



THE FOREST HILL NEWS

Volume 45

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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

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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Apostolic Authority (cont.) Darrell Conley

How We Are To Heed This Apostolic Authority Today

This Authority Now Resides In The New Testament

In the first century, the authority of the apostles was first oral as they were inspired by the Holy Spirit to teach and preach the gospel.

And for this cause we also thank God without ceasing, that, when ye received from us the word of the message, even the word of God, ye accepted it not as the word of men, but, as it is in truth, the word of God, which also worketh in you that believe (1 Thess. 2:13).

Then as the New Testament began to be written by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, it was in the permanent form of the New Testament. Peter recognized what Paul wrote was authoritative Scripture.

And account that the long-suffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also, according to the wisdom given to him, wrote unto you; as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; wherein are some things hard to be understood, which the ignorant and unsteadfast wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction (2 Peter 3:15-16).

Paul, having in 2 Timothy 3:15, spoken of Timothy having known him from a babe the Old Testament writings, then turns his attention to **all** the sacred writings:

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, King James Version).

All of it is the Word of God: Old Testament and New Testament.

The New Testament Is An Apostolic Book

Four of the writers were apostles: Matthew, John, Paul, Peter. They wrote the greater part of the New Testament. The other four writers were men upon whom the apostles had laid their hands and imparted the Holy Spirit. Two of them were companions of apostles: Luke, who was a companion of Paul and, Mark, who was a companion of Paul and, according to history, Peter. James and Jude, who wrote six of the chapters of the New Testament, were both half-brothers of Christ. James was a leader of the Jerusalem church.

We Are To Believe The New Testament

The authority of the apostles is now in the written Word of God - the Bible. Therefore, we are to believe it. We are to believe it because it came from God through men inspired by Him. We are to believe all of it.

We are to believe that part of it that may condemn what our parents or those we

(continued page 4)

The Beauty of Forgiveness

Tom Wacaster

Leonardo da Vinci painted "The Last Supper" in a church in Milan. Two very interesting stories are associated with this painting. At the time that Leonardo da Vinci painted "The Last Supper," he had an enemy who was a fellow painter. It is reported that da Vinci had had a bitter argument with this man and despised him. When da Vinci painted the face of Judas Iscariot at the table with Jesus, he used the face of his enemy so that it would be present for ages as the man who betrayed Jesus. He took delight while painting this picture in knowing that others would actually notice the face of his enemy on Judas. As he worked on the faces of the other disciples, he often tried to paint the face of Jesus, but couldn't make any progress. Consequently, da Vinci felt frustrated and confused. In time he realized what was wrong. His hatred for the other painter was holding him back from finishing the face of Jesus. Only after making peace with his fellow painter and repainting the face of Judas was he able to paint the face of Jesus and complete his masterpiece.

The beauty of forgiveness cannot be captured in a painting. Nor can it be fully appreciated separate and apart from God's redeeming grace for mankind. Here are some things we know about God's wonderful forgiveness.

First, we marvel at the very prospect of forgiveness. Nature demonstrates no such quality. If a man falls over a rocky precipice, nature does not forgive the man of his clumsiness. The animal kingdom is no different. Wild animals thrive on instinct. Some years ago, while doing work in South Africa, we read a story in the newspaper of a man who, along with his family, was touring an animal park. Warned to stay in the car when driving through the lions' den, the man ventured from his automobile to get a better picture, and within a matter of seconds, he was attacked and mauled by one of the lions. The lion did not forgive the man for his foolishness. Yet in all of God's creation, it with regard to man that He demonstrates perhaps His greatest attribute, namely His willingness to forgive.

Second, we marvel at the extent to which God will forgive. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (emphasis mine, TW). God is not stingy when it comes to forgiveness. He actually

"delighteth in mercy" (Micah 7:18). He does not upbraid us, nor does He in anyway limit His forgiveness toward us. If the "man-king" in the parable of the unforgiving steward was willing to forgive that man of his debt, how much more will our Father in heaven forgive us of our sins, regardless of the number or the magnitude of our iniquities?

Third, God's forgiveness demonstrates His marvelous grace. I was particularly struck with Sellers Crain's comments on this very point:

Forgiveness is the most powerful witness to the grace of God. When we forgive others, it tells the world that God is still alive and active. It is a powerful antidote for our feelings or resentment over wrongs done to us by others. Forgiveness is a creative force that brightens an otherwise darkened world (Crain, 149).

That wonderful grace of God has "appeared unto all men" (Titus 2:11). By the cross of Christ, men can be recipients of that wonderful grace. Therein is the ultimate demonstration of our Father's benevolent mercy. He knew what we needed, and in His great compassion He provided that need. I like the way an unknown poet put it:

If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator.

If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist.

If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist.

If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer.

But our greatest need was forgiveness, So God sent us a Savior!

Finally, if we would be forgiven we must seek to emulate the same compassion and willingness to forgive those who sin against us. Failure to do so will bring the wrath of God upon us. "So shall also my heavenly Father do unto you, if ye forgive not every one his brother from your hearts" (Matt. 18:35).

