

Continued from Page Three, "My People Love To Have It So"

1:28-29)! Friend, what is stopping you from doing that which is right? Don't delay! Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com♦

the truth, and the life," Jesus Christ our Lord (Jn. 14:6; Col.

### Seven Habits of Extremely Wise People By Jonathan L. Perz

There are many self help books on the market that help one to become better at something (i.e., Seven Habits Of Highly Effective People). I would like to propose seven things that an extremely wise person would take heed and follow. It is written in **Psalms 107:43**, "Whoever is wise, and will observe these things, even they will understand the lovingkindness of the LORD."

1. A wise man HEARS the Word of God (**Rom. 1:16; 10:17**). He is not only a hearer but a doer of the word as well (**Jas. 1:23-25**). This is the source of all of his counsel (**Psa. 119**).

2. A wise man BELIEVES in the deity of Christ (**John 8:24; 3:16**). He believes not only in the deity of Christ, but he believes and lives by every word that comes from the Lord.

3. A wise man REPENTS of his sins (**Luke 13:5; Acts 2:38; 17:30**). He daily repents of his sins as he becomes aware of them and strives to keep himself unspotted from the world (**1 John 1:8-9; Prov. 28:13; Jas. 1:27b**).

4. A wise man CONFESSES faith in Christ (**Rom. 10:9-10; Acts 8:36-39**). He confesses it when he begins his walk with Christ and will tell everyone of the great things the Lord has done for him (**Mark 5:19**).

5. A wise man is BAPTIZED into Christ for the remission of his sins (**Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:26-27; 1 Pet. 3:21**). He is completely immersed in a watery grave, and rises to walk in newness of life.

6. A wise man REMAINS FAITHFUL throughout his life (**Rev. 2:10; Heb. 10:36-39**). Once his primary obedience is accomplished, he must remain faithful to gain the crown.

7. A wise man will plan to spend his ETERNITY IN HEAVEN (**Matt. 25:34, 46**). This is the reward of faith, and I can think of no wiser plans to make than to spend life eternal in heaven.

Credit: www.moodychurchofchrist.com ♦

### Think It Over

Isn't it strange how some Christians can be pushed and insulted in the ticket line at a ball game, ignored at the barber shop or beauty shop, bawled out in the grocery store, yet they never cease to frequent these places? However, if they feel slighted at a church service, they often refuse to attend for weeks, and sometimes quit for good. Yes, it is strange, isn't it? Not only is it strange, it is inconsistent. Being peeved at the brethren and forsaking the Lord is as logical as being angry at the dog and kicking the cat.

### About the Hillcrest church of Christ

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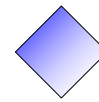


#### Schedule of Assembly

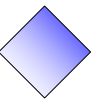
Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am  
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am  
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm\*

\*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month

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# The Voice of Truth



November 14, 2010

### Praise The Lord!

By Jimmy Pettigrew

"O praise the Lord, all ye nations: praise him all ye people" (**Psalms 117:1**). The Christian enjoys the opportunity to assemble with brothers and sisters in Christ and worship God by singing praises to our Maker. What a privilege it is to worship God in this way. One can hardly help wonder how many Christians give thought to the songs they sing during worship.

The purpose of worship is to give something to God. It may be asked: How can we give God anything when singing? "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name" (**Hebrews 13:15**). When we worship, we give God homage, adoration, devotion, praise, love and services. The fact that people do not understand this explains why we have churches worshipping God with instrumental music. God hastens the day when we come to realize that every act of worship is designed to give us the opportunity to give God something. It's not to have the denominational concept that the primary purpose of worship is for us to GET something out of worship.

"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (**Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16**). What are these verses telling us? One thing they are saying is, "I sing to you while you sing to me and vice versa." The church itself is to sing; yes, each saint who is a member of a local congregation has the obligation to sing! No one can do this worshipping for you! We are commanded to sing; it is your responsibility. Whenever God stipulates for a certain activity to be done by each saint in the assembly, He means for it to be done by each saint! This is why chorus groups, quartets and other special singing groups are proven to be UNSCRIPTURAL!

If one changes the reason for singing from teaching, admonishing, and giving homage to entertainment, he is practicing vain worship (**Matthew 15:9**).

