



# THE FOREST HILL NEWS

Volume 44

July 25, 2017

Number 30

## “Selling Out Doctrine for Sincerity”

Barry Grider

Our Lord expects His followers to be sincere people. Jesus said of Nathaniel, “Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile” (John 1:47). In this man there was nothing pretentious or hypocritical. The Lord commended him for being genuine, real, and sincere. Yet is sincerity alone all that God expects of an individual? With regard to religious matters, does it matter what someone believes? It seems that in our world today many have sold out doctrine for sincerity. Many in and out of the church seem to think as long as a man is sincere it really does not matter what he believes. Among churches of Christ there has now been for several decades a widening acceptance of multiple marriages between men and women, who despite their adulterous unions want to “sincerely” be part of a local congregation. It is becoming more widely accepted in left wing religious groups like the Church of England and the Episcopal church to accept same sex marriage unions. It seems more and more if someone does not want to follow specific Bible doctrine just toss the doctrine aside. All that matters to such people is being “sincere.” Yet it is very possible that one can be sincere and be wrong. According to God’s word, doctrine really does matter. What is doctrine? Doctrine is teaching. Biblical doctrine is the teaching that comes from God. “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine...” (2 Tim. 3:16).

Paul emphasized doctrine to the young evangelist, Timothy:

As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine (1 Tim. 1:3).

If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained (1 Tim. 4:6).

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).

If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness (1 Tim. 6:3).

Now if doctrine does not matter, why would Jesus solemnly warn,

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven (Mat. 7:21).

Every plant which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up (Mat. 7:13).

### 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

#### 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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MEMPHIS SCHOOL  
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## Selling Out Doctrine for Sincerity (continued from page 1)

He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day (John 12:48).

Having considered these passages from an inspired apostle and having observed the words of the Lord Jesus Christ, notice three examples from the book of Acts that explicitly show why doctrine matters and why sincerity alone will not get us to heaven.

First, the conversion of Saul of Tarsus shows us why doctrine matters. We are first introduced to Saul in Acts 7:58 as he gives his full and unequivocal support to the stoning of the righteous Stephen. Saul is very sincere in persecuting Christians. Later, as an apostle of Jesus, he stated, "I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth" (Acts 26:9). Furthermore, he declared, "I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day" (Acts 23:1). Saul was a man devout in his practice and understanding of Judaism (cf. Phil. 3:4-6). He represents multitudes who try to approach God through some other way than Christ. He was sincere, but he was lost. Why? Because doctrine matters.

Second, the conversion of Cornelius shows us why doctrine matters.

There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always (Acts 10:1,2).

It would be difficult to find a better man morally than Cornelius. He was sincere because the text says he was "devout." He believed in God and was a praying man. He was a philanthropist and a humanitarian. However, Cornelius was a man who represents all those who try to approach God by simply living a good, moral life. He was sincere, but he was lost. Why? Because doctrine matters.

Third, the conversion of Apollos shows us why doctrine matters.

And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John (Acts 18:24-25).

Apollos appears to be a believer in Jesus but doctrinally he's confused. He obviously is a great speaker and evidently has a lot of knowledge of the Scriptures. It would be very

difficult for many religious people to say this man was lost. Yet he was teaching error. He only knew of the baptism of John which called on men to repent and look to the Christ to come. However, Christ had come and ascended back to His Father. This was post Pentecost and so that which was taught by Apollos was no longer operative. He represents those who claim to know Jesus but are ignorant of His doctrine. Apollos was sincere, but he was lost. Why? Because doctrine matters.

Unlike many who are sincere, but lost, these men are to be commended for their honesty and humility. Saul of Tarsus was introduced to Christ literally (Acts 9:3-5). He was told by the Lord to go into the city and he would be told what he needed to do. Ananias, said to Saul, "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16). Cornelius heard the word preached by Peter and we learn that he and his household were baptized (Acts 10:48). Apollos was taken by the evangelistic couple, Aquila and Priscilla, and taught "the way of God more perfectly" (Acts 18:26). This included being baptized scripturally, for after Pentecost all those who were baptized in accordance with John's baptism had to be baptized by the authority of the Lord Jesus (Acts 19:5).

It is good to be sincere. But sincerity alone is not enough to save. However, those who are sincere will always obey the truth, if they are honest and humble. Let each one of us "receive with meekness the engrafted word which is able to save our souls" (Jas. 1:21).

