



**Forest Hill
Church of Christ**

3950 Forest Hill-Irene Rd.
Memphis, TN 38125

Office: (901) 751-2444
Fax: (901) 751-9711
Info Line: (901) 531-8849
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 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 (Memphis
Time Warner Cable ch17)

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FOREST HILL CHURCH OF CHRIST

GOSPEL MEETING

SPEAKER:

GEORGE BAILEY

**June 16-17:
7:00 P.M.**

June 18: 9:30 and 10:30 a.m.

6:00 PM MSOP Graduation

**Brother Bailey will deliver
the Commencement Address.**

George Bailey is one of the most highly regarded evangelists of the past 60 years. Untold thousands have heard and obeyed the gospel through his preaching. His warm and resonant voice always causes his audience to sit in rapt attention. Brother Bailey loves the Bible, which is evident when you hear his scripture saturated sermons. A genuine Christian gentleman, all those who know brother Bailey are better for it. Please join us for this series of mes-

RESPECT FOR BIBLE AUTHORITY

George Bailey

“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day” (John 12:48). What respect do you have for that Word? Do you not realize that it is authoritative? How can you disregard any teaching of it? How could you mark off as *non-essential* anything that is taught in the Bible? One dare not disrespect the authority of that Book!

Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him” (Heb. 2:1-3).

We are told in the scriptures that “the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power” (2 Thes. 1:7-9).

Don’t seek to change that Word, for it must remain as it was, when it first came from God. I like very much the thought expressed by Balaam in the long ago, “I have received a commandment...and I cannot reverse it” (Num. 23:20). He also showed a great respect for the authority of God’s word when he said, “I cannot go beyond the word of the Lord, to do less or more” (Num. 22: 18). We wouldn’t have all of the religious error we have today, if every preacher, or church leader, would believe and practice that sentiment!

God had said to Balaam, “But only the word that I shall speak unto thee, thou shalt speak” (Num. 22:35). The old prophet, Isaiah, declared, “If they speak not according to this word, it is because there is not light in them” (Isa. 8:20).

There was false teaching in Isaiah’s day, as there is in our day. “For the leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed” (Isa. 9:16). Again, “They which lead thee cause thee to err” (Isa. 3:12).

Jeremiah warned his people: “Hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the Lord” (Jer. 23:16). “Behold, I am against the prophets, saith the Lord, that use their tongues, and say, He saith” (Jer. 23:31). Some make it appear that they are speaking from the Bible, when, in reality, they are merely speaking their own opinions. Such is a disrespect for the authority of God’s word!

One other thing, before leaving this phase of our lesson, for this is so basic. When Jeroboam was trying to get a following among the Israelites, he set up a god in Bethel, and another one in Dan. Then he said, “It is too

much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt” (1 Kings 12:28). God said, “This thing became as sin because it was outright rebellion against the authority of God’s arrangement!

This man said, “*It is too much.*” How many people, preachers in particular, have declared to others, “It is too much to do this or that”? There has been an effort to lessen the force of God’s word, and a tendency to *streamline religion*, in an attempt to make things easier for the people! This thing has become a sin!

Nothing that God has asked in His word is “too much” to demand of the people. God’s word is final authority, and who are we that we can change it as we desire? We must leave it as God gave it!

A Respect for the Authority of the Higher Powers That Be

Civil government was ordained of God. There is a *need* for higher powers; and there must be a *submission* to those powers. “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation” (Rom. 13:1,2).

In that same chapter, Paul later said, “Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake” (Rom. 13:5). Peter adds this word: “Submit to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; or unto governors...For so is the will of God” (1 Pet. 2:13-15). “Honor the king” (1 Pet. 2:17).

To the young preacher, Titus, these words were given: “Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work” (Tit. 3:1). We are asked to pray for “kings, and for all that are in authority; that we many lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour” (1 Tim. 2:2,3).

Respect for governmental authority is the “will of God” (1 Pet. 2:15), and is “good and acceptable in the sight of God” (1 Tim. 2:3). How do you measure up in this respect? Do you come to a complete stop at a stop sign? What about your speed on the highway? Do you feel that you don’t have to pay any attention to these laws of the land, provided there is no policeman around? Is it a matter of “what you can get by with”?

If *one* has a right to disregard the laws of the land, *everybody else* has that same right. Suppose nobody paid any attention to these higher powers, then what? *When one fails to respect the laws of the land, he fails to respect the authority of God!*

HIDING IN THE ROCKS (part 3)

Matthew Martin

EDOM WAS HIDING IN THE ROCKS OF MENTAL ARROGANCE

Of all the foolish ideas Edom had to avoid the wrath of God, the final two are the most absurd. Obadiah tells the children of Israel not to worry about Edom because God will destroy them, even those that thought they could out smart God. Imagine the arrogance, to think that someone could use their *God-given* brain **against** God Himself! Who gave them their brain in the first place!? God did. Obadiah writes:

Shall I not in that day, saith the LORD, even destroy the wise men out of Edom, and understanding out of the mount of Esau (Oba. 8)?

Like Edom, there are those that live today who think they are smarter than God. All you need to do is watch television programs like HBO's *Real Time with Bill Maher* and it will quickly be clear that some people don't comprehend with whom they are dealing. Listen to some historical or political analyst mock God, the Christ, and Christianity in general, and it is disturbingly obvious: They may have a world of knowledge, but they don't have a bit of sense.

God is smarter than them. They think they can out smart Him; imagine He is not there and hope He will go away. All they are doing is dwelling in the rocks of mental arrogance, but they have another thing coming. Because God is smarter and more powerful than some rock, and when Christ returns, those who mocked His name, and His bride will face is His wrath. And no amount of intelligence will save them then (2 Thess. 1:8-9)

EDOM WAS HIDING IN THE ROCKS OF PHYSICAL MIGHT.

And thy mighty men, O Teman, shall be dismayed, to the end that every one of the mount of Esau may be cut off by slaughter (Oba. 9).

Oh, the arrogance of Edom contines. So filled with pride, they believed they were invincible. They thought they could out-hide God (v6), they thought they could out-smart God (v8), and, as Obadiah points out in verse 9, they thought they could out-muscle God. Obadiah tells God's people: don't worry.

To be concluded.

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