



**Forest Hill
Church of Christ**
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Anthony D. Callahan
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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 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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ENTHUSIASM

Barry M. Grider

Enthusiasm is contagious. Enthusiasm breeds enthusiasm. Nothing of importance has ever been accomplished without enthusiasm. Well, it is an enthusiastic time at Forest Hill. We are preparing for what I believe will be one of the best lectureships ever. This is the fortieth in this series of lectures and I know of no better way of celebrating this milestone than studying "*The Gospel of Christ*," our lectureship theme. Our nightly speakers include David Sain, Charles Box, Tom Holland, Winford Claiborne, and Robert R. Taylor, Jr. Three dinners will be held during the week. Please be sure to attend the celebration in honor of the school on Monday, the Alumni-Friends dinner on Tuesday, and The Gospel Journal dinner on Wednesday. Cost for each meal will be \$7.00 per person per dinner.

We are also enthusiastic about the beginning of the construction of Memphis School of Preaching residence halls on the back part of the Forest Hill property. These beautifully designed buildings will, once completed, be the home of our students. Very soon our elders will be announcing to the congregation how each one of us can have a special role in the building of this project. Since this is being done to benefit the cause of Christ we cannot help but be filled with enthusiasm. Let us do all we can to promote the work of training preachers in the Memphis School of Preaching.

As long as there is faith coupled with enthusiasm there are no limits what brethren can accomplish. Just this past week a friend in middle Tennessee emailed about a non-Christian business associate of another friend who lives in Chicago. This gentleman is viewing our Sunday services on GBN. What an amazing tool for the presentation of the gospel. Please pray that this gentleman will be converted.

Down through biblical history I have always been amazed and encouraged by those who believed God and were enthusiastic about His work. Joshua and Caleb both come to mind. According to Numbers 13, the children of Israel were encamped in the wilderness of Paran. Twelve spies, one representing each tribe, are sent by Moses to search out the land of Canaan. While all were impressed by what they had seen (v.27), only Joshua and Caleb had the courage and resolve to go in and take the land. Speaking for both of them, Caleb stated, "Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it" (v. 30). Overcome what? The might and power of the people who occupied the land. I am convinced most of God's people today would have reacted like the ten spies who were opposed to going in and possessing the land. Yet, friends, nothing that is profitable is ever accomplished easily. One reason for this is because God will be glorified. Though a task may seem impossible, if God is behind it, the task will be accomplished and He will receive the glory. Joshua said, "If the Lord delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it to us; a land which floweth with milk and honey" (Num. 14:8).

God desires that all men hear and obey the gospel that they might be saved (1 Tim.2:4). With confidence in His power, let us enthusiastically go forth on behalf of his divine mission. He will not allow us to fail!

Forest Hill members and lectureship guests are invited to attend:

THE GOSPEL JOURNAL DINNER

WEDNESDAY MARCH 29, 4:30 P.M.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Paul Sain

ALSO SPEAKING:

B.J. Clarke, editor, Power

Dr. Brad Harrub, editor, Think

Gary McDade, associate editor, Spiritual Sword

Allen Webster, editor, House to House Heart to Heart

Also a Power Point Presentation by:

John Moore, co-editor, G

Dinner hosted by Barry Grider and John Moore, co-editors. The meal is \$7.00 per person.

SIX WAYS TO BURY A GOOD IDEA

- 1. It will never work
2. We've never done it that way before.
3. We're doing fine without it.
4. We can't afford it.
5. We're not ready for it.
6. It's not our responsibility.

Author Unknown

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LUCKY CHARM SYNDROME PART 2

Matthew Martin

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 too (like the Israelites of old) will one day get a real wake up call.

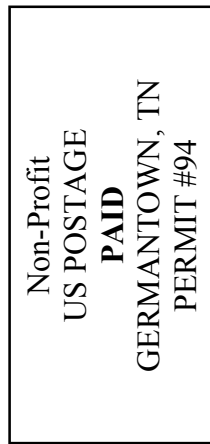
Think about all the people that think that by just having an open Bible (usually its big, white, and with some nice illustrations throughout) on their coffee table, they have a "lucky charm" that will keep Satan away. Paul said that the word of God was a sword (Eph. 6:17). How can the sword be properly wielded if it is sitting on display? The Bible is not a lucky charm that will bring God's blessings as long as its kept looking pretty.

There are also those that think as long as they take the Lord's Supper every week, they have a lucky charm that will ensure them of salvation. There are even some that, after the Communion is passed, will get up and leave! Yes, we are commanded to take the Lord's Supper weekly (Acts 20:7), but this is not the extent of our worship. The same could be said about the one who comes to services, listens intently to the sermon, but will not sing a note. Or the one who will not pray. The Lord's Supper (or any other single act of worship) is not a "lucky charm" that will stamp a person's way to glory.

Others may believe that by just attending one service a week, they have done their duty. As if by showing up once a week is a kind of "lucky charm" that will get them into Heaven. A person who thinks this needs to have his attitude checked. A person who would only desire to come once a week probably is not doing (or thinking) what he is supposed to when he *is* here. We are commanded to "obey those that have the rule over us" (Heb. 13:17). If the eldership decides to assemble every day, it is my duty to be there, every day. Just going once a week (or once a month, or once a year) is not a "lucky charm" that will ensure my getting into heaven.

Finally, think about those who have the attitude that by being at services on Sunday, they are free to do whatever they want the rest of the week. If they commit sin, that's ok because they will be at services Sunday to take care of it. They too have "lucky charm" syndrome. John wrote that Christians are to "walk in the light." That does not mean 'when you feel like it.' If you stop walking in the light, the blood of Christ stops continuing to cleanse your sin (1 John 1:7).

Like the Israelites of old, some Christians believe they have a "lucky charm" that will get them out of (or keep them from) trouble. And like those Israelites, those that have such an idea will be in for a rude awakening. God doesn't believe in lucky charms, we shouldn't either.



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