

THE FOREST HILL NEWS

Published weekly by the Forest Hill church of Christ

Visit our Website at www.foresthillchurch.org

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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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THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD

(Part Four)

Barry M. Grider

Did you know one day every one will stand before Christ and be judged? "For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad (2 Cor. 5:10). How will the Savior judge the world? It shall be according to his divine standard. Jesus said, "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). No one can force another to surrender to Christ. While evangelizing the lost, it is necessary to lovingly teach others the saving truth of the gospel. However, a person can choose to accept or reject that message. Since "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17), let us hear what Jesus said concerning matters relating to the salvation of the soul.

Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come...I said therefore, unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins (John 8:21,24).

I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish (Luke 13:3).

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven (Matt. 10:32,33).

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned (Mark 16:16).

Now the Bible student learns from the above passages that penitent believers, who confess Christ, and are baptized, will be saved. However, if one rejects this teaching he will face Jesus' words in judgement.

And to you who are troubled rest with us, when 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; (II Thess. 1:7-9).

(Continued on page 2)

But someone asks, "What about the Holy Spirit directly touching my heart," "What about praying the sinners prayer," "What about being sprinkled?" What about it? No such teaching is taught in the Scriptures, which will ultimately judge mankind. Let us listen to the words of the Savior and not to men. Such a course is always safe to follow. Our Lord said, "...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Rev. 2:10).

Conclusion

The story is told that one day in an old western town a team of horses got loose from their owner. As these horses barreled down the midst of the main street, a young lawyer, standing on the corner, noticed a little boy playing in the middle of the street. The lawyer knew that if he did not act quickly the horses would run over the little boy and he would be killed. Like a flash of lightening the young lawyer ran into the street and whisked away the boy, rescuing him just in time to save his life. Later, as that little boy grew into adulthood, he got into trouble with the law. After hearing his case, the judge ruled against the young man and pronounced his sentence. All of a sudden the young man realized that the judge was the young lawyer who saved his life years before. He began to plead with the judge and asked him if he remembered saving his life. Indeed, the judge did remember saving his life on an earlier occasion, but reminded the boy, "On that day I was your savior, on this day I am your judge." The sentence stood. Today Jesus Christ stands wearing his blood stained robe of Calvary. He wants to save you! However, on the final day he will wear his black judicial robe and be your judge. Today is the day of salvation. What will you do with the Savior of the World?

A SPECIAL NOTE FROM THE COLES

To Forest Hill Church of Christ:

Thank you so very much for the beautiful plant you sent to us, following the death of my brother Harold. The prayers, cards and calls were also appreciated.

It was so thoughtful of you. We love and appreciate your thinking of us in such a nice way.

Doris Jean and Irby Cole

The Coles have placed the plant in the lobby area of the Forest Hill building for all of us to enjoy. In return, we are grateful for their thoughtfulness.

"THE CHARACTERISTICS OF ACCEPTABLE PRAYER"

Mike Dugger

One of the blessings of being in Christ is the privilege of prayer. Is there any greater joy in all the world than being able to talk to God whenever one desires? Christ made it possible for the faithful Christian to talk to God without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17). As with any blessing, God also teaches us that prayer must be done in accordance with His commands. Jesus taught about prayer as recorded in Matthew 6:5-8.

Prayer must be sincere. Jesus said, "And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that thy may be seen of men" (Matt. 6:5). Those who prayed then, and who pray now, in such a way have their reward on earth through pride, but that is as far as it goes.

Prayer must be simple. Jesus said, "But when ye pray, use not vain repetition, as the heathen do: or they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking" (Matt. 6:7). One needs to keep in mind that God is able to hear and understand our prayers without trite phrases and big words. That is not to say that the good use of the English language (in the USA) is sinful, but it is to say that one should not use words in his prayers that are not typical for his everyday speech. Perhaps the men who lead prayers in public as commanded by Paul (1 Tim. 2:8) have the greatest difficulty with this concept. Often times, having heard public prayers throughout one's life, certain phrases become more habitual than meaningful. Typically, with nerves on edge as a result of being in front of a crowd, one may say things, which he never intends. Avoiding this symptom of nervousness can be accomplished by planning ahead of time what one is going to say in his publicly led prayer. Some men I know even write out their prayers, which are to be given publicly so that they are able to lead effectively in front of a crowd. For ladies, this same teaching would apply when they are in a non-mixed assembly. Prayer does not have to be elaborate or long to be effective with God.

Prayer must not be for show. Jesus said, "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly" (Matt. 6:6). This "closet" is not literal, for we see examples of the early Christians throughout the New Testament record praying in all manner of places. Jesus is, however, teaching that prayer is not a ritual in which one can show off, but a special blessing which one has with God. God will hear and answer prayer even if no one else knows that the other is praying.

God-approved prayer should help us feel secure. Jesus said, "Your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him" (Matt. 6:8). While God knows what is needed, He still commands and loves prayer (Acts 2:42; 1 Thess. 5:17). Prayer must be done in the name of Christ (Col. 3:17) and according to the will of God (1 Jno. 5:14). But what about those times (such as sickness or the like) when we do not know God's will on the matter? One blessing of being in Christ is the fact that when one does not know for what to pray the Spirit intercedes for us at the throne of God and delivers that prayer to God in accordance with whatever His will might be (Rom. 8:26-27).

Prayer is an honor that must not be taken lightly. Like all other parts of God's wonderful grace, it too has characteristics, which God requires and can be done in a way that is not pleasing to Him. Let all strive to pray acceptably to the Creator of all the Universe and the Father of every good and perfect gift.

I SHALL RETURN

Matthew Martin

The phrase -- among the most famous in American history -- is practically synonymous with Douglas MacArthur. It is known even to those who know nothing else about him. The statement is the last part of a simple message to reporters shortly after his harrowing escape and arrival in Australia. The phrase was pure MacArthur, i.e. first-person, highly dramatic, and deliberately grandiose. In the context of World War II, General McArthur's statement "I shall return" seems mightily important. But when viewed on the pages of eternity, it is no bigger than a footnote. There is a return, however, that is much more important. One that will end, not just a war between mortals, but a war for the souls of men. Christ shall return. He said he would in John 14:1-3:

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Furthermore, the angels declared His return, just moments after He left:

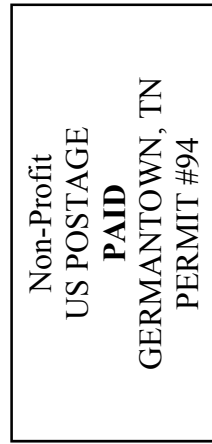
And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. (Acts 1:10-11).

While most in the conservative religious community will agree that Jesus will return, the disagreements start when the question is raised: What will he do when He gets here? Everyone has a different idea as to what will, and will not happen, but the Bible (as it always does) provides the definitive answer.

JESUS SHALL RETURN WHEN GOD SAYS SO

From a cheap looking tabloid at the grocery store to the Barnes & Noble bestseller "Left Behind" everyone thinks they know when Jesus will return. The truth is they don't have a clue.

(to be continued)



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