One of the purposes of singing is to express our love to God! Why? The fact that we are saved by the blood of the Lamb! No one can do this for us! ♦

### The Great Day That Is Coming

By Jimmy Pettigrew

There are various kinds of days. There are important personal days: birthdays, marriage, anniversaries. There are important days set forth in the Bible. The Israelites had significant days: Passover and Sabbath. The "first day of the week" is a significant day for the Christian (**Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2**). The "Day of the Lord" is the great day that's coming! Men must prepare now for the day of the Lord. Death is not the end of life because there is a great day coming (**John 5:28-29**).

The Lord's return is a sure promise (**2 Peter 3:9; John 14:1-3**). The "day of the Lord" will come as a "thief," unexpectedly, suddenly (**1 Thessalonians 5:1-2; 2 Peter 3:10**). There are no "ifs, ands, or buts" about the Lord's second coming. When Jesus comes "the heavens shall pass away

with a great noise, and the elements shall melt -with fervent heat" (**2 Peter 3:10**). God, by the power of His word, brought all material things into existence (**Genesis 1:1**). When He wills His creation to cease, it shall do so! The physical heavens, at Christ's second coming, along with "...the elements..." and "...the earth..." "will, by fire be consumed. The material universe shall be destroyed.

In view of the sure promise of Christ relative to His coming and the end of the world "what manner of persons ought ye to be?" (**2 Peter 3:11**):

- (1) People of faith (**1 Peter 1:5-9**).
- (2) Obedient people (**1 Peter 1:22-23**).

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- (3) Holy people (1 Peter 1:15-16).  
 (4) Diligent people (2 Peter 1:10).

The wise man wrote, "Where there is no vision, the people perish," (Proverbs 29:18). Unless you know where you

### "My People Love To Have It So" By Jarrod Jacobs

Jeremiah, the weeping prophet proclaimed, "An appalling and horrible thing has happened in the land: The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule on their own authority; And My people love it so!" (Jer. 5:30-31, NAS). As Jeremiah warned God's people of their sins, and of the coming captivity by the Babylonians, he found that his own people ignored him. Therefore, he ended this chapter by asking, "But what will you do at the end of it?" What would they do seeing that the people loved engaging in wicked things, and loved seeing others engaged in wicked practices as well? They refused God's warnings, and were content to live in sin, enjoying earthly, filthy, and lewd pleasures.

Unfortunately, this attitude is still prevalent with men. Just like in Jeremiah's day, people do not consider the consequences of their actions, but are striving for that which makes them "happy," "content," or "comfortable" and "love to have it so" (Jer. 5:31, KJV)! Consider the following "modern-day" examples of this problem:

#### "Faith Only"

Some believe and teach that man is saved at the point of faith alone or "faith only", even though the Bible teaches no such thing. James said, "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only" (Jas. 2:24). Christ requires a man to believe in Him, repent of his sins, and be baptized in order to be saved (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38). Faith alone is dead (Jas. 2:26)! Sadly, people "love to have it so" in regards to this false doctrine. Where is the outrage from godly men who know there are so many lost because of the false doctrine of "faith only"?

#### "Once Saved, Always Saved"

Some believe and teach that once a man is saved from past sins, he can never act in such a way as to forfeit the promise of a home in Heaven. Such will admit that a man may sin from time to time; yet they claim this has no bearing on the soul of that man. The Bible doesn't teach this

want to go, you are not likely to get there! We must "watch" (Matthew 24:42), and "be ready" (Matthew 24:44). •

doctrine! Consider the words of the apostle Paul in I Corinthians 9:27. Why would he be concerned about his being a "castaway" if he could not sin and ultimately be lost in Hell? He also told Timothy, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils" (I Tim. 4:1). The Hebrew writer penned, "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God" (Heb. 3:12). Friend, we cannot depart from a place we have never been! The Bible's plain declaration that some folks had departed from "the faith" and departed from "the living God," imply they were in that relationship at some point! Yes, man can so sin as to fall from grace (Gal. 5:4) and be lost in eternity. Do not fool yourself, nor allow others to fool you on this most important truth!