PRESIDE: Steve Allmond
ASSIST: Cole Bennett
 Chuck Cordon
 Isaac McLaurin

Harold Mangrum
 Kalon Brown
 Randy Elliott
 Marv Sowell

A.M. OPENING: Jason White
A.M. CLOSING: Jack Braddock
P.M. OPENING: Kirk Teachout
P.M. CLOSING: Michael Brown

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

RECORD, WEEK of October 7, 2018

BIBLE STUDY:	224
A.M. WORSHIP:	274
P.M. WORSHIP:	192
CONTRIBUTON:	\$19,128.47

HOMEBOUND

Virginia Ditto	Betty Jones
Doris Jean Cole	Jerry & Betty Robbins
Anita Hopper	Velton & Dorothy Trimm
Albert & Ruth House	

OUR SICK

Ill at home: Patsy DeShields, Martha McKelvey, and Rebekah Nichols,.

Lisa Howard, will be undergoing radiation treatments.

Betty Jones, Ave Maria Home Care, Bartlett.

Forest Hill Congregation,

I want to thank everyone for all the prayers, cards, thoughts, the food prepared, and all the genuine concern for me. I appreciate it with all my heart.

I truly feel the love of this congregation.

Marci Cordon

50th Wedding Anniversary: Tom Wacaster, Jr. and Janice Schluter would like to invite the Forest Hill congregation to join us in the celebration of 50 years of marriage of our parents, Tom and Johnnie Ann Wacaster on Sunday October 14 at 3:00 p.m. following the afternoon service. Come and go; no gifts necessary.



HEARTS AND HANDS

TEAM "C" (DANNY BRADDOCK) and TEAM "D" (RANDY ELLIOTT) will receive assignment cards October 14.

TEAM "E" (CHRIS WEIGHT) will receive assignment cards October 21.

EVENTS

LADIES' CLASS will meet each Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. Class will resume October 16.

YOUTH RETREAT October 12-14. Price is \$30 per person or \$50 for 2 from the same family. Please make checks payable to Forest Hill Church of Christ and give to Keith McAlister.

TN CHILDREN'S HOME FALL FOOD DRIVE will continue through October 14. Please see the list of items on the bulletin board.

SALT (for ladies) will meet Tuesday, October 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

2ND ANNUAL JC'S CAMP OUT Friday, October 19 at the home of Kalon and Melissa Brown. Tent set up will begin at 6 p.m. Chili dinner will be provided. Contact Melissa Brown for what to bring. Feel free to come for food and fellowship if cannot attend camp out.

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, October 28.

TRUNK OR TREAT Wednesday, October 31 after services. Please sign up on bulletin board if you will participate or would like to donate candy. Children should change into costumes after service.

OUR SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO the family of Leon Poor. Leon was the stepfather of Annette McAlister and grandfather of Mallory Manning.

Last week's solution:

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. Colossians 3:16-17

CORNERSTONE

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

ROONH EHT ROLD WTIH YTH UTSSNECBA, NDA WTIH EHT
 TSRIF UTSRIF FO LLA TNIHE SRNIEECA: OS SLLHA YTH
 SRNBA EB LLIFED WTIH YTPNLE, NDA YTH SSSRPEE SLLHA
 UTSRB UTO WTIH WNE WNIE..

love and admire have done in the past. It matters not how dear to us they were. It matters not how smart they were. God's authority does not dwell in them. It dwelt in the apostles and those upon whom they laid their hands. We need, however it may pain us, to recognize and accept the teaching of the New Testament as our only guide in religion, not tradition.

We must believe that which condemns the way we have acted in the past. Instead of trying to justify ourselves, let us bow to the authority of God as reflected in the New Testament. No matter how dear the practice may be to us, how pleasurable it may be, how much of a habit it has become, if the New Testament says it is a sin, let us bow to the authority of the apostles and get these things out of our lives.

We must believe those things that we do not like in the New Testament. It is the law of God. If it requires of people things that we would have made optional, we must teach and believe what the New Testament says, not what we would have said. If it forbids that which we would have permitted, we must not practice those things. If it says things that are hard for us to accept, we nonetheless are to believe them. It exercises authority.

Conclusion

What is obedience? What is the true recognition of authority? When we do something only because that is the way we would do it, that is not obedience, that is agreement. True obedience is doing a thing just because something or someone says that is the thing to do, even if we disagree.

The apostles exercise through the New Testament the authority of Jesus Christ. Our obligation is to believe and obey their teachings, wherever those teachings may lead us. They alone are authoritative in religion.

Endnotes

¹ Joseph Henry Thayer, **A Greek-English Lexicon Of The New Testament** (New York, NY: American Book Co., 1889), p. 68.

² All Biblical quotations will be taken from the American Standard Version of 1901, except as 16 noted.

³ James Rowe and J.W. Gaines, **Church Gospel Songs and Hymns**, V.E. Howard, ed., (Texarkana, TX: Central Printer and Publishers, 1983), #561.

⁴ W.E. Vine, **An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words** (Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming H. Revell Co., 1966), p. 208.

(The Hub Of The Bible: Remaining True to Acts 2, Nineteenth Annual Southwest Lectures)

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