



**Forest Hill  
Church of Christ**

3950 Forest Hill-Irene Rd.  
Memphis, TN 38125

Office: (901) 751-2444  
Fax: (901) 751-9711  
Info Line: (901) 392-2449  
[www.foresthillchurch.org](http://www.foresthillchurch.org)

**Elders:**

Anthony D. Callahan  
Floyd M. Hayes  
Harold D. Mangrum  
Leonard Watson

**Ministers:**

Barry M. Grider, Pulpit  
Matthew Martin, Associate  
Douglas Alvarenga, Hispanic

**VISIT US SOON!**

**Sunday:**

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

**Wednesday:**

Bible Study .....7:00 P.M.

**HOME OF THE  
MEMPHIS SCHOOL  
OF PREACHING**

[www.msop.org](http://www.msop.org)

**Missions Supported:**

Far East/World Evangelism  
Gospel Broadcasting Network  
Iglesia de Cristo (Getwell)  
In Search of the Lord's Way  
Kakinada, India  
Manila, Philippines  
Murmansk, Russia  
Truth for the World  
Words of the Master

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**IN TIME OF SNOW**

Barry M. Grider

Though not as treacherous as the winter storm of December 2004, nevertheless the Memphis area was blanketed with snow this past weekend. In fact, since very little ice and freezing rain accompanied this snowfall, it was really quite enjoyable as well as beautiful. Since the mid south area seldom sees the white stuff, any news of snow usually creates quite a bit of excitement. It is interesting that the Bible sometimes emphasizes the snow. For example, according to 2 Samuel 23:20, Benaiah, one of David's mighty men, "went down also and slew a lion in the midst of the snow." Since the Bible speaks of the snow, are there some valuable lessons we can learn from this weather phenomenon? Absolutely!

First, the snow reminds us of the **creative** power of God. Notice the words of the Psalmist,

He giveth snow like wool: he scattereth the hoarfrost like ashes (Psm. 147:16).

Praise the Lord from the earth, ye dragons, and all deeps: Fire and hail; snow, and vapors; stormy wind fulfilling his word (Psm. 148:7,8).

God's creation needs the sun, rain, wind, and snow, in order for the earth to be habitable. Also, consider the serenity that snow provides. While the snow is falling the world around us seems so quiet and at peace. Likewise, when it snows everything "shuts down" and for a moment we take a moment to reflect and relax. We also learn Who is really in control.

Think about the purity of the snow. It is white, which is the symbolic color of purity. In fact, with the snow comes a purification process. Through this process the air is cleansed and the ground prepared for the Spring.

For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it (Isa. 55:10,11).

Likewise, the snow brings refreshment. "As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him: for he refresheth the soul of his masters" (Prov. 25:13).

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Second, the snow reminds us of the **cleansing** power of God. King David sinned grievously. He then repented and asked God to forgive him. In his prayer he uttered these words, "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow" (Psm. 51:7). While sin stains the soul, we rejoice that our sins can be forgiven. Isaiah wrote, "though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow" (Isa. 1:18). How is this possible? It is possible because of the blood of Christ which acts as a cleansing agent removing our sins (John 19:34; Rom. 6:3,4; 1 John. 1:7,9).

Third, the snow reminds us of the **conditioning** power of God. Condition means to develop into a good or desired state. For example, an athlete conditions himself by working out at the gym. The effulgence of God's glory is often compared to the whiteness of snow. Daniel wrote, " I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire" (Dan. 7:9). When Jesus was transfigured before Peter, James, and John the text declares His "raiment became shining; exceeding white as snow" (Mark 9:3). Speaking of the angel which rolled away the stone from the door of Jesus' tomb, "His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow" (Matt. 28:3).

One day the saved shall go through a conditioning process.

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality (1 Cor. 15:52,53).

While the snow is beautiful until it is corrupted with dirt and grime, our new bodies in eternity will never be corrupted. Likewise, we shall wear robes white as snow (Rev. 3:5). We shall resemble Jesus whose head and hairs are "white like wool, and white as snow" (Rev. 1:14). Think about heaven and you think about the whiteness of snow. It is a place of absolute purity. Thank God for the snow!

