



THE FOREST HILL NEWS

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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.

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He Could Have Done So Much Good

Barry Grider

Billy Graham was perhaps the most influential religious figure of the 20th century. His long life came to an end February 21, 2018 at age 99. All of my life I have known of the preaching of Billy Graham. I can recall many times having scrolled through television channels and come across a Billy Graham crusade. He was able to fill stadiums and arenas around the world. At the conclusion of his sermons, hundreds would respond to his invitation as a choir softly sang “Just As I Am.”

There were many positive attributes in the life of Mr. Graham. He evidently was a good moral man. There was never any indication that he cheated on his wife or was guilty of financial improprieties as is often true today concerning prominent religious charlatans. Likewise, it seems he fervently believed what he preached and without a doubt was a very capable public speaker. Yet despite this, Billy Graham never obeyed the simple gospel of Christ. Regrettably he chose to follow the creeds of men rather than the New Testament. Saying this about Mr. Graham comes as a surprise to many and even upsetting to quite a few who believe that he was God’s greatest evangelist of these modern times. However, such is not said to create anger nor show any disrespect for Mr. Graham, but only to state what is true.

This preacher will be the first to admit that Billy Graham taught much truth. I have never known any preacher of any denominational stripe who did not teach some truth. In many ways he lived a fascinating life. Since Graham’s passing I have once again started re-reading his 1997 autobiography *Just As I Am*. During his life he met so many of the world’s most notable people and was a special advisor to numerous presidents of the United States, especially to Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, and the Bushes. Because of my interest in religion and politics, I devoured *The Preacher and the Presidents: Billy Graham in the White House* by Nancy Gibbs and Michael Duffy.

Yet, as my friend and mentor Garland Elkins often stated, “God’s hall of fame and man’s hall of fame are different.” Graham often in his sermons would make this statement, “the Bible says.” However, with regard to man’s salvation he did not teach what the Bible says. Jesus said, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:16). Peter said to those on Pentecost, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38). Billy Graham denied the essentiality of baptism and taught unbelievers to simply ask Jesus to come into their hearts that they might be saved, despite no New Testament example of this whatsoever. Likewise, Mr. Graham never understood the concept of the singularity of the New Testament church. He preached that one church was a good as another. He taught the direct operation of the Holy Spirit and the fallacious doctrine of premillennialism. When it came to the fundamentals of the faith, Mr Graham taught egregious error and, hence, was like so many, a modern day false teacher.

Yes, Graham, with his tremendous ability could have done much good. I would have loved to have heard him preach the gospel in its purity and simplicity. Had he done this, of course, he would not have had such world wide fame. Taking nothing away from Mr. Graham, he was no more capable than George Bailey, James Watkins, Tom Holland, V.P. Black, Marshall Keeble or Garland Elkins. However, when men such as these teach the whole truth their audience is limited. Just like it was for the Savior, many turn away and will not hear the truth (John 6:66). “For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called” (1 Cor. 1:26). As for me, I would rather be a “nobody” and save a few, than to have world renown and save none.

David's Tragic Losses (Part One)

Wayne Jackson

The book of Psalms is a collection of 150 lyric poems. A "lyric poem" is that which directly expresses the emotions of the poet. Introducing 116 of these Psalms are brief phrases called "superscriptions." Though these were not a part of the inspired text originally, they are very ancient—predating the Septuagint (LXX, the Greek translation of the Old Testament) of the 3rd century B.C. Some of these superscriptions appear to provide a background out of which the poems were painfully birthed.

Seventy-three of the Psalms are attributed to David (eighty-eight in the Greek version). Some of these are written in times of great danger. Others on occasions of great joy and thanksgiving to Jehovah.

In these compositions the writer puts out his heart to the Lord and sometimes solicits divine help in times of grief.

In this study let us take a sampling of these inspired literary classics, which illustrate the range of emotions that issued from the heart of Israel's greatest king.

THE LOSS OF SECURITY

Saul, son of Kish, was the first king of Israel's monarchy. He had many natural advantages for a successful rule, yet he recklessly squandered them. After young David killed Goliath, the Philistine champion, Hebrew women began to chant the lad's praise. As a consequence, envy invaded Saul's heart, and his disposition toward David changed radically (see 1 Sam. 18:6-9).

At times the king sought to kill David with his spear, on other occasions he attempted to manipulate him into deadly situations. He became "David's enemy continually" (1 Sam. 18:29).

The shepherd lad was forced to flee from place to place, hiding along the way. He found little rest until Saul, wounded in battle by his perpetual enemies, the Philistines—fell on his own sword and died (1 Sam. 31).

At some point (likely in his later life) David wrote a psalm celebrating Jehovah's protective care from numerous enemies—Saul in particular (cf. Psa. 18:17). The song is found twice in the Old Testament. It occurs in its historical context (2 Sam. 22:2ff), and again (with slight variation) in Israel's human book (Psa. 18). the work divides itself as follows:

1. Opening praise (1-3).
2. Deliverance from Saul (4-19).
3. The reward of righteousness is divine mercy (20-30).
4. Deliverance from foreign enemies (31-45).
5. Concluding praise (46-50).

Of special interest in this brief study is David's opening burst of praise; he proclaims his confidence in Heaven's providential care.

In verses 1-2, several expressions extolling a divine protective relationship are strung together—"my strength," "my rock," "my deliverer," my God," "my fortress," "my shield," "the horn of my salvation," and "my high tower."

What a dynamic affirmation of thanksgiving to the God who never fails his people—even if they are required to suffer on his behalf (cf. 2 Tim. 4:18)!

