley, benefactor of MSOP, who passed away June 17.

The family of Eddie Lewis, former minister with the Germantown Church of Christ, in the passing of his wife, Judy.

CONGRATULATIONS TO: Avis Terry on the birth of a great-granddaughter, Lucy Jane Parrish. She weighed 8 lbs. and 4 oz.

TEAM "E" (Jim Woody) will meet Saturday, July 15 at 4:00 p.m. at the home of Jim and Edwyna Woody. Pizza will be provided. Please bring a salad or dessert.

TEAM "A" (Paul Connell) will receive assignments the week of July 16.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

SUNDAY SERMON SERIES continues. Theme: *He's Still Working on Me* from the book of Philippians. This week's topic: *Lord, Help Me to Be More Loving*.

CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP MEAL Sunday, July 16 after the morning service.

BREAKFAST at CRACKER BARREL Tuesday, July 18, 9:00 a.m. Following breakfast we will return to building for a time of prayer and devotion.

YOUTH DEVOTIONAL at the home of Miranda and Vada Grider, Thursday, July 20 at 6:30. Food provided.

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, July 23.

PANTRY ITEMS: needed to replenish the pantry. Please bring non-perishable food items to the ladies classroom.

Check out the new Forest Hill website!
foresthilcofc.org

INFORMATION LINE: 901-531-8849

PLEASE CHECK YOUR BOX!

Last week's solution:

He that despiseth his neighbor sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he. Do they not err that devise evil? But mercy and truth shall be to them that devise good. Proverbs 14:21-22

CORNERSTONE

Replace each letter with a different letter to reveal the scripture.
 MB JBQZBVM LEEY VMDV CBDXBVM OAVM D WXDQR
 MDPC JTV VMB MDPC EG VMB CAXAHPV ZDRBVM YAQM.
 MB VMDV HDVMBYBVM AP WTZZBY AW D OAWB WEP JTV
 MB VMDV WXBBLBVM AP MDYSBWV AW D WEP VMDV
 QDTWBVM WMDZB.

Q=C Solution Next Week Y=R

REPENTANCE

1. Right attitude toward sin-godly sorrow (2 Cor. 7:9,10).
2. Right attitude toward God-return to God (Luke 15:18).
3. Right attitude toward self-humble self (Luke 15:19).
4. Right attitude toward others-restitution (Acts 16:33; Luke 19:8).

(from *Seed for the Sower*; by Leroy Brownlow)

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