



THE FOREST HILL NEWS

Volume 44

June 27, 2017

Number 26

Forest Hill Church of Christ

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Elders:

Anthony D. Callahan
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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.

HOME OF THE
MEMPHIS SCHOOL
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Good News Today
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Why Be An Atheist?

Dave Miller, Ph.D.

Why do we believe what we believe? Answers to this question are legion. However, the most basic human motivations that lie behind belief and practice may be identified in light of Bible teaching. Here are a few:

Greed/Materialism—"I can make money by believing this viewpoint."

Jealousy—"If I hold this viewpoint I will be held in higher esteem than others."

Loyalty—"I believe this viewpoint because my parents did."

Ambition—"I will advance in my career if I believe this viewpoint."

Selfishness—"I want to believe this viewpoint because it makes me feel better."

Sensualism—"I believe this viewpoint because I can indulge myself sexually."

Ignorance—"I'm not sure why I believe this viewpoint, but I do."

Bias/Prejudice—"I don't believe that viewpoint because of who else believes it."

Indifference—"I hold this viewpoint, but it really doesn't matter much to me."

Foolish Pride—"The smart people don't believe that viewpoint."

If God exists and the Bible is His Word, then what we believe and why we believe it are crucial and eternally significant.

Intellectuals throughout history have considered themselves superior to others based on their alleged intellectual prowess. The atheistic elite of our day ooze arrogance in their condescending dismissal of those who believe in God. They seek to give the impression that they believe what they believe due solely to a rational, unbiased, sensible analysis of facts that have, in turn, led them to the beliefs that they hold. On the other hand, those who do not consent to their infidelity are depicted as ignorant, biased, and stupid. Consider the frantic judgment leveled by prominent evolutionist Richard Dawkins of Oxford University: "It is absolutely safe to say that if you meet somebody who claims not to believe in evolution, that person is ignorant, stupid, or insane (or wicked, but I'd rather not consider that)." ¹

Despite such high and holy self-righteous declarations, the fact is that the very nature of error is such that a person can continue to embrace it only by means of impure motives. If an honest atheist is willing to examine the facts, he will either cease being an atheist or he will cease being honest. Hence, those who have distinguished themselves for their ongoing vociferous defense of their infidelity most assuredly possess one or more motives deep down in their hearts that enable them to dismiss the actual evidence that disproves their viewpoint.

(continued on page 2)

Why Be An Atheist (continued from page 1)

Interestingly, atheists occasionally divulge their inner motives without particularly intending to do so. For example, in a makeshift “debate” conducted in 2010 on the campus of Caltech between atheists Sam Harris and Michael Shermer on the one hand, and Deepak Chopra and Jean Houston on the other, Sam Harris made the following observations:

Most of our neighbors believe in...a personal God who hears our prayers and occasionally answers them.... The God that our neighbors believe in is essentially an invisible person. It’s a Creator deity who created the universe to have a relationship with one species of primates. Lucky us. And He’s got galaxy upon galaxy to attend to, but he’s especially concerned with what we do, and **he’s especially concerned with what we do while naked**. He almost certainly disapproves of homosexuality.²

While we humans often constitute a hodge-podge of conflicting motives and inclinations, nevertheless, in our conversations we often unwittingly expose one or more of our hidden motives for believing what we believe. To ridicule Christians for holding to an ethical framework that was authored by the Creator of the Universe (Who created human sexuality) implies that the accuser disagrees with those restrictions on sexual behavior. But notice further that Harris implied something else: his belief in atheism enables him to **not** be concerned about **his** sexual behavior. The same motives that infected pagans throughout history in which their heathenism enabled them to be released from sexual inhibitions—from the Moabites³ in 1500 B.C. to the Ephesians⁴ in A.D. 60—**are the same for atheists**. Unbelief allows a person to be free to engage in whatever sexual activity he desires, whenever and with whomever. The intellectual sophistication and academic elitism that accompanies modern atheism is nothing more than a smokescreen to indulge the flesh. The reason Hollywood hates Christianity is because they want to be able to give full vent to their illicit fleshly appetites without feeling the guilt that comes from flaunting the moral restraints given by the Creator. Christians in Ephesus in the first century fully understood these ulterior motives that underlie one’s belief system. They lived in a city that hosted one of the seven wonders of the ancient world—the Temple of Artemis—dedicated to the goddess with her vulgar adornments.⁵ Paul spoke right to the soul of the population when he penned the following inspired words to the church—an apt evaluation of the unbelief that grips both atheism and much of the religious error of the world:

Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in **the futility of their minds**. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, **due to their hardness of heart**. They have become callous and have **given themselves up to sensuality**, greedy to practice **every kind of impurity**. But that is not the way you learned Christ! (Ephesians 4:17-20, ESV, emp. added).

ENDNOTES

- ¹ Richard Dawkins (1989), “Book Review” (of Donald Johanson and Maitland Edey’s *Blueprint*), *The New York Times*, section 7, April 9, p. 3, emp. added.
- ² Sam Harris (2010), “The Future of God Debate: Sam Harris and Michael Shermer vs. Deepak Chopra and Jean Houston,” Nightline Faceoff, *ABC News*, March 14, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0E99BdOfxAE>; See also Dan Harris and Ely Brown (2010), “‘Nightline’ ‘Face-Off’: Does God Have a Future?” March 23, <http://abcnews.go.com/Nightline/FaceOff/nightline-face-off-god-future/story?id=10170505>.
- ³ Numbers 25:1-2.
- ⁴ Acts 19.
- ⁵ James Edwards (2016), “Archaeology Gives New Reality to Paul’s Ephesus Riot,” *Biblical Archaeology Review*, 42[4]:28-30, July/August.

