



**Forest Hill
Church of Christ**

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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 Study7:00 P.M.

**HOME OF THE
MEMPHIS SCHOOL
OF PREACHING**

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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Number 1

TODAY WILL BE YESTERDAY TOMORROW

Willard Collins

[Editor's note: Among the preachers I remember from my childhood, Willard Collins, past president of Lipscomb University, is one of the first to come to mind. Now 90, he stills wields a prolific pen.]

Time is so fleeting that today will be yesterday tomorrow, and this process of change does not take very long. Life is so short.

I recently noticed a large sign in front of a church building, which read, "Today Will Be Yesterday Tomorrow." This truth should make each of us determine to live well today. However, some people ruin the present because of worry over what may happen tomorrow.

During World War II an acquaintance of mine told me that his wife was about to drive him to distraction. The draft was rapidly calling men into the armed forces, and his wife thought he would receive his call any day. Every morning when he left for work she would cry and say, "I won't get to tell you goodbye many more mornings because you will be gone to the Army." The next morning another day would begin in the say way. When this man had about decided to volunteer for the Army because of this condition at home, the wife realized how miserable she was making his life. The she said, "You may be called any day, but until that time comes, I am going to live well each day so we may enjoy or associations." It so happened that this particular man was never drafted.

Jesus taught His disciples the value of living well one day at a time when He said, "Take therefore no thought for the morrow; for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof" (Matt. 6:34). Paul continued this theme when he taught, "Be careful for nothing: but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God" (Phil. 4:6).

Life comes to each individual one day at a time. A.M. Burton, past president of the Life and Casualty Insurance Company of Nashville, described this plan of God in his book, **The Sunday Visitor**. Burton wrote: "life does not come to us in lifetimes; it only comes a day at a time. Even tomorrow is never ours until it becomes today. Do today's duty, fight today's temptation; do not weaken or distract yourself by looking forward to things you cannot see."

John Ruskin wrote of filling each day to its brim when he penned, "Let every dawn of morning be to you as the beginning of life and each setting sun be to you as its close."

Since today will be yesterday tomorrow, each of us needs to take a daily look at self. I once noticed a printed poem hanging on the wall of a home. This poem vividly teaches the need of daily inspection.

I have to live with myself,
And so I want to be fit for myself to know.
I want to be able, as the days go by,
Always to look myself in the eye.
I don't want to stand with the setting sun
And hate myself for the things I have done.
I can never hide myself from me;
I see what others may never see;
I know what others may never know;
I can't hide myself,
And so whatever happens,
I want to be self-respecting and conscience
free.

The will of God should be the standard by which we measure ourselves. Christ gave the pattern to His disciples when He said of God's will, "And he that sent me is with me; the father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him" (John 8:29).

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED PUBLICATIONS

A number of valuable resources are available today to help encourage the Christian in his daily walk with the Lord. As co-editor of *The Gospel Journal*, I would encourage all the readers of the *Forest Hill News* to subscribe to *TGJ*. The cost is \$16.00 per year. Brother John Moore and I, along with our board, are committed to producing a publication that will both encourage and edify the Lord's church with scripturally sound articles, covering a variety of biblical subjects, written by numerous faithful brethren. Please visit our website at www.thegospeljournal.org.

Just as lighthouses do not compete, neither do faithful brethren compete with one another in their endeavors for the cause of Christ. Dr. Brad Harrub, a personal friend, and brother Jim Palmer, have begun *Focus Press*, under the oversight of the Woodson Chapel Church of Christ, in Nashville. Beginning this month, brethren Harrub and Palmer will be producing a monthly periodical entitled *Think*. Their mission is stated as follows:

Our mission is to encourage men, women, and children to train their minds on that which is good. As such, we are launching a new magazine called *Think* (Phil. 4:8). This monthly magazine will focus on educating, edifying, and encouraging those who are seeking the Truth. *Think* magazine will deal with "In the News" topics that many Christians struggle with: stem cell research, intelligent design, fertility practices, cloning, abortion, homosexuality, and other social issues. In addition, there will also be regular departments that will deal with practical ways to pass our faith to the next generation, how to incorporate our faith into daily living, issues that are unique to women, how to be good stewards with our material blessings, biblical history and archaeology, and a host of other regular columns designed to strengthen Christians.

