



THE FOREST HILL NEWS

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Forest Hill Church of Christ

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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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BUILD YOUR HOPES ON THE ETERNAL GOD (Part 1)

Barry Grider

[Editor's Note: At the time of the printing of this bulletin, Forest Hill is in the midst of the 51st Annual Memphis School of Preaching Lectureship. The following manuscript, written by this editor, may be found in the lectureship volume, "Build Your Hopes on Things Eternal," which contains all the lectures presented.]

INTRODUCTION

There has never been a time when God did not exist and there will never be a time when He does not exist. Moses wrote, "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God" (Psalm 90:2). God is not confined to time but transcends it. He is eternal in His nature. "For I am the Lord, I change not" (Mal. 3:6). Therefore, all the attributes and character traits of God are eternal. For example, God has always been holy and he always will be holy. God has always been loving and He always will be loving. In fact, He is holy and loving to the greatest extent possible to be holy and loving. How does mankind relate to this eternal God? How does His eternal nature affect us and our world? How do we build our hopes on this eternal God?

HOW DOES MANKIND RELATE TO THIS ETERNAL GOD?

Remember that man was not created just a little higher than the apes but, rather, a little lower than the angels.

But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? Or the son of man, that thou visitest him? Thou made him a little lower than the angels; crowned with glory and honor and didst set him over the works of thy hands: Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet (Heb. 2:6-8).

When a dog dies, like Rover, he is dead all over. Not so with man.

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them (Gen. 1:26, 27).

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Build Your Hopes on the Eternal God (continued from page 2)

Man can understand that being created in the image of God does not apply to his physical being, for God is spirit (John 4:24). Therefore, the Bible makes clear that man is a dual being. Man possesses a living soul (Gen. 2:7) and that soul is made in God's image. Hence, God being eternal, man could no more cease to exist than God Himself could cease to exist. While man has a beginning, once conceived, he will live forever, though not in a physical body (cf 1 Cor. 15:52, 53).

God is not only the creator of man, but longs to have a more intimate association with him. That more intimate association if acknowledged, desired, and received by man will create a Father/child relationship. How is this accomplished?

For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ (Gal. 3:26,27).

There are those who speak of maintaining a relationship with God without coming through Christ. However, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." That the eternal God desires our association is clearly understood as we listen to Peter's words, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Pet. 3:9). Paul writes, "Who [God] will have all men to be saved, and come to a knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:40.)

Man is lost in sin and for the eternal God to save lost mankind, God came in the flesh, in the person of Jesus Christ, a member of the divine Godhead. And the word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). While God is not confined to time, time does matter to Him. He created time for the benefit of man. "But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law" (Gal. 4:4). Jesus came just at the right time from God's perfect vantage point to benefit man the most.

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery, to be equal with God, but made himself of no reputation and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross (Phil. 2:5-8).

For 33 years, Jesus labored upon this earth, which included His three year ministry. Near the end of that ministry He suffered and died on a cross. Through His death on the cross, He not only accomplished our salvation, but purchased the church with His rich and royal blood (Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:25). The church of Christ is the kingdom of Christ. Hear Jesus' words,

And Jesus answered and said unto him [Peter], Blessed art thou, Simon Barjonah: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven (Mat. 16:17-19).

The kingdom was a present reality in the first century (Col.1:13) because the kingdom is the church and the church was established on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:47). A kingdom denotes a monarchical government. Jesus is the king over His kingdom, hence, the establishment of His kingdom was the very purpose of His coming to earth. During His questioning before Pilate, we read, "Pilate therefore, said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice" (John 18:37).

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LORD'S TABLE

PRESIDE: Buster Rogers Dennis Woods
ASSIST: Caleb Hull Gene Kuehn
 David Richardson Sam Rickles
 Billy Rodgers Wayne Sanders

PRAYERS

A.M. OPENING: Lawayne House
A.M. CLOSING: Jim Woody
P.M. OPENING: Paul Connell
P.M. CLOSING: Jonathan 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 March 26, 2017

BIBLE STUDY: 455
 A.M. WORSHIP: 500
 P.M. WORSHIP: 530
 CONTRIBUTION: \$15,880

OUR SICK

John Connell has been diagnosed with advanced prostate cancer. He is to undergo a bone scan Thursday.

Helen Palazola, Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab, room 412A.

Velton Trimm, Kirby Pines Rehab.

ILL AT HOME: Leslie Sharp and Cecil Sowell.

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

OUR SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO:

Wayne Sanders and family in the passing of his brother, Bill Sanders.

Corinne Elkins and family in the passing of her brother-in-law, Howard Stringer.

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, April 23.

Check out the new Forest Hill website
foresthilcofc.org

INFORMATION LINE: 901-531-8849

HEARTS AND HANDS

TEAM "D" (Randy Elliott) will receive assignments the week of April 2.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LADIES' CLASS will resume Tuesday morning, April 11, at 10:00.

MEN'S CLASS will resume in the Fall.

2017 MSOP LECTURESHIP ongoing through March 30. Theme: ***Build Your Hopes on Things Eternal.*** A complete schedule of speakers is available in the foyer.

YOUNG ADULT SERVICE PROJECT Saturday, April 8. Details to come.

YOUNG ADULT DEVO Saturday, April 22 at 5:00 p.m. at the home of Danny & Melinda Braddock.

2017 VBS June 5, 6 & 7. Theme: ***We Believe Because of Cause and Effect.*** Please see the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board for teachers and helpers and if you are able to loan any listed items.

The family of
Jim Woody
invites you to join us in honoring him on his 90th birthday.
Saturday, the fifteenth of April, 2017
2:00 to 4:00
Forest Hill Church of Christ Fellowship Hall
Rsvp to Edwyna Woody
901-484-1569 (call or text)
no gifts please

Last week's solution:

Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him. Psalm 2:11-12

CORNERSTONE

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

EB URLFECA ROF TONIHGN; UTB NI YVREE GTNIH YB
 YRRPEA NDA PUTSONLIICAP HWTI NVGTSNKIIHGA
 TLE YURO UTSSRQEE EB MEDA WONNK UTON OGD.
 NDA EHT EPECA FO OGD, CWHHH ATSSPHE LLA
 UDTSRNNIGEDA, ASLLH PKEE YURO TSERHA NDA
 SNMID UTROHHG TSRIHC USJSE.

Solution next week

Build Your Hopes on the Eternal God (continued from page 2)

But what was the nature of this kingdom? Jesus addressed that with Pilate, as well. “Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.” (John 18:36). Now how does the establishment of the kingdom relate to the eternal nature of God? According to Daniel 2, the Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar, had a dream that deeply troubled him. He sought out his wise men to reveal his dream and give the interpretation. Only the righteous Daniel was able to do so. He described to the king a dream that contained a great image. He would later interpret that dream to mean the image represented four world empires. In the conclusion he states, “And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever” (Dan. 2:44). “In the days of these kings” represents the Roman Empire. During that time God would set up a kingdom that would stand forever. This kingdom is spiritual in nature and that which was set up on Pentecost. If one enjoys the blessings of the kingdom, he must be a citizen of it, and that kingdom is eternal.

(to be continued)

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