

THE FOREST HILL NEWS

Published weekly by the Forest Hill church of Christ

Visit our Website at www.foresthillchurch.org

Forest Hill Church of Christ

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Minister:

Barry M. Grider

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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THE SONG POLICE

Wayne Jackson

I love my kinsmen in the Lord. But some of them tip the balance with slightly more zeal than knowledge.

Because of the indisputable liberalism that significantly has invaded the church in recent years, there has been a swinging of the pendulum towards the opposite extreme. Some appear to be searching for some "issue" to dispute, and not infrequently they find one – even if it is without significant substance.

One area that has come under particular scrutiny involves the songs that many congregations choose to sing. One gentleman has written a little book in which he catalogs numerous songs that we are told must be discarded because, allegedly, they are "unscriptural." While there obviously are **some** songs in some of the books used by Christian people, that cannot be harmonized with biblical truth, they are far fewer, in my opinion, than some suppose.

The flaws in the thinking of some well-meaning (though misguided) brothers are two-fold. First, their knowledge of the Scriptures is not as precise as it could be. Second, they appear not to understand the legitimate use and value of poetic language. Let me illustrate.

1. One person contends that we may not sing the third stanza of "Praise Him! Praise Him!" because the song affirms that Jesus "reigneth forever." It is alleged that Paul affirmed that the Lord's reign will terminate at His return (1 Cor. 15:25).

While there is a **sense** in which Christ will cease to "reign" at the time of his return (e.g., in his present **mediatorial** capacity as our Advocate when we sin), it also is a fact that there is **another sense** in which the Lord shall reign forever in an endless kingdom (see Luke 1:32-33).

In the book of Revelation, an angel proclaims: "The kingdom of the world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever" (11:15; cf. 1:6; 22:1; Eph. 5:5). I.T. Beckwith observed that though the subject of the verb is God, "the joint sovereignty of Christ is implied in the preceding words" (*The Apocalypse of John*, Grand Rapids: Baker, 1979, p. 609).

2. Another sincere soul opines that we may not sing the second stanza of "Hand in Hand with Jesus," because it affirms that "Jesus heard and answered prayer." If Jesus does not hear, and respond to our prayers, how does he function as our Intercessor (Rom. 8:34), Mediator (1 Tim. 2:5), and Advocate (1 John 2:1; cf. John 14:14 ESV)?

Was Stephen unaware that God's child is forbidden to speak to the ascended Lord (Acts 7:59-60; cf. 1:1, 24)? A devout brother recently argued that an appeal to Christ was permitted in Stephen's case because the situation was "miraculous," but that such is not allowed Christians today. Since when did a "miraculous" environment sanitize that which is wrong intrinsically?

3. A critic has objected to the song, "Night, with Ebon Pinion," because the lyrics assert that when Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane on the evening of his crucifixion, "all around was silent, save the night wind's wail." He declares that one cannot know whether or not the wind was blowing that night.

If we only had the weather report for that fateful eve! Has the dear brother never heard of reasonable poetic license – not to mention the fact that Mediterranean breezes commonly flow eastwardly across Judea's rolling landscape in the

evenings?

But if one is operating in the “objective mood,” he might as well protest the words “night with ebon pinion.” A pinion is a wing, and “ebon” stands for “ebony” – black. The song, if literally pressed, would suggest that the night was as dark as a raven’s wing. This cannot be correct, however, since there was a full moon at the time of Passover. There was, however, a **moral** darkness that shrouded the scene that night.

Too, the strict literalist would have to object to the sentiment that the meek and lowly Savior “bowed his head in prayer.” Actually, the Scriptures do not say that Jesus “bowed” his head in the Garden. He “fell on his face and prayed” (Matt. 26:39; Mark 14:35), and at another time “kneeled down” (Luke 22:41). He did “bow” his head on the cross (John 19:30), but not in the Garden, so far as the record is explicit. Must we be such “nit-pickers”? The Pharisees, in all their glory, were not as meticulous as some of our sweet brethren.

A Concluding Word of Caution

Before we assault a song leader, or a congregation, therefore, for leading and/or singing a song that we deem to be “unscriptural,” we should:

- a. be sure that it is not our **own** knowledge that is lacking; and,
- b. be certain there is no possible room for poetic liberty in the lyrics.

(from www.christiancourier.com)

In Christian love, we
Amanda Elaine Parman

And

Ray Lawrence

Along with our mothers,

Sandra Parman

And

Connie Lawrence,

Invite you to share with us,
When we join as one in matrimony on
Saturday, June 11, 2005 at
Millington Church of Christ
At 2:00 pm

With Reception to follow

**The Elders of the Forest Hill
Church of Christ and Faculty of the
Memphis School of Preaching
Memphis, Tennessee**
Join Mr. And Mrs. Curtis A. Cates
In requesting the pleasure of your presence
At the
Commencement Exercises and Reception
In honor of the Graduates
On Sunday, the nineteenth of June
Two thousand and five

Reception: 2:00-3:00 p.m.
In the Fellowship Hall of the
Forest Hill Church of Christ

Graduation: 6:00 p.m. at the
Forest Hill Church of Christ
3950 Forest Hill Irene Road

Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Thompson
and

Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Martin

Request the honor of your
presence at the marriage
of their children

Lauren Nicole Thompson
and

Matthew Leon Martin

Saturday the Eighteenth of June 2005
At 6:30 in the evening
Forest Hill Church of Christ
3950 Forest Hill-Irene Rd.
Memphis, Tennessee 38125

Reception to follow

NEEDED: MORE CEO'S LIKE

S. TRUETT CATHY

Barry M. Grider

I have long enjoyed eating at Chick-fil-a restaurants. However, this is not an advertisement for them. Rather, as a gospel preacher, who also is a husband/father, I am grateful for the company's founder S. Truett Cathy. Not only do I appreciate his long-standing decision not to open on the Lord's Day but, also, I greatly respect him for some recent statements he made in an interview. When asked, "What do family values mean to you?," Cathy responded,

Faith in the Lord, and a quality home. But we're getting away from both of them. It's very sad and I hope we will get back to what America was founded on. [There are] few individuals who are just trying to be troublemakers, challenging the mixture of faith and freedom of religion. Family values—it's what the ideal home ought to be. The language, the attitude, and to realize the importance of developing children not only emotionally, physically, but spiritually. To read the Bible to them and have them read the Bible. Study the Bible. Discuss the Bible. If we just based all our decisions on biblical principles, then we wouldn't be in the trouble we are today.

Well spoken. God give us more businessmen who operate by the principles of S. Truett Cathy.



★ EYE ON SERVICE ★

★ This past Sunday evening, as I witnessed the remarkable leadership displayed by our young men who were in charge of the service, I could not help but be thankful for the many good influences upon their young lives. One couple in particular has played a significant role in the development of our youth. I am speaking of **Keith and Annette McAlister**. While both of them are professionals in their respective careers, they have worked tirelessly on behalf of our youth program. ★ No deacon at Forest Hill has taken more upon himself than Keith, and Annette has been right by his side. Organizing youth retreats, campaigns, special programs and opening their home to so many are just a few reasons to call attention to their service. They are model parents rearing model children. Keith and Annette, thank you so much. You see, so much could not be done without you! **"Let your light so shine before men..." (Matt. 5:16).**

Barry



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