

# University Heights Church of Christ

BULLETIN

November 16, 2008

## Good People

**Acts 11:19** "Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen traveled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but to the Jews only. 20 And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spoke to the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus. 21 And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned to the Lord. 22 Then tidings of these things came to the ears of the church, which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch. 23 Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave to the Lord. 24 For **he was a good man**, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith: and much people was added to the Lord. 25 Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul: 26 And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch."

All Christians must be good people as Barnabas was.

**GOOD** BDB/Thayers # 18

18 agathos {ag-ath-os'}

a primary word; TDNT - 1:10,3; adj

AV - good 77, good thing 14, that which is good+3588 8,

the thing which is good+3588 1, well 1, benefit 1; 102

1) of good constitution or nature

2) useful, salutary

3) good, pleasant, agreeable, joyful, happy

4) excellent, distinguished

5) upright, honorable

Some questioned whether or not Jesus was a good man.

**John 7:11** "Then the Jews sought him at the feast, and said, Where is he? 12 And there was much murmuring among the people concerning him: for some said, He is **a good man**: others said, No; but he deceives the people. 13 Howbeit no man spoke openly of him for fear of the Jews."

A good person is one that **treasures good things** and because of that attitude of **high regard for good** has a **mind filled with good things**. When a good person speaks their words are good because their words reflect **the good things treasured up in their heart, the part of their mind that they control**. The opposite is true of an evil person.

**Matthew 12:34** "O generation of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. 35 A **good man** out of **the good treasure of the heart brings forth good things**: and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. 36 But I say to you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. 37 For by your words you shall be justified, and by your words you shall be condemned."

God alone is **thoroughly good**. Good humans are at best only **relatively good**.

**Matthew 19:16** "And, behold, one came and said to him, **Good Master**, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? 17 And he said to him, Why call you me **good**? [there is] none **good** but one, [that is], God: but if you will enter into life, keep the commandments."

Even though we humans have limits as to the level of goodness we can achieve our duty to God requires us to fully meet God's expectations in being like God to the absolute maximum of our personal potential.

**Matthew 5:43** "You have heard that it has been said, You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy. 44 But I say to you, **Love** your enemies, **bless** them that curse you, **do good** to them that hate you, and **pray for** them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45 **That you may be the children of your Father which is in heaven**: for he makes his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you **love** them which love you, what reward have you? Do not even the publicans the same? 47 And if you **salute** your brethren only, what do you more [than others]? Do not even the publicans so? 48 **Be you therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.**"

A person that **is not being good is not being a Christian**. In order to be saved a person must be good. **Baptism does not justify continued evil behavior. God forgives sins that we stop doing. If we will not give up the sin we will not be free from the guilt of the sin we will not give up. To be saved a person must become a good person.**

Does that mean that **all good persons are saved**? If a person is a good person is that person saved because he or she is a good person? They **certainly cannot be saved without becoming a good person but will being a good person save them**?

**Acts 10:1** "There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian [band], 2 [a] **devout** [man], and one that **feared God with all his house**, which **gave much alms to the people**, and **prayed to God always**."

There is a difference between being a **good man** and a **faithful man**. **All faithful people must be good people** but **all good people are not faithful people**. **All faithful people** must be **devout people** but there are **many devout people that are not faithful people**. In order to be a **faithful person a person must know God's will and do God's will**. Jesus said that.

**Mark 16:15** "And he said to them, Go you into all the world, and **preach the gospel** to every creature. 16 **He that believes and is baptized shall be saved**; but he that believes not shall be damned."

In order to be saved the **good man** Cornelius needed to become a **faithful good man**, so Cornelius was **told how to go about doing that**.

**Acts 10: 5** "And now send men to Joppa, and call for [one] Simon, whose surname is Peter: 6 He lodges with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: **he shall tell you what you ought to do.**"

**Acts 10:33** "Now therefore are we all here present before God, **to hear all things that are commanded you of God.**"

**Acts 10:48** "And **he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.**"

By doing what God had revealed was God's will, good, devout but unsaved Cornelius became faithful good devout saved Cornelius. The difference between being a saved or an unsaved person is **what you know about the inspired word of God and what you do with that knowledge**. The inspired words of Peter were words by which Cornelius and his household were saved. **Acts 11:13-14**

## Remember To Pray For

Mary Jane Frost recovering from cancer surgery

Melanie Bilye of Brookshire, TX

Melanie is the sister of Michael Hurst, the preacher we help support in Starkville, MS