#### "No Difference Between The Individual's And The Local Church's Work"

There are those today who teach that there is no difference between the work of the church and the work of individual saints. They say things like: "Whatever the individual can do, the church can do". The Bible does not teach this. In fact, Jesus made a distinction between an individual, a group of individuals, and the church (Matt. 18:15-17). We need to do the same. Paul told Timothy, "If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed" (I Tim. 5:16). Yes, the responsibilities of the individual and church are separate. It is not "what one can do, the other can do"! The local church has a responsibility to preach the truth, help needy saints, and edify the saints (I Thess. 1:8; I Tim. 5:16; I Thess. 5:11; etc.). This is the limit and scope of what a local congregation can do. Why would people want it any other way? Why do people today wish to drag the local church into works in which she was never to be engaged? (I.E., distributing funds to any and every one, providing for social and recreational activities, etc.?) These

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are responsibilities of the individual, not the local church! Sadly, so long as God's people "love to have it so," there will be apostates in this world!

#### "The Authority Of Christ"

Christ has all authority today (Matt. 28:18). He is the One that we follow, doing all things by His authority (Col. 3:17). Why then do we find those who are promoting the idea that man is his own authority, and we are only answerable to ourselves? Yes, there are those who say that once this life is over, our existence is over; therefore we may live as we please without eternal consequences. Unfortunately, this type of thinking is wrong. This makes for a life based upon the worst; when Christians are supposed to strive toward the best! We must have our eyes on Heaven (Col. 3:1-4; Matt. 6:19-21, 33)! Paul said, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Phil. 1:21). The only way one can say his death is "gain" is if his life has been "Christ"! In other words, all our ambitions, aspirations, and activities are summed up in the One who died for us and sits at the right hand of God (Mk. 16:19).

Consider this: "For to me to live is \_\_\_\_\_ and to die is \_\_\_\_\_." If we do not put "Christ" in the first blank, we cannot put "gain" in the last blank! We may place anything in the first blank, but if our life is not "Christ," then our deaths will not be "gain"! Yet, people place things other than Christ in the first blank and "love to have it so." Why? Why waste our lives in activities that are not conducive to our going to Heaven? Are we waiting for something better?

#### "The Church Of Your Choice"

Many people belong to denominations of various names. It may be the Baptists, Methodists, Catholics, Pentecostals, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Wesleyans, or a thousand other groups. They "love" to say, "Join the church of your choice." They "love" to say, "We're on different roads to the same goal." However, the Bible says that Christ built only one church (Matt. 16:18). Paul taught that Christ shed His blood for only one church (Acts 20:28). I Corinthians 3:11 declares, "other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." Peter uses Isaiah's prophecy to show that Christ is "the head of the corner" and Christians are "lively (living) stones" (I Pet. 2:5-7). The Lord adds Christians to "the" church (Acts 2:47). In fact, in a discussion of Christ and the church, we find a comparison between the husband-wife relationship (Eph. 5:22-33). Now, does man have the right to have

more than one wife? If not, why say that Christ has more than one church? Even though there are false teachers spreading lies, and even though some "love to have it so" when it comes to choosing "their church;" this is as wrong as it can be! We need to get back to following the Lord's word and will concerning this and all other subjects!

#### Conclusion

What about you, friend? What do you love? What do you want to hear from the pulpit? What do you want to read in publications such as this? When one comes as Jeremiah, pleading for men to return to the "old paths" and to "walk therein," do we say "we will not" (Jer. 6:16)? Are we as those in Isaiah's day who, "say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits: Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us" (Isa. 30:10-11)? Are we so enamored by men's doctrine (Matt. 15:9) that we "call evil good, and good evil; ... put darkness for light, and light for darkness; ... put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter" (Isa. 5:20)? Yes, too many are like this today. The question is whether or not we have become like the world, or like Christ.

Knowing that "it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jer. 10:23), who will we follow? What do we "love"? A better question would be WHO do we "love"? Remember John 14:15? Are we still appalled at the prospect of false doctrine among God's people? Does it still bother us to know that there is a lost and dying world that does not know what it means to be a Christian? Have we become complacent? I hope not!

Jeremiah's question comes to all of us, "What will you do...?" Every day this question is before us, and every day we answer. We answer through complacency and laziness. We answer by yielding to temptations. We also answer by living as God's peculiar people, zealous of good works, confessing Him through our actions as well as our words (Tit. 2:14, 1:16). How will you answer this question today? This week? This month?

Don't allow Satan to have another day, but make sure that you are living in a way that is pleasing to God. Be a Jeremiah! Be a Moses! Be a Joseph! Be a Joshua! Be a Paul! Be a Jude! Be a John! Let us not be satisfied with what Satan has done to this world; but let us fight against the sin and error that abounds and show people "the way,

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