



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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“You Don’t Believe In...”

Barry Grider

Some of our religious friends make the claim that the Church of Christ does not believe in the Old Testament. This claim is false. Most of the religious world is confused about the purpose of the Old Testament. When asked to find their authority for a particular practice, many go to the Old Testament to prove the legitimacy of instrumental music, worshipping on the Sabbath, etc. Furthermore, there are major efforts underway today by many conservative religious groups to restore the Ten Commandments to classrooms. While I am appalled at liberal special interest groups to remove all forms of religion and moral values from our society, man does not live under the Old Testament. Yet he can go to the New Testament to find many of the same principles.

To understand properly the relationship between the Old and New Testaments, one must be willing to study. Paul said,

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word of truth (2 Tim. 2:15).

The Old Testament is no longer binding today. Men live under and are answerable to the New Covenant of Christ. Does this mean the Christian does not appreciate or even believe in the Old Testament? Some of our denominational friends perhaps think thus. But, let us explain.

The Old Testament came from God and was therefore holy. “Wherefore the law is holy and the commandments holy, and just, and good” (Rom. 7:12). Why therefore is it not binding today? It has accomplished its purpose.

Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator (Gal. 3:19).

While the old covenant accomplished God’s purpose, it was/is not able to take away sins. Only the covenant provided by the blood of Christ can do that. “For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins” (Heb. 10:4). The same writer said,

And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth (Heb. 9:15-17).

Jesus said, “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill” (Matt. 5:17).

Having nailed the old law to the cross (Col. 2:14), he “abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace” (Eph. 2:15).

So the Old Testament was holy, having accomplished God’s purpose, but was taken out of the way so that a better covenant might be provided.

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah; Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord; But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, an every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord; for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more (Jer. 31:31-34; cf. Heb. 8:7-13).

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We Don't Believe in . . . (continued from page 1)

With these thoughts in mind, is there a reason to study the Old Testament today? Absolutely! We shall consider several of these reasons.

The Old Testament Was Inspired Of God

Thirty-nine books of the Old Testament are as much inspired as the New and deserve a place in the Divine record. Inspiration is the process through which God speaks to man. The following passage concerning inspiration is classic.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

Timothy had been taught the Old Testament Scriptures by his mother and grandmother (2 Tim. 1:5; Rom. 10:17). These Scriptures were given by God and were God breathed. Not just the ideas or thoughts of the prophets were recorded, but the very words. Peter records,

For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost (2 Pet. 1:21).

The Old Testament Scriptures claim for themselves the inspiration of God. Remember, the Old Testament covers the period of both the Patriarchal and the Mosaic dispensations. God spoke through the heads of households, such as Noah, Abraham and Job. He also spoke to Moses and the rest of the prophets. In Exodus 20:1 the text declares: "And God spoke all these words . . ." Therefore, the Old Testament speaks with the authority of heaven. Jehovah summarized the role of the prophets, where he stated to Jeremiah, ". . . Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth" (Jer. 1:9).

We Are Commanded To Study The Old Testament

Paul said,

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (2 Tim. 2:15).

This command is inclusive of the Old Testament Scriptures. The goal of every man ought to be to know God better. The only way to accomplish this is regularly to engage in a study of the Word of God. The Psalmist declares, "Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart" (Psm. 119:2).

The Old Testament Answers Life's Greatest Questions

Many questions of life would be incomplete if it were not for the Old Testament. The basic questions of life are "Who am I, Why am I here, From where did I come, Where am I going?" These questions are answered in the Old Testament.

Man did not evolve from the slime pit of evolution but was made in the image of God.

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 all the earth, 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).

Hence, God created man with a living soul. The spirit that abides within man was provided by God (Zech. 12:1) and at death will return to God (Eccl. 12:17).

God created man that the two of them might enjoy a close relationship with one another. Adam enjoyed an intimate association with God, as he and his wife would walk with Him "in the cool of the day" (Gen. 3:8).

If man was created by God and his spirit will one day return to God, what is our purpose for living? Again, we find the answer in the Old Testament.

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man (Eccl. 12:13).

The Old Testament Is Filled With Righteous Principles

If a person desires to have a relationship with God he must submit himself to godly principles. The Old Testament is filled with instructions and wisdom that is useful and essential in any dispensation or generation. In fact, while the Ten Commandments have been nailed to the cross, nine of the ten are righteous principles that have been incorporated into the New Testament. For example, committing adultery has always been disapproved by God. Therefore, one can learn from the mistakes of others and heed the warnings of the Old Testament. Proverbs 5 teaches about the folly of committing adultery. The actions of David in 2 Samuel 11 and 12 teach about the shame and degradation that are associated with sin. Psalm 32 and 51 demonstrate genuine repentance which is necessary when one has committed adultery. Since adultery is still wrong today, help to overcome this evil can be found in the Old Testament, such as has been given.

In Proverbs 14:34, the Bible declares, "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people." This passage is a universal principle and will always be true. Hence, when speaking of the evils that abound in society today, adultery, homosexuality, gambling, abortion, etc., it is absolutely necessary to utilize passages of Scripture such as the one above.

