



THE FOREST HILL NEWS

Volume 45

February 6, 2018

Number 6

Forest Hill Church of Christ

3950 Forest Hill-Irene Rd
Memphis, TN 38125

Office: 901-751-2444
Info Line: 901-531-8849

www.foresthillcofc.org
office@foresthillcofc.org

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
Hatton Allen, 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
OF PREACHING
www.msop.org

Missions Supported:

Far East/World Evangelism
Good News Today
Gospel Broadcasting Network
House to House, Heart to Heart
Kakinada, India
Murmansk, Russia
Panama Mission
Four Seas Bible College
Truth for the World

Free Bible Correspondence Course

Email: fhbiblecourse@gmail.com

The Great Communicator

by
Barry Grider

On this date in 1911, a future president of the United States was born in a small town in the heartland of America called Tampico, Illinois. His name was Ronald Reagan. Throughout his presidency he always spoke regarding our nation's highest ideals and values. His ability to relate to his audience earned him the title, "The Great Communicator." After leaving the presidency, he humbly stated, "I was not a great communicator, I just communicated great things." Above all, I appreciated the reverential attitude President Reagan had toward God and His word. He said, "Within the covers of the Bible are the answers for all the problems men face." In fact, the Bible reveals to us the greatest communicator of all. The psalmist penned, "The voice of the Lord is powerful: the voice of the Lord is full of majesty" (Psa. 29:4). How powerful is the voice of God? "By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth" (Psa. 33:6). It is God Who is really "The Great Communicator."

As a public speaker, I realize the importance of being a logophile so that I might better communicate the message that I preach. However, like all who stand before large audiences, sometimes when we stand up, our thoughts sit down. Politicians, news reporters, and, yes, preachers, do not always say exactly what was intended. But God communicates perfectly because in all things He is perfect.

God has revealed Himself to us through words that we can understand. "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God" (1 Cor. 2:11,12). The message God revealed came through the process of inspiration. Paul wrote, "All scripture is given by the inspiration of God" (2 Tim. 3:16). Peter attested to this fact, when he penned, "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 greatest of communicators have a concise, focused message. So it is when God communicates. Though the Bible is a large volume, the book is centered upon one common theme—salvation for all through Jesus Christ. Paul communicated God's message concisely. He said, "But we preach Christ crucified" (1 Cor. 1:23). Likewise, consider that God communicates with clarity. Public speakers who leave their audiences perplexed, without any understanding of what was spoken, have not fulfilled their obligation to that audience. God's message is clear. Every Bible student must approach the Holy Scriptures with the understanding that he can know what the Bible is teaching. This takes serious, careful, and prayerful study, but it can and must be done. It is an indictment against God to say He revealed Himself to us but we cannot understand what He says.

King Zedekiah asked Jeremiah the prophet, "Is there any word from the Lord?" Jeremiah responded, "There is" (Jere 37:17). Even today, there is a word from the Lord. Such has been delivered to you and me in the pages of the Bible. Go there and study and you will hear that which has been spoken by The Great Communicator—God Himself!

Domestic Convulsion

Dave Miller, Ph.D.

The Founders of the American Republic were well-informed, educated, intelligent men. When it came to establishing a republic, they did their homework. They familiarized themselves with history and grasped the principles and lessons to be learned from the past. They understood not only how to initiate a new nation, but also recognized what would be necessary to perpetuate and sustain it. What's more, they articulated very firmly the circumstances that they predicted would lead to the dissolution of the Republic.

One such political prophet was Gouverneur Morris (1752-1816). Having graduated from King's College (now Columbia University) in New York, Morris was admitted to the colonial bar in 1771 and became a member of the New York provincial congress from 1775-1777. He served as a Lieutenant Colonel in the New York State militia in 1776. He was a member of the Continental Congress in 1778-1779, and signed the Articles of Confederation. He was a delegate to the convention that framed the Constitution of the United States, speaking more than any other delegate, and serving as the head of the Committee on Style that was responsible for the final wording of the Constitution—which he signed in 1787. He then served as America's Minister Plenipotentiary to France (1792-1794) and also served in the U.S. Senate from 1800-1803. He is buried in St. Anne's Episcopal Churchyard in the Bronx in New York ("Morris...," n.d.).

