



THE FOREST HILL NEWS

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Number 16

Forest Hill

Church of Christ

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Danny Braddock Jr.
Anthony D. Callahan
Warren Davenport
Gregory D. Mangrum
Harold D. Mangrum
Keith B. McAlister
Eddie F. Ray III

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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Both Old and New Testaments Teach Heaven Is Not on Earth

Billy Bland

While man will live forever, it will not be on the earth. In fact Peter, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote that when Jesus comes again the heavens and the earth shall be “burned up.” Peter stated, “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. *Seeing then that* all these things shall be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat (2 Pet. 3:10-12). Would not even a casual reader of the above text understand the earth and the works that are therein shall be **burned up**? Some however, might ask “but does not the context also mention a new heavens and new earth”? Yes, it does. After saying the earth will be burned up when the Lord returns, Peter then said, “Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness” (2 Pet. 3:13). The new heavens and new earth are used as a figure describing the future dwelling of God’s people. They are so used in both the Old and New Testaments.

“The current dwelling place of God’s people serves as a figure of the future dwelling place. Since God’s faithful ones are to live with him eternally in [the third] heaven (Matt. 5:12; Phil. 3:20; Col. 1:5; 1 Pet. 1:4; et al.), the “new heavens and new earth” figuratively represent the spiritual (not physical) dwelling place of the righteous (cf. 1 Cor. 15:48-54). This is one of the many examples in the Bible where physical symbols are used to illustrate spiritual concepts” (cf. 1 Cor. 15:22, 45; 2 Cor. 6:16; Heb 12:22-23; 1 Pet. 2:5-9; 3:20-21; et al.) (Moore).

Old Testament saints knew heaven was the eternal home of the soul. King David knew his dead son could **not return** to him, but David could **go** to him. He said, “But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me” (2 Sam. 12:23). Obviously, David did not believe in a “renovated” earth. His son would “**not return to him**” on earth, but he would “**go to him**.” Abraham and his offspring knew they were strangers and pilgrims on earth and they looked for a heavenly city. The writer of Hebrews stated,

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“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of *them*, and embraced *them*, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better *country*, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city” (Heb. 11:13-16).

The Holy Spirit, through Paul, affirmed our eternal home is “in the heavens,” and not here on earth. “For we know that if our earthly house of *this* tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal **in the heavens**” (2 Cor. 5:1). Since it is “eternal **in the heavens**,” it will never be here upon the earth. Paul also says the Christian’s hope is “laid up for you **in heaven**.” To the saints in Collose, Paul said, We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love *which ye have* to all the saints, **For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven**, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel” (Col. 1:3-5). Since our hope is laid up for us **in heaven**, it is not laid up for us on earth. Jesus taught, “Lay not up for yourselves treasure upon **earth**, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in **heaven**, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Mat. 6:19-21). Jesus contrasted **earth** with **heaven**.

The Hebrews’ writer states; “Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, *even* Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec” (Heb. 6:19-20). Our hope is “within the veil,” where Jesus has entered (heaven). Likewise, Paul says our affections should be set on things which are **above, where Christ is dwelling**. “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are **above**, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things **above**, not on things on the **earth**. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, *who* is our life, shall

appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the **earth...**” (Col. 3:1-5). Paul repeatedly contrasted the words **above** and **earth**. The Christians’ affections and hopes are on the above and not on the earth. Paul reminds us that our citizenship is **in heaven where Christ is**. “For our conversation is **in heaven**; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ” (Phil. 3:20).

Finally, attention is given to the fact that our living hope and our inheritance is laid up for us **in heaven**. “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, **reserved in heaven** for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” (1 Pet. 1:3-5). Peter affirmed that the Christian’s inheritance is **reserved in heaven**. The Christian looks forward to the time he will go to heaven. There he will be with God and with all of the redeemed from all ages. May we each so live that heaven will be our eternal home (Matt. 25:31-46).

Works cited

Moore, Kevin. “What Is Meant By the New Heavens And New Earth In 2 Peter 3:13-14.” *Moore Perspective*, 5 Oct. 2016, kmooreperspective.blogspot.com/2016/10/1what-is-meant-by-new-heavens-and-new.html.

