

THE FOREST HILL NEWS

Published weekly by the Forest Hill church of Christ

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Forest Hill

Church of Christ

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VISIT US SOON!

Sunday:

Bible Study..... 9:30 A..M.
Morning Worship.....10:30 A.M.
Evening Worship..... 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday:

Bible Study7:00 P.M.

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WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE THE BIBLE? BECAUSE IT TELLS ME THAT JESUS LOVES ME

(Part Four)

Barry M. Grider

Because of His love, Jesus has provided a second law of pardon. John wrote,

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1John 1:7-9).

Simon the sorcerer was converted and then sinned trying to purchase with money the gift of the Holy Spirit. Peter, who, likewise, had traveled the path of repentance, said,

Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee (Acts 8:20-22).

Simon did repent and, hence, received forgiveness. How thankful each of us should be that our Lord Jesus does not easily give up on any one of us. While we have breath, we have hope.

Jesus Loves Even Me—The Lost One!

When a person loses his soul in hell, he goes to that horrible place having rejected what Christ did to rescue his soul. While salvation is conditional, the love of Christ is unconditional. When the rich young ruler rejected the Lord's invitation, Jesus still loved him. Because of His love, He will not force Himself on any of us. Hear the lament in Jesus' voice as He cries:

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold your house is left unto you desolate (Matt. 23:37,38).

When the lost stand before Christ in judgement, not one can look at Him and say, "You did not love me." The lost one goes to hell loved by the Lord Jesus.

Jesus Loves Even Me—The Saved One!

How sweet to know that Jesus desires our association and wants us to be with Him throughout all eternity. Those on His right hand will hear the glorious words, "...come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the

world” (Matt. 25:34). Since He loves us, He longs for us to share in His glory and reign with Him (2 Tim. 2:12). Even now He is preparing a place for us:

Let not your hearts be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also (John 14:1-3).

What will heaven be like? We know “God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away” (Rev. 20:4). Christ is the light of that city (Rev. 20:23) and we shall bask in the glow of His love forever.

Conclusion

What do we conclude about the love of Jesus? 1) His love is unconditional. He loves us regardless of our attitude toward Him. 2) His love is eternal. There will never be a time when He does not love us. 3) His love is for all humanity. No one is beyond the reach of His love.

Yet to enjoy the love of Christ, we must reciprocate. “We love him, because he first loved us” (1John 4:19). Consider you were greatly in debt with no possible way to repay what you owe. Someone who owes you nothing pays the debt completely, puts you in business again, and makes you his partner. Would you not love that person? Surely you would not reject that person or be ashamed of him. Yet, Christ has paid the greatest debt we could ever owe – the debt of sin. What amazing love! If you have rejected His love, what has caused your heart to become so calloused? Why not consider His love once more?

Jesus loves me He who died,
Heaven’s gate to open wide;
He will wash away your sin,
Let his little child come in.

[Chorus]

Yes, Jesus loves me;
Yes, Jesus loves me;
Yes, Jesus loves me;
The Bible tells me so.

HOW TO DETECT AN EVIL REPORT

Five Questions to ask before listening to a carrier:

1. **“What is your reason for telling me?”** Widening the circle of gossip only compounds the problem.
2. **“Where did you get your information?”** Refusal to identify the source of information is a sure signal of an evil report.
3. **“Have you gone to those directly involved?”** Spirituality is not measured by how well we expose an offender, but by how effectively we restore an offender (Galatians 6:1).
4. **“Have you personally checked out all of the facts?”** Even “facts” become distorted when not balanced with other facts or when given with negative motives.
5. **“Can I quote you if I check this out?”** Those who will give evil reports often claim that they are “misquoted.” This is because their words and overriding impressions are reported.

I DON’T HAVE ANY CLOTHES...

Daniel Defoe gave some good advice through his fictitious character Robinson Crusoe.

The first thing Crusoe did when he found himself on a deserted island was to make out a list. On one side of the list he wrote down all his problems. On the other side of the list he wrote down all of his blessings.

- On one side he wrote: *I do not have any clothes.* On the other side he wrote: *But it’s warm and I don’t really need any.*
- On one side he wrote: *All of the provisions were lost.* On the other side he wrote: *But there’s plenty of fresh fruit and water on the island.*

And on down the list he went. In this fashion he discovered that for every negative aspect about his situation, there was a positive aspect, something to be thankful for.

Are you on an island of despair? Perhaps it is time to sit down and take an inventory of your blessings. Some of us may be long overdue in expressing our thanks to God.

Under all circumstances, we can say with the Psalmist: “Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness...To the end that my glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever” (Psm. 30:4,12).

Under all circumstances, we can resolve to, “...give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people” (Psm. 35:18).

Under all circumstances, we can count our blessings like David. “The kings shall joy in thy strength, O LORD; and in thy salvation how greatly shall he rejoice!...For thou hast made him most blessed for ever: thou hast made him exceeding glad with thy countenance” (Psm. 21:1,6).

Take an inventory of your blessings today and watch your worries fade away. Be thankful!

(by Tom Moore published in *House to House/Heart to Heart, Vol.10 No. 4*)

BUILDING A CHRISTIAN LIBRARY (part 2)

Matthew Martin

Last week we considered five books that are “must have” for a Christians library. Those books represented some of the best of the best and anyone would be wise to pick them up.

Though the list last week offered a different book for a different type of reader (college student, new convert, etc.) this week’s books primarily focus on one area: apologetics. Any one of these books would be an ideal resource for a college student dealing with an evolutionist, a high school student trying to repel anti-biblical attacks made in his biology book, or any Christian who wants to understand better, the often-asked question: Why do we believe the Bible?

BENEFICIAL BOOKS DEALING WITH CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS

“Why I am Not Ashamed.” The fourteenth annual Shenandoah lectureship book may seem out of place on a list containing writings on apologetics, since it contains no real discussion on that topic, but really it serves as the perfect opening to a list of this type. Though the rest of the list deals with books that answer why we believe what we do, this book focuses on why we are not ashamed to *preach* what we believe.

“The Book God Breathed.” Keith Mosher’s two-volume study of the Holy Bible, detailing its inspiration in volume one and its canonicity in volume two is the ultimate manual for understanding how God’s word came to be in written form. A third volume, on the way, will deal with the issue of how the different versions came to be.

“The Noahic Flood.” In Memphis School of Preaching, all students are required to read Whitcomb and Morris’ 500 page whopper of a book, “The Genesis Flood.” If you are feeling brave, you could read it. If, however, you want a more succinct consideration of the great deluge, then Curtis Cates’ book is more for you. In it, he handles everything from geological implications of the flood to the age of the earth with relative ease, and manages to cover every major point found in “The Genesis Flood” in under 120 pages.

“Creation Compromises.” Written by brother Bert Thompson in 1995 and published by Apologetics Press, this in-depth book destroys false theories concerning the creation. Theories such as, theistic evolution, the day-age theory, the gap theory, and others are shown in this book to be what they are: underdeveloped and unsupported speculation.

“In the Beginning.” Lubbock’s lectures from 2000 dealt also with the issue of Christian Evidences and Apologetics. The topics range from proving the existence of God, proving the death, burial and resurrection of Christ, and proving the Bible is true based on scientific discoveries.

I hope the lists of the past two weeks have served as great starters for your library. Next week we will consider some books *not* to have on your shelf.

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