On September 4, 1816, just two months before his death, Gouverneur Morris delivered a speech to the New York Historical Society on the occasion of the 206th anniversary of the discovery of his home state of New York by English explorer Henry Hudson (Morris, 1816). In that oration, Morris made several insightful, eerily descriptive observations of current American culture. First, he insisted that the Bible is the key to making sense of history and learning from the mistakes of the past: "The reflection and experience of many years have led me to consider the holy writings, not only as most authentic and instructive in themselves, but as the clue to all other history. They tell us what man is, and they, alone, tell us why he is what he is" (pp. 7-8). Making brief allusion to the biblical characters Joseph, Moses, and David, Morris explained:

From the same pure Fountain of Wisdom [i.e., the Bible—DM] we learn that vice destroys freedom; that arbitrary power is founded on public immorality, and that misconduct in those who rule a republic, necessary consequence of general licentiousness, so disgusts and degrades the nation, that, dead to generous sentiment, they become willing slaves.... Then laws to protect the weak against the strong, the innocent against the wicked, become instruments of oppression and torture (pp. 8-9, emp. added).

One would have difficulty finding a more applicable description of what has happened to America in the last 50 years—from the widespread surge of crime and immorality, to the governmental encroachments on personal freedom, and the use of those legions of laws to favor the lawbreaker over the victim, as well as promote hedonism.

Second, Morris insisted that the "profound lesson of political wisdom" to be learned from 1 Samuel 8, acknowledged by such authors as Machiavelli and Montesquieu, is that "virtue is the principle of republics" (p. 10). Even the government that God Himself set up (i.e., for the Israelites) "became intolerable from the prevalence of vice and impiety" (p. 10). Here, again, is an uncanny anticipation of America's present spiritual condition. Vice, impiety, immorality, and crime are rampant and continue to increase. What can be done?

Morris noted that man is governed by hope and fear. People are motivated by hope when their desires for pleasure, wealth, and power are achieved. They are motivated by fear when they are able to avoid poverty, pain, and death. They are likewise governed by "prompt generous reward" and "speedy severe punishment." These "are the human means to invigorate duty, stimulate zeal, correct perversity, and restrain guilt" (p. 10). However, these tools are insufficient. After all, is not America the wealthiest nation in human history, having provided for a larger percentage of her citizenry a higher standard of living than any previous civilization? And is it not the case that Americans experience more pleasure, wealth, and power, and have surpassed all previous human progress in reducing poverty, masking pain, and postponing death? Yet, despite these incredible advancements, America is experiencing widespread social chaos and moral decline—in the government, school, workplace, and home. As Morris foreshadowed: "criminals escape punishment, by the perpetration of new and more atrocious crimes" (p. 10).

So something more is needed. Morris pinpointed that "something":

Something more, then, is required to encourage virtue, suppress vice, preserve public peace, and secure national independence. There must be something more to hope than pleasure, wealth, and power. Something more to fear than poverty and pain. Something after death more terrible than death. **There must be religion.** When that ligament is torn, society is disjointed and its members perish. The nation is exposed to **foreign violence and domestic convulsion.** Vicious rulers, chosen by vicious people, turn back the current of corruption to its source. Placed in a situation where they can

(continued page 4)

PRESIDE: Marion Maund
ASSIST: Bob Gitter
 Zach Gross
 C.J. Stafford

Irwin Thomas
 Jackson Greer
 Jagger House
 Tumelo Thobosi

A.M. OPENING: Greg Mangrum
A.M. CLOSING: Daniel Fairley
P.M. OPENING: Isaac McLaurin
P.M. CLOSING: Mike Reed

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

RECORD, WEEK of February 4, 2018

BIBLE STUDY:	220
A.M. WORSHIP:	265
P.M. WORSHIP:	205
CONTRIBUTON:	\$17,989.00

OUR SICK

Ann Castleman, homebound member, is in critical condition at Christian Care Center.

Phillip Houston, son of Phil Houston, recovering from an auto accident.