Santayana said, "Those who ignore history are doomed to repeat it." It is also true that if the principles found in the Old Testament are ignored, people do so to their own folly and detriment.

Historical and Scientific Value

The student of history and science should have an abiding appreciation for the Bible. Since the Old Testament is part of the divine record, having been inspired of God, it can always be relied upon. Some skeptics have tried to undermine its accuracy, yet they have never been able successfully to do so. For example, in Daniel 7:1 reference is made to the first year of the reign of Belshazzar, king of Babylon. Liberals have suggested this is contradictory or even fictitious. How could Belshazzar reign at the time of Nabonidus? Biblical archaeologists have unearthed historical records that "prove" Nabonidus had a son named Belshazzar, and that the two reigned as co-regents. Of course, the Bible was always right.

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LORD'S TABLE

PRESIDE: Andy Ammons Paul Davenport
ASSIST: Jack Braddock Cason Grider
 Jagger House Caleb Hull
 Edison Ray Gavin Taylor

A.M. OPENING: Francis Fairley
A.M. CLOSING: John Manning
P.M. OPENING: Keith McAlister
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 May 7, 2017

BIBLE STUDY:	220
A.M. WORSHIP:	330
P.M. WORSHIP:	205
CONTRIBUTON:	\$18,225

OUR SICK

Rufus Washington is scheduled for out-patient sinus surgery Wednesday, May 10.

Kathy Graham is scheduled for foot surgery Friday, May 12.

Tim Nichols has been diagnosed with cancer and is scheduled for surgery June 20.

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: Marv & Sabrena Sowell.

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, May 28.

IN THE AREA

Gospel Meeting at Collierville Church of Christ, May 14-17, Monday-Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Speaker: Tony Pulliam.

INFORMATION LINE: 901-531-8849

NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Dear Forest Hill,

Thanks to all who called, inquired and sent cards during Cecil's recent illness. We truly appreciate your concern.

In Christian love,
 Cecil & Becky Sowell

HEARTS AND HANDS

TEAM "B" (Warren Davenport) will meet Thursday, May 11 at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Warren & Lisa Davenport. Food will be provided.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SHOES FOR HAITI Parkway Village congregation has asked us to help by collecting gently worn shoes for the people of Haiti. Please NO open-toed shoes & NO ladies' shoes with heels. You may place these in the ladies' classroom.

REDBIRDS GAME Saturday, May 13, beginning at 6:35 and closing with fireworks. The JCs will sit on the left bluff. You may purchase your tickets online or at the gate.

SENIOR CELEBRATION Sunday, May 21, following the morning service in the fellowship hall for all graduating high school seniors.

2017 VBS June 5, 6 & 7. Theme: ***We Believe Because of Cause and Effect.*** Please see the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP June 10-17 Brookhaven, MS.

Check out the new Forest Hill website!

foresthilcofc.org

Last week's solution:

For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him. Psalm 103:11-13

CORNERSTONE

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

ELSEDBS EB EHT OGD NDA TARHFE FO URO ROLD
 USSJE TSRIHC, WCIHH ROCNIGDCA OT SIH UATNNDDBA
 YCRME THHA TONTGEEB SU IGANA UTON A EYVLIL
 POHE YB EHT UTSRONIERECCR FO USSJE TSRIHC ROMF
 EHT EDDA. OT NA CETRNANIHE UCTRRPONLIEB, NDA
 EUDNLIDFE, NDA TTHA THFEDA TON YWAA, VSRREEED
 NI VNHEEA ROF YUO, WOH REA TPKE YB EHT WRPOE
 FO OGD UTROHHG TIHFA UTON VATSAONLI YREDA OT
 EB VRELEDEA NI EHT TSLA TMIE.

Solution next week

We Don't Believe in . . . (continued from page 2)

Even more amazing is the scientific foreknowledge of the Bible. True science is always in harmony with God's Word. In the first chapter of Genesis, the text reads,

And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so (Gen. 1:11).

Sometimes called the law of the harvest, God during creation week established a fixed principle. Furthermore, in Leviticus 17:11, it is written, "For the life of the flesh is in the blood." This was not known in the scientific community until recent times. In ancient times, for those unlearned in the Old Testament, speculation abounded concerning the earth upon which man lives. Job wrote, "He [God] stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing" (Job 26:7). Those who believed Christopher Columbus would set sail and eventually fall off the face of the earth should have read, "It is he [God] that sitteth upon the **circle of the earth** . . ." (Isa. 40:22). Having read Psalm 8:8 and having been intrigued with the phrase "the paths of the sea," Matthew Fontaine Maury, who lived in the 19th century, determined to find out if this could really be proven. He indeed found out; that which had been recorded centuries before by God's inspired penman was true. The ocean does serve as a circulation system of wind and water.

Studying the historical and scientific evidences of the Old Testament is exciting and particularly interesting to youth. Again, historical records and science are not what proves the Bible to be true, but do reinforce the amazing reliability of the Bible.

(to be continued)

(from *The Book of Genesis, Memphis School of Preaching Lectureship, 2001*)

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