Subscriptions for *Think* magazine are \$24/yr. However, a special rate of \$20/yr is being offered until January 31, 2006. Please visit www.focuspress.org.

Barry

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

Sunday, January 8 following the morning service, we will have a covered dish dinner in the fellowship hall. This is in conjunction with the 47th anniversary of the Knight Arnold/Forest Hill congregation.

DAILY BIBLE READING SCHEDULES AVAILABLE

The Forest Hill elders strongly encourage daily Bible reading. To help each member accomplish this goal, daily Bible reading schedules are available on the north lobby bulletin board. We thank Christa Mangrum for her invaluable service providing us with so many creative bulletin boards, including this one encouraging daily Bible reading.

YOU MAY HEAR BROTHER GRIDER PREACH GOD'S WORD BY:

Visiting www.foresthillchurch.org

or

Watching "*On The Lord's Day*" on the Gospel Broadcasting Network

or

Watching "*Words From The Master*" on Memphis Time Warner Cable channel 17, 5:00 - 5:30 p.m. every Wednesday

A New Year

He came to my desk with quivering lip,
The lesson was done.
"Have you a new leaf for me, dear Teacher?
I have spoiled this one."
I took his leaf, all soiled and blotted
And gave him a new one, all unspotted,
Then into his tired heart I smiled:
"Do better now, my Child."
I went to the throne with trembling heart,
The year was done.
"Have you a New Year for me, dear Master?
I have spoiled this one."
He took my year, all soiled and blotted
And gave me a new one, all unspotted,
Then, into my tired heart he smiled:
"Do better now, my Child."

(submitted by Bert Embry)

WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE A CHANGE

Matthew Martin

This is the time of year when most people reflect on the past year, consider the mistakes that were made, and try and correct them in the days ahead. The problem is, most people don't seem to stick with their "New Year resolutions," and thus, fall back into their old habits once again. After all, anyone can just make a resolution, but it takes something more, to follow through with it. It takes desire, determination, and dedication.

It takes **desire** to make a change in your life. Consider, as an example, the rich young ruler (Mark 10:17-24). Here is a man who had it all, by the world's standards. He was rich, probably very popular, and well groomed. But when he looked at his life, he realized something was lacking. What did he do? Did he try to fill the void with more things? No. Did he try to drink his sorrows away? No again, because those things would not have helped.

Instead, he desired to make his life better. So he went to the only person that could help. He went to Christ (Mark 10:17) and asked him what he had to do to go to heaven.

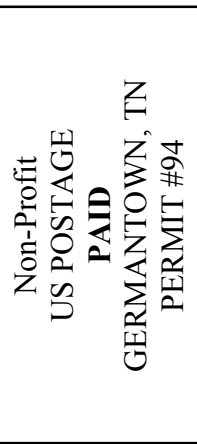
It takes **determination** to make a change in your life. When the rich young man asked Jesus what he had to do to go to heaven, Jesus told him to obey the law of Moses (Mark 10:19). Many people, would have heard this and thought that was enough. Some would have said, "So all I have to do, is obey the commands and that's it." and then go on their way vainly obeying commands without any heart or love whatsoever.

The young ruler, though, was determined, and pressed the issue, telling Jesus he had observed the Law from his childhood (Mark 10:20). Jesus then asks him, if he is dedicated enough to change.

It takes **dedication** to make a change in your life. Jesus asked if the rich young man was willing to give his possessions to the poor and live a difficult life as a servant of Christ (Mark 10:21). Here is where the rich man falters. Because, though he had the desire to change, and though he had the determination to change, when he was at the crossroads, and it was time to make a decision, he was not dedicated enough to change. The conversation began with him running anxiously to Jesus, but it ended with him walking away sorrowful, and an unchanged man.

The point of the account in Mark 10 is not that rich people cannot go to heaven. Jesus said such a feat was *difficult*, but not impossible (Mark 10:24). The point of the account is to show that it takes something to make a change. Jesus knew the heart of the rich young ruler. Though he desired, and was determined, he did not have the dedication.

When you make your New Year's resolution, keep in mind what is most important. Maybe you haven't been as faithful as you could be. Maybe you haven't been faithful at all. Whatever it is, have what it takes to make the change.



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