Bobby Liddell, MSOP Instructor, St Francis-Bartlett, Room 260. No visitors at this time.

ILL AT HOME: Jim Crowe, June Faulkner, Dale Neil, and Wanda Rodgers.

HOMEBOUND

Bessie Berry	Anita Hopper
Ann Castleman	Albert & Ruth House
Virginia Ditto	Clarine Justice
Hazel Eskew	Jerry & Betty Robbins
Tommy & Nell Herndon	Velton & Dorothy Trimm

HEARTS AND HANDS

TEAM "B" (WARREN DAVENPORT) will receive assignment cards February 11.

TEAM "C" (DANNY BRADDOCK) will receive assignment cards February 18.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LADIES AND MEN'S CLASSES meet each Tuesday at 10:00. We will meet for breakfast at Cracker Barrel Tuesday, February 13 at 8:45.

JC DEVOTIONAL Sunday, February 11 after p.m. service in the Education break room.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY (SALT) will resume Tuesday, February 20 at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall. They will be studying *Those Who Wait* by Rosemary McKnight. This book can be ordered online. More information to follow.

SENIOR SINGLE LADIES will not meet this month due to the Silver Hearts Banquet.

SILVER HEARTS BANQUET Saturday, February 24. Details forthcoming.

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, February 25.

2018 YOUTH DAY, ABOUND, Saturday, March 24.

2018 MSOP Lectureship, Faith Under Fire, March 25-29.

2018 VBS June 4-6.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR BOX!

Last week's solution:

And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made. Genesis 2:2-3

CORNERSTONE

Bible Scramble: Unscramble the letters in each word to discover the passage.

UTOHHG I SPKEA WTIH EHT UTSONGE FO NME NDA FO
 SNLGEA, NDA VHEA TON YTRIHCA, I MA OMEECB SA
 USONNIGD SSRBA, RO A TNNLKIIG YMLCBA. NDA UTOHHG I
 VHEA EHT TIGF FO YRPPOHEC, NDA UTSRNNEDDA LLA
 YTSSRMIEE, NDA LLA WONLKGEED; NDA UTOHHG I VHEA
 LLA TIHFA, OS TTHA I UOLDC VROMEE UTSONNMIA, NDA
 VHEA TON YTRIHCA, I MA TONNIHG.

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT foresthilcofc.org.

(continued from page 2)

exercise authority for their own emolument, they **betray their trust**. They **take bribes**. They **sell statutes and decrees**. They **sell honor and office**. They **sell their conscience**. They **sell their country**. By this vile traffic they become odious and contemptible.... But the most important of all lessons is **the denunciation of ruin to every State that rejects the precepts of religion** (pp. 10-11,13, emp. added).

The religion to which Founder Morris referred is the Christian religion—to the exclusion of all others.

According to Founders like Morris, the general doctrines and moral principles of the Christian religion must thoroughly permeate our civilization if our nation is to avoid “the denunciation of ruin.” Otherwise, America will be subjected to violence inflicted by foreign enemies (terrorists?). And the nation will find itself in the throes of “domestic convulsion.” Domestic convulsion? What better epithet to identify America’s current national condition?

The key to securing America’s future is simple and definitive: “May it be secured by **a pious obedience to that divine will**, which prescribes the moral orbit of empire with the same precision that his wisdom and power have displayed, in whirling millions of planets round millions of suns through the vastness of infinite space” (p. 24, emp. added). In the words of the inspired writers: “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people” (Proverbs 14:34). “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord” (Psalm 33:12).

REFERENCES

Morris, Gouverneur (1816), *An Inaugural Discourse, Delivered Before the New York Historical Society*, 4th September, 1816; the 206th Anniversary of the Discovery of New-York, by Hudson (New York: T. & W. Mercein), [On-line], URL: <http://digital.library.cornell.edu/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=nys;cc=nys;idno=nys004;view=toc;node=nys004%3A3>.
“Morris, Gouverneur, (1752-1816)” (no date), *Biographical Dictionary of the United States*, [On-line], URL: <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=M000976>.

The Forest Hill News
Forest Hill Church of Christ
3950 Forest Hill-Irene Road
Memphis, TN 38125

Address Service Requested