

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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WHAT IS MAN – AS SHOWN BY THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD

Barry M. Grider

CONCLUSION

Providentially God sent His Son to this earth at just the right time (Gal. 4:4; cf. Acts 2:23). Providentially God preserves His Word (Matt 24:35). Providentially God works everything out for the child of God. According to Luke 8:22-26, Jesus sent His disciples into a ship and commanded they pass to the other side. While on the sea a great storm engulfed the ship and the disciples no doubt were fearful they would drown. At just the right moment Jesus came. He always does. He calmed the storm and calmed His disciples. Verse 26 reads, "And they arrived at the country of the Gadarenes which is over against Galilee." Why is this verse important? The disciples, you see, should have never doubted. When Jesus says get in a boat and go to the other side of the lake, regardless of what may transpire, He assures a safe arrival. Likewise, because of the providence of God, regardless of what we face in life, we shall make it.

Do not make hasty decisions in life that may indeed be foolish, just because you think what you are doing is providential. Remember, one does not know whether or not something has happened as a result of the providence of God. It may or may not be. However, when Joseph was old he could look back on his life and see the hand of God. Some day, maybe not until we are in heaven, we shall look back at key events in our lives, and say, "What happened to me was the result of the providence of God."

Early in my childhood, I was blessed with a wonderful Bible class teacher named Ray Melton. She always closed class with the following hymn. We still sing it everyday at the close of chapel in the Memphis School of Preaching. I believe the words and will sing them until Jesus comes, because I believe in the providence of God.

I know the Lord will make a way for me.
I know the Lord will make a way for me.
If I walk in heaven's light, Shun the wrong and do the right,
I know the Lord will make a way for me.

Ketron and Reed

Endnotes

1. All Scripture references are from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.
2. [Http://www.christiancourier.com/archives/providence.htm](http://www.christiancourier.com/archives/providence.htm)
3. Andrew Connally, "What Does Romans 8:28 Teach in Regard t the Providence of God?" in the *Providence of God*, Thomas B. Warren and Garland Elkins, eds. (Pulaski, TN: Sain Publications, 1989) pp.482-490.
4. Ira Y. Rice, Jr., "God Moves In Mysterious Ways," in *The Lord Will Find A Way...For Me*, Joe McKissick, ed. (Dallas, TX: Christian Publishing Co, 1966) pp. 107-109.
5. Wendell Winkler, "Should Christians Expect Miracles When They Pray for Physical Illness," in *The Providence of God*, Thomas B. Warren and Garland Elkins, eds. (Pulaski, TN: Sain Publications, 1989), p. 373.
6. Gus Nichols, *Lectures on the Holy Spirit*, (Plainview, TX: Nichols Brothers Publishing Company), p. 85.

THE REST OF THE STORY (Part Two)

Matthew Martin

THE REST OF THE STORY CONCERNING THE CONVERSION OF THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH (ACTS 8)

Jesus said to his disciples that the Gospel was to be sent, first to Jerusalem, then all Judea, then Samaria, then to the uttermost part of the earth (Acts 1:8). The gospel did go to the Jews (Acts 2, 3) and then in Acts 8 it is recorded that the gospel went to the Samaritans. Philip is said to have gone down into the city of Samaria to preach Christ (Acts 8:5). The Bible records the great success Phillip had there. Acts 8:6 says that the people “with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.” Also it is recorded that when the Samaritans “believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of the Lord Jesus, they were baptized, both men and women.” (Acts 8:12). So it is safe to say that Philip was having a successful campaign in Samaria.

With that in mind, it is interesting to note what followed. Acts 8:26: “And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.” Philip could have said, “Well, that is crazy! Here I am, having a great revival down in Samaria, and God wants me to leave.” He could have said that, but he didn’t. He understood that **one** soul is as important as a **whole city** of souls.

And so Philip went as instructed, and he found that one soul riding a chariot (Acts 8:27-28). He joined himself to the chariot and asked the man if he could study what he was reading with him (Acts 8:29-30). The man obliged (Acts 8:31). And after being taught about Jesus Christ from the scroll of Isaiah (Acts 8:32-35), Philip and this Eunuch came to a certain body of water. And the Eunuch asked what he must do to be baptized (Acts 8:36). Philip told him if he believes in Jesus Christ he may be baptized. And the eunuch said: “I believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God.” (Acts 8:37).

Now, STOP RIGHT HERE!! DO NOT READ ANY FURTHER!! DON’T READ THE REST OF THE STORY! Stop here, close the bulletin and put it away. How foolish would it be to read only half a story? You’ll never find out how it ends. But the false teachers would have you believe the story ends here. It doesn’t. Those false teachers are not telling the rest of the story...

