

# THE FOREST HILL NEWS



## Forest Hill Church of Christ

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Anthony D. Callahan  
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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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## WHAT MUST BE THE WORSHIPER'S ATTITUDE?

Curtis A. Cates

Great responsibility has always rested upon the worshiper, in the Old Testament as well as in the New. Not only must one have the right object, but he must have certain attitudes.

**First, the True Worshiper Feels the Desire To Worship.** "Both young men, and virgins; Old men, and children: Let them praise the name of Jehovah; For his name alone is exalted; His glory is above the earth and the heavens" (Psa. 148:12-13). "These things I remember, and pour out my soul within me, how I went with the throng, and led them to the house of God, With the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude keeping holyday" (Psa. 42:4). David exclaimed, "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go unto the house of Jehovah" (Psa. 122:1). Man needs to realize his need for his maker and thirst for Him. "As the heart panteth after the water brooks, So panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God; When shall I come and appear before God" (Psa. 42:1-2)? Job cried, "Oh that I knew where I might find him! That I might come even to his seat" (Job 23:3)!

**Second, the True Worshiper Feels Profound Gratitude for the Wonderful Grace of God.** He seeks every opportunity to acknowledge his dependence upon God and his awareness that without God's blessings, he could not live. "O praise Jehovah, all ye nations; Laud him, all ye peoples. For his lovingkindness is great toward us" (Psa. 117:1-2). "What shall I render unto Jehovah for all his benefits toward me" (116:12)? "I will pay my vows before them that fear him" (22:25). "Praise ye Jehovah. O give thanks unto Jehovah; for he is good; For his lovingkindness endureth for ever" (106:1).

**Third, the True Worshiper Feels Reverence in and Worships God from the Heart.** It is genuine: the emotions are involved. "These things I remember [what God has done for me and that my soul pants after God, CAC], and pour out my soul within me" (Psa. 42:4). "Glory ye in his holy name: Let the heart of them rejoice that seek Jehovah" (1 Chr. 16:10). "Him shall ye fear [reverence, CAC], give thee thanks with my whole heart: before the gods will I sing praises unto thee" (Psa. 138:1). The worshiper is not passive in his worship, awaiting some entertainment or mystical uplift to result from the "performance" of the song leader, the preacher, and others. We actively lift up praise and adoration to God within His prescribed way out of a heart filled with reverence, gratitude, confession, praise, and supplication.

**Fourth, the True Worshiper Realizes that God is Close at Hand.** Unlike many who think that God is so remote that He cannot see, know, or be concerned with our needs, thoughts, prayers, and joys, men need to realize that "...they should seek God, if haply they might feel after him, and find him [through His Word, of course, CAC], though he is not far from each one of us" (Acts 17:27). With the Israelites, God's glory filled the tabernacle (Exo. 40:33-38), from whence He spoke to the people when the Word would tabernacle in the flesh (John 1:1-3, 14) and when He would dwell in His holy temple, the church (1 Cor. 3:16-17). He is with His people in the worship (Matt. 26:28-29; 1 Cor. 10:16-21; 11:23ff). The righteous people of the Old Testament walked with God, building a close relationship with Him (not the type of "buddy-buddy," "daddy" relationship as some shallow, flippant souls would aver today). Study the faith and reverence demonstrated in the worship of Abraham, Moses, David, and others. Enoch walked with God; David was a man after God's own heart; Daniel was greatly beloved.

Malachi 3:3 says...

"He will sit as a Refiner and purifier of silver."

This verse puzzled some women in a Bible study and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God.

One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible Study.

That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver.

As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest as to burn away all the impurities.

The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot; then she thought again about the verse that says: "He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver."

She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined. The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully Refined?"

He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy -- when I see my image in it".

If today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has his eye on you and will keep watching you until He sees His image in you.

## WHAT CAN I DO?

Preston Faulkner (1928-2005)

Former Forest Hill Deacon

You have heard it said, "What can I do?" Many say, "I cannot teach in public, pray in public or serve at the Lord's table because of nervousness, etc." But there is something you can do. Think about it. You be your own judge. What can I do?

You can visit the sick in hospitals, those who miss worship, and newcomers. Maybe you can help a brother in need – build up and edify the brethren. There is always work to be done on the church building and the yard. The building is always needing small repairs, painting, cleaning up; sometimes you may see things that need to be done that have gone unnoticed by others. Do the small things and give God the glory that you are able to do them.

How many have stooped over to pick up unsightly pieces of paper in the building or the parking lot? This is a small thing but it still has to be done by someone. The church building is ours – it is our meeting place. However, it belongs to God and we are just using it. We can all take pride in seeing that our meeting place looks nice. If the little things are done, the big things will come along and will take care of themselves. We can all use the talents that we have to glorify God even in accomplishing what we may consider are just "little things."

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## LECTURESHIP WEEK MEANS GOOD FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

### MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE FOLLOWING DINNERS:

**Monday, March 27: *Celebrating 40 Years of Service: Salute to Memphis School of Preaching***

**Tuesday, March 28: Alumni and Friends Dinner**

**Wednesday, March 29: Gospel Journal Dinner**

**Each meal is \$7.00 per person.**

## LUCKY CHARM SYNDROME

Matthew Martin

I know what you are thinking: Christians don't believe in luck. Well I know that. It's just an expression -- one that describes the mentality of a large number of God's people.

You know the ones: They come only on Sunday mornings. They aren't particularly active. They probably don't live terribly bad lives, but you probably wouldn't hold them up as the "ideal member" of your congregation. You have no doubt thought to yourself several times: *Why won't he do more?* Or *Why can't I get her to be more faithful to the assembly?*

The reason you cannot is because that person suffers from what is called "lucky charm syndrome." It is a common condition where the infected Christian thinks that by just performing a particular act, he can "punch his ticket" to Heaven. Usually he will attend one church service a week and feel that is enough (in more extreme cases he may only attend on Easter, or the nearest Sunday to Mothers Day or Christmas).

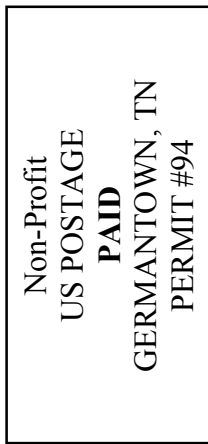
Amazingly, this condition is not new. The ancient Israelites suffered occasionally from this disease. On one instance the Israelites had taken to battle against the Philistines (1 Sam. 4). After being severely beaten (v2) the Israelites decided to go get the ark of the covenant. Now they had been in tough fights before, and they always managed to win. This time, however they did not win the fight. This time:

...the Philistines fought, and Israel was smitten, and they fled every man into his tent: and there was a very great slaughter; for there fell of Israel thirty thousand footmen (1 Sam 4:10).

What changed? What was different between this fight and all the others? The answer: This time, though the ark was with them, God was not. The Israelites had gotten so used to winning, that they forgot *how* they were able to win in the first place. It was God that had given them victory. So when the battle with the Philistines got rough, to whom did they turn? Not to God, but to the ark. And for that, they lost.

God's people thought they had a "lucky charm." They thought they had the sure-fire way to win a battle. There are a lot of people suffering from the same "lucky charm disease." They will one day (like the Israelites of old) get a real wake up call.

*To be continued...*



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