(Apologetics Press Vol. 37 #6)

Forest Hill Church of Christ
Adult Classes

Summer Quarter, 2017 (June, July, August)

<u>Location</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Topic</u>
<u>Sunday Morning</u>		
Auditorium (A)	Warren Davenport	Know Your Adversary: A Study of Satan
Chapel Hall (E)	Keith Mosher	Love Life in Christian Marriage
Break Room (E)	Greg Mangrum	Spiritual Patriots, Judes Call to Arms
<u>Wednesday Evening</u>		
Auditorium (A)	Summer Series	The Way of Salvation

A – Auditorium Building
E – Education Buil

HEARTS AND HANDS

PRESIDE: Francis Fairley
ASSIST: Andy Ammons
 Eddie Graham
 John Pope

Keith McAlister
 Lewis Elliott
 Phil Houston
 David Richardson

A.M. OPENING: Jerry Manning
A.M. CLOSING: Robert Berch
P.M. OPENING: Cedric Huff
P.M. CLOSING: Nick Aubrey

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

RECORD, WEEK of June 18, 2017

BIBLE STUDY:	525
A.M. WORSHIP:	575
P.M. WORSHIP:	605
CONTRIBUTON:	\$16,358.00

OUR SICK

John Manning is at home recovering from surgery.

Tim Nichols is home recovering from surgery.

Audrey Nichols, mother of Tim Nichols, Germantown Methodist.

Blake Sharp, grandson of Helen Sharp is having health complications, specifically with his liver.

Carol Stover,* sister of Helen Sharp, is now in rehab for hip replacement in Union City, TN.

Shane Stover,* nephew of Helen Sharp is having a heart procedure on June 28.

*Cards may be sent to the address listed on the bulletin board.

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

INFORMATION LINE: 901-531-8849

PLEASE CHECK YOUR BOX!

Check out the new Forest Hill website!
foresthilcofc.org

TEAM "C" (Danny Braddock) will meet Saturday, July 8 at 5:00 p.m. at the home of Corinne Elkins for a covered dish dinner. Food will be provided.

TEAM "D" (Randy Elliott) will meet Tuesday, June 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Barry and Celicia Grider for a covered dish dinner.

TEAM "E" (Jim Woody) will receive assignments the week of July 2.

UPCOMING EVENTS

50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION honoring Jerry & Pati Wright, Saturday, July 1 at 2:00 p.m. in the break room of the education building.

SUMMER SERIES beginning Wednesday, July 5 in the auditorium. Theme: "The Way of Salvation" by various speakers. A complete schedule is on the bulletin board.

BRIDAL SHOWER honoring Bryn Chambers, bride elect of Daniel Manning, Sunday July 9 after the morning service. Bryn and Daniel are registered at Bed, Bath and Beyond, Ikea and Target.

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.

NOTES OF APPRECIATION:

Dear Church,

Your cards, phone calls, visits and prayers were so very uplifting during my recovery. Continued prayers on my behalf are requested. Eddie and I are so grateful to be a part of this church family.

In Christian love,
 Kathi Graham

The family of Elsie Houston Johnson wishes to thank the Forest Hill family for their love and support during our recent loss. Thank you for the flowers, calls, and especially the prayers.

Phil Houston & family

Last week's solution:

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: the Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: the Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. Numbers 6:24-26

CORNERSTONE

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

Knczc cghv zsbe lnd, H gf bln dnczddnobhes, gsv bln ahjn:
 In blgb pnahnwnbl hs fn, blezml ln yndn vngv, xnb clgaa ln ahwn:

l=h Solution Next Week c=s

July 2017

Coordinating Elder: Harold Mangrum

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tues</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						1 <i>Virginia Ditto-90!</i>
2 <i>Sarah Phillips</i>	3 <i>Abby Case Ian Huff</i>	4 <i>Ashley Steward</i>	5	6 <i>Tish Clarke Brenda Crowe</i>	7 <i>Edwynna Woody</i>	8
9 <i>Jo Ann Ammons Martha McDaniel Keith Mosher, Sr. Kari Summitt</i>	10 <i>Brenda Woods</i>	11	12	13	14	15 <i>Bryn Chambers Wanda Rodgers</i>
16 <i>Everett Gibson Timothy Nichols</i>	17 <i>Brad Bynum CJ Stafford</i>	18	19 <i>Shaunna Hanel</i>	20 <i>Laura Bynum</i>	21 <i>Kristen Horna Debbie Rogers</i>	22 <i>Tracey Adkins Bob Gitter Theresa Youngblood</i>
23/30 <i>(23) Javier Lara</i>	24/31 <i>(31) Sherry Brown</i>	25 <i>Samantha Beavers</i>	26 <i>John Connell</i>	27 <i>Matthew Jones Evan Manning</i>	28 <i>Jerry Wright</i>	29

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