PRESIDE: Harold Mangrum Ty Phillips
ASSIST: Michael Brown Chuck Cordon
 Wayne Sanders Marv Sowell
 Chris Weight Jack Woods

A.M. OPENING: Raymond Pipkin
A.M. CLOSING: Rufus Washington
P.M. OPENING: Tony Callahan
P.M. CLOSING: Randy Elliott

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

RECORD, WEEK of April 15, 2018

BIBLE STUDY:	235
A.M. WORSHIP:	310
P.M. WORSHIP:	220
CONTRIBUTON:	\$17,176.00

OUR SICK

ILL AT HOME: Doris Jean Cole, Toreda Earls, Dorothy Mosher, and Avis Terry,

HOMEBOUND

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO: Ronnie and Haritha Gootam on the birth of a daughter, Evelyn Fiona.

I am so blessed that my Father in heaven adopted me into His beautiful family.

I cannot thank each one who sent me cards (too many to count) so I tell all of you that I am so happy to be a part of the Forest Hill family.

I wish I could tell you how much I love each of you. I can't put it into words.

Thank you Father for Forest Hill!
 Love, Dorothy Mosher

Thank you seems so inadequate to express our appreciation for the many acts of kindness, love and support extended to our family in the sudden loss of Henry. We are so grateful for the food, visits, calls, cards, beautiful large basket of plants, hugs, words of encouragement and prayers. All have been and continue to be a source of strength and comfort for which we count among our many blessings.

Thank you for everything!
 Loydean Herren and Family

HEARTS AND HANDS

TEAM "G" (TOM WACASTER) will meet Saturday, April 21 at the home of John and Rebecca Connell at 5 p.m. Maps will be provided. See Rebecca for what to bring.

Team "D" (RANDY ELLIOTT) will receive assignment cards April 22.

Team "C" (DANNY BRADDOCK) will meet Friday, April 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Danny and Melinda Braddock for a covered dish meal.

EVENTS

LADIES AND MEN'S CLASSES meet each Tuesday at 10:00. Men's class will not meet April 24.

YOUTH RETREAT April 20-22 at Chickasaw State Park Group Lodge. The cost is \$30 per person/\$50 for two from same family. Checks may be made payable to Forest Hill Church of Christ. Cash is also accepted. See Matthew Jones for information/payment.

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 22.

VBS WORKDAY Saturday, April 28 at 1:00 in the teacher workroom.

TENNESSEE CHILDREN'S HOME spring food drive until Sunday, April 29. Items needed are listed on the bulletin board.

SENIOR CELEBRATION Sunday, May 20 after morning service honoring high school seniors. This will be a congregational covered dish luncheon.

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

OUR SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO Jonathan Beard and family in the passing of his 107 year old great-grandmother, Bessie Richey. Funeral service will be Thursday in Poplar Bluff, MO.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR BOX!

Last week's solution:

Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living God. Hosea 1:10

CORNERSTONE

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

NDA EHT ROLD OGD SIDA UTON EHT TSRPNEE, USEECBA
 UTOH TSHA ONED TSIH, UTOH TRA USREDC VOEBA LLA
 TTLECA, NDA VOEBA YVREE TSEBA FO EHT LIFED; NOPU
 YTH YLLEB TSLHA UTOH OG, NDA UTSD TSLHA UTOH TEA
 LLA EHT YSDA FO YTH EFIL: NDA I WLLI UTP YTNMIE
 WTNEEEB EEHT NDA EHT WONMA, NDA WTNEEEB YTH
 DEES NDA RHE DEES; TI SLLHA USRIEB YTH HEDA, NDA
 UTOH TSLHA USRIEB SIH LHEE.

From the Preacher

Recently the 2018 Memphis School of Preaching lectureship came to a close. I want to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated membership for all you do hosting this tremendous faith building and edifying program year after year. Not only do so many of our members pray for and attend the lectures, but, many of you work diligently in different capacities to make sure our guests are made to feel welcome and at home. We commend the foresight of our Forest Hill elders for their continuing support of these lectures and for the capable direction of brethren Clarke and Mosher. I pray that as a church family we will always be supportive of these endeavors which both proclaim and defend the precious message of Jesus Christ.

Barry

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