THE LOSS OF REPUTATION

David's sordid transgression with the beautiful and indiscreet Bathsheba is too well-known to need elaboration (2 Sam. 11). That incident is generally perceived to be the most disgraceful moment in the illustrious leader's life. Not only did David commit adultery, he plotted to have Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, killed in battle. Sin piled on top of sin!

The tragic affair "displeased Jehovah," and Nathan was sent to David to expose the transgression that had been concealed so diabolically. By use of a brilliant allegory, the prophet stripped David of his hypocrisy and exposed his fleshly indulgence. To his credit, the ruler confessed, "I have sinned against Jehovah" (2 Sam. 12:13). Two of David's psalms are believed to relate to this episode in the prophet's life. Psalm 32 and Psalm 51 appear to be two sides of the same "coin."

Psalm 51 has this superscription. "A Psalm of David; when Nathan the prophet came unto him after he had gone in to Bathsheba." The composition divides itself into four sections.

1. David's plea to God for pardon (1-9).
2. A petition for a new refreshed life as a relief from the torment of guilt (10-12).
3. A pledge to help others in the wake of his own weakness (13-17).
4. A request for the Lord to bless Zion (18-19).

As an example of the anguish of David's broken heart, note the terms he employs to highlight his rebellious actions—"transgressions," "iniquity," "sin," and "evil." There was no white-washing of his despicable conduct.

Psalm 32 has no "historical" anchor in the superscription, but: "Most commentators suppose that David composed this psalm when he obtained forgiveness from God after his adultery with Bathsheba, and the death of Uriah, to which that sin led. The

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PRESIDE: Robert Berch
ASSIST: Hatton Allen
 Cason Grider
 Jonathan Rickles

Kalon Brown
 Lewis Elliott
 Garrett Olney
 Sam Rickles

A.M. OPENING: Warren Davenport
A.M. CLOSING: Robert Jeter
P.M. OPENING: Harold Mangrum
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 March 4, 2018

BIBLE STUDY: 205
 A.M. WORSHIP: 270
 P.M. WORSHIP: 185
 CONTRIBUTION: \$17,287.00

OUR SICK

Bob Bergstrom, recovering from knee replacement surgery, St. Francis Bartlett, Room 163.

Jack Brittingham, father of Jon Brittingham, will be having quadruple bypass surgery this week, Halifax Hospital, Daytona Beach, FL.

Doris Jean Cole is recovering from a fractured back at her brother's home. Cards may be sent c/o Doug Medlin, 180 Old Jones Road, Newbern, TN 38059.

ILL AT HOME: Jerry and Cecilia Bouchillon, Helen Newsom, Dean Pipkin, and Ryan McCullar.

HOMEBOUND

Bessie Berry
 Virginia Ditto
 Hazel Eskew
 Tommy & Nell Herndon
 Anita Hopper

Albert & Ruth House
 Clarine Justice
 Jerry & Betty Robbins
 Velton & Dorothy Trimm



HEARTS AND HANDS

HEARTS AND HANDS REORGANIZATION covered dish luncheon Sunday, March 11 after morning service in the fellowship hall. Zones 1 & 2 are responsible for set up and clean up. Team 6 is responsible for drink preparation.

TEAM "F" (STEVE ALLMOND) will receive assignments the week of March 18.

There will be no assignments the week of March 25 due to MSOP Lectureship.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

BABY SHOWER Saturday, March 10 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. honoring Haritha Gootam. It's a girl! She is registered at Walmart. Please R.S.V.P. to Brittany Suttles (229)560-4566.

VBS WORK DAY Saturday, March 10 at 1:00 p.m. in the Education building teacher workroom.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY (SALT) will meet Tuesday, March 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

2018 YOUTH DAY, ABOUND, Saturday, March 24.

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

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, March 25.

2018 VBS JUNE 4-6. Theme: Deep Divin' (Exploring Our Relationship With God).

SERVERS NEEDED Wednesday, March 28 and Thursday, March 29 for the MSOP lectureship lunches. Please sign up on the bulletin board.

Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, and expressions of sympathy at the loss of our brother. We are blessed to be a part of the Forest Hill family.
 Steve and Pat Allmond

Last week's solution:
 And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing. I Thessalonians 4:11-12

CORNERSTONE
Bible Scramble: Unscramble the letters in each word to discover the passage.
 UTONNIEC NI YRRPEA, NDA WTHCA NI EHT SMEA WTIH
 VTSNNKIIHGGA; WTLIHA YRPNIGA SOLA ROF SU, TTHA OGD
 WUOLD PONE UTON SU A ROOD FO UTTRNEECA, OT SPKEA
 EHT YYTSRME FO TSRIHC, ROF WIHHC I MA SOLA NI SONDB:
 TTHA I YMA MKEA TI TSNMIFEA, SA I UTOHG OT SPKEA.

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correctness of this view can scarcely be called in question” (Barnes I.414).

The psalm has four parts.

1. Forgiveness results in great happiness (1-2).
2. Guilt burdens the soul enormously (3-4).
3. The honest acknowledgment of one’s sin is essential to pardon (5).
4. Others are exhorted to fidelity, based upon the author’s own painful experiences (6-11).

How marvelously the psalmist balanced the torment of guilt with the elation of forgiveness! One would be incomplete without the other.

There may be no portion of scripture that so thrillingly sets forth these complementary ideas than these exquisite examples of lyric poetry.

(from *Christian Courier*, December 2017)

(To be continued)

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