After the eunuch confessed his belief in Jesus Christ, “he commanded the chariot to stand still: and

they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.” Now why did Philip baptize the eunuch? Go back to verse 37. Philip was just asked by the eunuch what was keeping him from being baptized, and Philip told him if he believes he mayest. He mayest what? Be baptized. This is just what Jesus said: “He that **believeth and is baptized** shall be saved, he that **believeth not** shall be damned.” (Mark 16:16). In other words, to be saved you have to believe and be baptized. But if you don’t first believe you will never be saved. Belief is the first step. There has never been a person who has submitted himself to baptism without having first believed. But when a person truly believes Christ, he will do what He says to do.

What was hindering the eunuch from being baptized: believing. When he said he believed, he then could be baptized. And like Jesus said, when he believed and was baptized, he was then saved, and went on his way rejoicing (Acts 8:39). And now you know...the rest of the story.

THE REST OF THE STORY CONCERNING THE CONVERSION OF SAUL (ACTS 9)

It has been correctly said, that probably the greatest conversion in the first century was the conversion of Saul of Tarsus. Here was a man who thrived on the persecution of Christians. He was a most feared zealot of the Jewish faith. Yet the Gospel has the power to change even the most hardened individual. His conversion is recorded by Luke in Acts 9, and later retold by Saul (now called Paul) in Acts 22. And like the other conversions we have considered, this is another story that has only been partially told by the false teachers of the religious world.

The first time we are introduced to this man he is said to have consented to the death of Stephen, *and even* held the coats of those that stoned him (Acts 7:58, 8:1). Saul is then mentioned in Acts 9. Luke records that he went to the Jewish High Priest to get permission to bring any Christians, whether they were men or women, bound unto Jerusalem (Acts 9:2). As he was on his way to Damascus, a miracle occurred. Now God could have miraculously destroyed Saul for his wicked deeds against His people. But in His infinite wisdom, God saw an opportunity. This man, who right now is a persecutor of God’s people, would soon be a preacher in God’s service.

(to be continued...)

FAITHFUL BRETHREN BEWARE!!
THERE IS A NEW FALSE TEACHER IN TOWN!!
Mathew Leon Martin

Recently it has come to my attention that a congregation of the Lord's church in the Memphis area has recently hired a new preacher. This preacher is a recent graduate of a university under the oversight of members of the Lord's church.

Upon deeper investigation, I learned that this preacher holds an incorrect view of the Holy Spirit, teaching that He operates directly on the heart of a saint. This of course goes directly against the Bible, which says that it (that is, the word) has the power to cut the heart (Heb. 4:12).

This preacher, I discovered, also believes that a person who divorces his wife except for fornication is allowed to marry another. Jesus taught just the opposite in Matthew 19:9. In that verse it is recorded Jesus said "Whosoever shall put away his wife, **except** [it be] for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away **doth commit adultery**" This new preacher in town would have you believe Jesus said "doth **not** commit adultery." Well that's not what Jesus said, and that makes this person a false teacher.

Even more unsettling was this preacher's view on denominations. He has been quoted in a well known liberal publication as saying: "I really believe, thanks to God's great grace, that there are faithful brethren in every church that believes Jesus is Lord." This preacher would have you believe that many will be saved. Jesus said few will be saved (Matt. 7:13-14). This preacher obviously didn't read Ephesians 4:1-6, where Paul says "there is **one** body..." The body is the church (Eph. 1:22-23). Therefore there is one church. At least, that is what the Bible says. He would have you believe otherwise.

Brethren, I hope this article has been helpful in identifying this rank liberal. I hope you avoid him at all costs. He is a dangerous man that has been well educated as an orator and is very cunning in his ability to sway faithful brethren away from the Lord.....

.....What? Oh, you're wondering why I did not say who this person is? "Well I did not want to be rude to the person. After all he is my brother." Does this sound familiar? It sounds like the attitude of a lot of people who don't like to hear their preacher call names.

Sometimes people say "You shouldn't call the names of false teachers." Well Paul say to avoid false teachers (Rom 16:16). How can I avoid those I do not know? Besides, if it is wrong to call names then Paul was in error when he said "**Demas** has forsaken me..." (II Tim. 4:10). And also, Paul said "**Alexander the coppersmith** did me much evil..." (II Timothy 4:14). In the later example, Paul not only said who he was, but where he worked. Some people may not like calling names but it is the most effective may to let others know about false teachers.

Oh, and just to be clear: the first few paragraphs were **only** an illustration.

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