### 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Freed-Hardeman Lectures

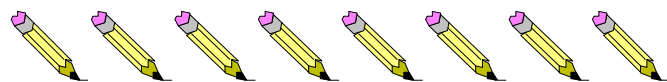
This past week several thousand Christians gathered in Henderson, Tennessee for the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Freed-Hardeman Lectures. As they have done for many years, our students in the Memphis School of Preaching, attended the lectures on Tuesday, as did I. Throughout the day I heard some wonderful preaching from the Book of Hebrews by outstanding evangelists such as James Watkins, James Meadows, Dan Winkler, and Winford Claiborne. It was good to see many friends and acquaintances, along with a number of graduates of the school of preaching who are now doing local work in various locations.

The highlight of the day, perhaps of the week, was the William Woodson Appreciation dinner. Brother Woodson is a man who is highly regarded for his soundness and scholarship. I have benefited greatly from his lectures and writings. Brother Billy Smith served as master of ceremonies for the dinner. Those who spoke commending the life and work of brother Woodson were Tom Holland, Alan Highers, Dan Winkler, and Hardeman Nichols. It was my pleasure to be asked to sit close to the front at a reserved table, along with Jim and Sherry Brown, Everett and Doris Day, and Buster and Matilene McGuire. I owe this honor to our dear sister McGuire. Sister McGuire is a multi-talented lady. She is a superb organist and provided the entertainment for the event.

After an enjoyable, yet exhausting day, I could not help but realize that our own lectureship is not far away (March 26-30). We look forward with great anticipation to a marvelous week together with friends and loved ones far and near.

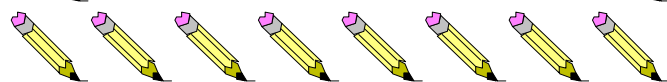
Barry

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### TEACHERS WORKSHOP

Dennis and Brenda Woods will conduct a workshop on Saturday, February 25, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the fellowship building. Dennis and Brenda publish the *Engraving Heavenly Truths* Bible School Curriculum. All who are interested are encouraged to attend, especially our teachers and helpers. Bring a sack lunch with you.



## IGNORANCE & APATHY

Matthew Martin

**ignorance**    ig·no·rance    *adj.*

- Lacking education or knowledge
- Unaware or uninformed.

**apathy**      ap·a·thy    *n.*

- Lack of interest or concern, especially regarding matters of general importance or appeal; indifference.
- Lack of emotion or feeling; impassiveness.

The story is told of a preacher asking a young man what he thought the biggest problem in the church was. The young man's answer: "I don't know, and I don't care." The preacher looked at him and said, "You're exactly right," and walked away with his head down.

Some may disagree when it is said that ignorance and apathy are the biggest problems in the church. Someone may say, "liberalism or radicalism are bigger problems." However, if you consider the mind of a liberal or radical you will find that the driving motivation behind their beliefs is either ignorance or apathy.

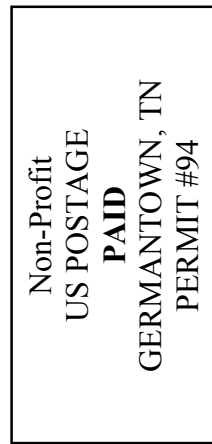
Why does a liberal disregard God's law, and loose where He has not loosed? Why does a radical bind where God did not bind? Because he either does not know what God's law says, or he knows but does not care. He is comparable to the fool mentioned in Psalms 14 and 70. David said only an apathetic fool would examine all the evidence around him and still conclude there was no God (Psa. 14:1; 70:1).

It is probably easier to deal with an ignorant person. He lacks knowledge. There is still the hope that if the knowledge came to him he might change. An apathetic person, however, is much more frustrating. You have to get him to see, not just *what* he is doing wrong, but why he should *care* that he is doing wrong. That can be an almost impossible task.

There are many people that are being misled religiously. For the most part they are ignorant, and need to be taught the truth. The ones they follow, however, for the most part are not ignorant; they are apathetic. Who are they? You can find them on networks like the Trinity Broadcasting Network. Men like Benny Hinn (arrested several times for fraud) and Max Lucado (who at one time knew and preached the truth, but perhaps decided it was more financially profitable to "broaden the narrow way").

These false teachers are willingly ignorant and knowingly apathetic. They were not the first and they will not be the last. How can we stop our children from being swayed by Max Lucado, or becoming the next Benny Hinn?

To be continued...



**The Forest Hill News**  
 Forest Hill Church of Christ  
 3950 Forest Hill Irene Road  
 Germantown, TN 38125  
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