#### Sweet Hour of Prayer

The church at Forest Hill is pleased to conduct ladies and men's Bible study classes on Tuesday mornings, September-May. Since we have a rather long break during the summer, those who primarily compose these classes recently met at Cracker Barrel for breakfast and then returned to Forest Hill to spend time devoted primarily to prayer. At the previous Sunday morning services I had requested, that if any had prayer requests please give them to me and we would pray for specific needs. Many of our brothers and sisters responded with prayer requests. Those of us who gathered for the period of prayer interceded before God on behalf of each one. It was a special time together which strengthened each one of us spiritually as we drew close to God and poured out our hearts unto him. Please join us, if possible, Tuesday, August 8, when, once again, we will meet at Cracker Barrel for breakfast at 9 and then assemble at the FH building for another sweet hour of prayer. I believe you will find the occasion to be an enormous blessing.

Barry

**HEARTS AND HANDS**

**PRESIDE:** Jack Braddock  
**ASSIST:** Cole Bennett  
 Caleb Hull  
 Jonathan Rickles  
 Cason Grider  
 Jagger House  
 Andrew Knipple  
 Sam Rickles

**TEAM "C" (DANNY BRADDOCK)** will receive assignments the week of July 30.

**TEAM "D" (RANDY ELLIOTT)** will meet Friday, August 4 at 6:30 at the home of Dan and Cindy Dawson for a covered dish dinner.

**A.M. OPENING:** Mike Reed  
**A.M. CLOSING:** Lee Frederick  
**P.M. OPENING:** Paul Davenport  
**P.M. CLOSING:** Sam Rickles

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 23, 2017**

BIBLE STUDY: 223  
 A.M. WORSHIP: 280  
 P.M. WORSHIP: 187  
 CONTRIBUTION: \$13,797.00

**OUR SICK**

**Joe Baxter** is in Methodist Germantown, Room 330.

**Harrison Crowe**, grandson of Jim and Brenda Crowe will have adenoid and ear tube surgery on Monday, July 31 at Baptist Outpatient Center on Germantown Road.

**Allan Hart** will have surgery his Achilles tendon on Thursday, July 27. He will be homebound for approximately 8 weeks.

**Frances Maund**, mother of Marion Maund has been diagnosed with cancer. She will have further tests Tuesday.

**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

**Velton Trimm** has moved to Legacy Estates.

**INFORMATION LINE:** 901-531-8849

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR BOX!**

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

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

**POWER LECTURES** at Southaven Church of Christ July 23-27.

**YOUNG ADULT DEVOTIONAL** at the home of Robert and Julie Berch, Friday, July 28 at 6:30.

**BRIDAL SHOWER** honoring Rebecca Brandon, bride elect of Adam Maund, Sunday July 30 after the morning service. Rebecca and Adam are registered at Target and Bed, Bath, and Beyond.

**ICE CREAM SUPPER AND FINGER FOOD FELLOWSHIP** following the service, Wednesday, August 2.

**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.

**RESPONSES:** Madison Moore, Irwin Thomas, and Roy Gilcrease

***Last week's solution:***  
*He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed. Evil persuueth sinners: but to the righteous good shall be repaid. Proverbs 13:20-21*

**CORNERSTONE**  
 XHCRDMH QRN GSHQ NSDQH HQHVE ABYYHNS,  
 BQT YHN QRN NSDQH SHBXN PH LYBT GSHQ SH  
 UNKVPYHNS YHUN NSH YRXT UHH DN, BQT DN  
 TDUIYHBUH SDV, BQT SH NKXQ BGBE SDU  
 GXBNS AXRV SDV.  
 g=w Solution Next Week a=f

## August 2017

Coordinating Elder: Keith McAlister

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tues</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1	2	3	4 <i>Houston Welch</i>	5 <i>Lanell Bowers Mike Callahan Chambers/ Manning Wedding</i>
6 <i>Colson Albritton Rebekah Nichols</i>	7 <i>Annette McAlister</i>	8 <i>Nell Herndon</i>	9	10	11 <i>Doris Jean Cole Jerry Ellis</i>	12
13	14 <i>Becky Sowell</i>	15	16 <i>Mary Alice Bergstrom Carolyn Hayes Dorothy Trimm</i>	17 <i>Corinne Elkins</i>	18 <i>Patsy DeShields Irwin Thomas</i>	19
20 <i>Jonathan Beavers Greg Mangrum</i>	21 <i>Yufeng Yang</i>	22 <i>Steve Allmond</i>	23 <i>Velton Trimm</i>	24	25 <i>Kay Downey Carolyn Richardson</i>	26 <i>Jim Brown Dorothy Mosher</i>
27 <i>Crystal Guthrie</i>	28 <i>Cedric Huff</i>	29 <i>Paul Connell Lewis Elliott</i>	30 <i>Cindy Dawson</i>	31		

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