The Higginbotham and Parker families

Rick Shamas

Bonnie Wells

Sarah Phillips

David Alford

Carol Bach

Marian Lyda

Edith Tirey

Waldine Childress

Jeanette Lindsey

Lucy Hale

Pamela Clayton

Ella Wells, and her family

Dallis and Alma Isaacs

Lorene Pagan

Freddie Ward

David and Chessie Harwell

Donna Caldwell

Mabel Greene

Tony Tyree

Ruth Brundige

Cindy Miller

Christie Ellis

Shirley Lewis

Brady Gibbons

Gail Hunter

Larry Flannery

Donnie Joseph

Cheryl Spear

Lanny Hiller

Charity and Abdiel Pallafox

Helen Stephens

Chris Handshoe

Jeffrey Howerton

Addison Pervine

Carl Stripplehoff

Tom Kemp

Freda Blakey

The actual recorded teachings of the one that taught his disciples to expect to be martyrs soon began to be ignored by many who called themselves Christians. Those of that digressive mind built religions that gave lip service to Jesus as the Christ and the New Testament as the inspired word of God but were more the products of fleshly-minded human inventions than of anything found in the New Testament.

By 300 AD the carnally appealing alloys of human imaginations and New Testament teachings became popular enough to be sought after allies by those involved in secular wars for political power. The precious name of the crucified Savior was used by them as an excuse to attempt to conquer and destroy with battle axes and spears, instead of as the inspiration to teach the New Testament and suffer.

## Thoughts

From the very beginning commitment has moved the work of the Lord forward

**Philippians 4:15** "Now you Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but you only."

Paul was committed to preaching the gospel and the Christians that made up the local church at Philippi were committed to giving Paul financial support to help him preach.

In spite of the fact that at the time Paul referred to, no church other than the church at Philippi was committed to supporting Paul, the commitment of one willing church and one willing preacher worked to extend the borders of the kingdom of God.

In the New Testament when a church such as the church at Philippi sent financial support to a preacher the **support was sent directly from the church to the preacher**, not to any other person or organization. In the New Testament there is no "Missionary Society" or "Sponsoring Church" inbetween the supporting church and the preacher that is being supported. The Philippian church sent and Paul received. Faithful churches of Christ still support preachers that way because that is the New Testament way. In order to be a faithful church a church has to do what it does the New Testament way.

We cannot know what other churches did not support Paul at that time or what the reasons (or excuses) were for them not supporting him. But we can be very glad that the local church at Philippi did choose to send Paul support because that support allowed Paul to give more time to preaching and less time to tent making and preaching saves souls.

**1 Corinthians 1:21** "For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."

Not all of those associated with the Lord's church in the first century were equally committed to the Lord's work.

**Philippians 2:20** "For I have no man like-minded, who will naturally care for your state. 21 For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's."

What if Paul had not had Timothy (the person Paul was referring to in **verse 20**)? What if Timothy had also been seeking his own not the things that are Jesus Christ's? Timothy had as much right to seek his own as anyone else did. The borders of the Lord's kingdom extended by the efforts of the few who were committed above all else to working for the welfare of the kingdom of God.

On another occasion Paul indicated that he had been forsaken by many if not actually most of those to whom he had brought the good news of the teachings of Jesus.

**2 Timothy 1:15** "This you know, that all they which are in Asia be turned away from me; of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes."

Demas is mentioned by name as one who forsook Paul.

**2 Timothy 4:10** "For Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed to Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia."

All of those who left the fellowship of the apostles did not leave religion. Many were successful in influencing Christians to turn away from the apostles and to associate themselves with the false teachers. **Galatians** and **3John** indicate that.

**Galatians 1:7** "There be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ."

**3 John 9** "Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, receives us not."

## Notes

We rejoice with Esmeralda Agustin and are thankful to God for the saving power of his word. Esmeralda came to the USA from the Philippines to work as a teacher in the Fayette County school system. She became acquainted with some members of this church. At their invitation she began to visit the services here and to participate in private Bible studies. On **October 30, 2008** she was baptized into Christ here at the building. We are very happy to have her meeting with us and sharing in the blessings of the blood bought body of Jesus Christ.

We also rejoice at the addition of **Jeff Morris** to our number here. Jeff has moved back to Lexington from Louisville. We are glad to have him with us.

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There will be an informational meeting next Sunday November 23, at 4:30PM

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## Schedule of Services

### Sunday Morning

Bible Classes 9:45 AM

Worship Service 10:45 AM

### Sunday Evening

Worship Service 6:00 PM

### Wednesday Evening

Bible Studies (all ages) 7:30 PM

### Monthly Song Service

First Friday each month 7:30 PM

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## University Heights

## Church of Christ

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