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**TOMORROW is Satan's best scheme in keeping men and women lost.** Yes, Satan knows he will never destroy your faith in the Bible, or your belief in the love of God. He does not care when you realize that you need to be a

Christian. He knows all of these things are of no avail if he can keep you waiting until TOMORROW.

*"Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth" (Prov. 27:1).*

Credit: [www.moodychurchofchrist.com](http://www.moodychurchofchrist.com) ♦

### Are You Heaven Bound?

By David J. Riggs

It matters not what else you do in life, if you miss heaven you have been a complete failure. You might gather about you great riches and fame and leave thousands of friends to mourn your departing, but if you are not ready for heaven you have been a miserable failure. On the other hand, you may die in a charity home for the poor and be buried in a potter's field without a single friend to mourn, but if you receive heaven, your life has been a marvelous success.

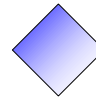
You can't afford to miss heaven for if you miss it, you miss all. It is the place of eternal rest (**Heb. 4:9-11**) where pain, sickness, and death will not be known (**Rev. 21:4**). It is an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that does not fade away (**1 Pet. 1:4**). It is that city built by the living God (**Heb. 11:10**).

You don't have to miss heaven. Humbly submit yourself

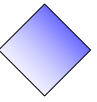
to the will of God (**Matt. 7:21**). Let His Word guide you (**2 Tim. 3:15**) and let no one beguile you or your reward (**Col. 2:18**). Overcome temptations (**James 1:12**) and suffer for His cause with rejoicing (**Matt. 5:11-12**). If you do these things, heaven will be yours someday for the God of heaven who cannot lie has promised it.

I quote a few words from some of our songs: "I am going to a city where the streets with gold are laid, where the tree of life is blooming, and the roses never fade. Here they bloom but for a season, soon their beauty is decayed; I am going to a city where the roses never fade." "I am bound for the promised land, promised land, I am bound for the promised land; O who will come and go with me? I am bound for the promised land." "When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun; we've now less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun."

Credit: <http://oakridgechurch.com/riggs/> ♦



# The Voice of Truth



May 2, 2010

## Children's Church By Jimmy Pettigrew

Many innovations have been introduced into the Lord's church in the past several decades, such as instrumental music, quartets, choirs, special music, and women in the leadership roles. One of the common abuses we find in the Lord's body is the practice of removing part or all of the children from the worship service and letting them have their own little service, called Children's Church. Children's church (worship) is just another denominational concept many of our brethren have adopted. Why do we get caught up in all of these denominational innovations and fantasies? Because, my brethren are more interested in what people like, the mad craze for members, rather than quality.

What is Children's Church or Children's Bible Hour? It is a separate worship hour for children of different ages conducted by adults at the same time as the worship assembly is being conducted. Some will say: What is wrong with Children's Church?! The purpose is said to be to teach children how to worship through experience. It is better to teach on the child's level. If we can divide the children from the adults, then why can we not do the same for all ages? Don't the elderly learn in a different way than young married people? Shouldn't they be divided up so they can learn better? Why not divide up our assembly based on education? Don't the PhD's learn on a different level than the high school drop outs? If we can divide an assembly one time, then we can divide it as many times as we want. But, it is without **SCRIPTURAL AUTHORITY**. We have authority given throughout the New Testament for the way we worship God. We worship through prayers (**Acts 2:42**), taking the Lord's Supper (**Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11**), giving of our means (contributing) (**1 Corinthians 16:1-2**), singing (**Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16**), and we have authority to teach and preach (**Acts 2:42; 20:7**). If worship is somehow boring or uninteresting to our children, then perhaps it's us who need to change, not our methods for worshipping God! We are commanded to do all things in Jesus' name; that is, by His authority (**Colossians 3:17**). There is nothing we have to do in order to improve wor-

ship. Sadly enough, we have some among churches of Christ today who have little or no conviction concerning faithful adherence to the New Testament pattern for worship. So it is with Children's Church, **NO BIBLE AUTHORITY!** This concept violates, defiles, and contaminates scriptures that relate to the principle of one assembly for worship on the first day of the week (**1 Corinthians 11:33; 14:23; Hebrews 10:24-25**). The Bible commands the whole congregation of the church to assemble together for worship in **ONE ASSEMBLY**. These passages are an explicit commandment for the church of our Lord to come together in one place at the same time when we worship Him. The whole church was to assemble to partake of the Lord's Supper (**Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:20**). Examine **1 Corinthians 11:33**: "... when ye come together . . . wait for one another . . ." How can we come together in different assemblies? "...Ye being gathered together..." (**1 Corinthians 5:4**). "Not forsaking the assembling. . ." (**Hebrews 10:25**). What assemblies? How many assemblies are covered? "For if there come any into your assembly..." (**James 2:2**). Which assembly?

Children's Church is a separate assembly falsely assuming that a child cannot be properly taught in the worship assembly. Did God make a mistake when He commanded the children to assemble with the congregation in the Old Testament? "Assemble the people, the men and the women and the little ones, and thy sojourner that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear Jehovah your God, and observe to do all the words of this law; and that their children, who have not known, may hear, and learn to fear Jehovah your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over the Jordan to possess it" (**Deuteronomy 31:12-13**). Every Israelite, men, women, children, and including the stranger, should learn to reverence and obey God. *Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly; gather the people, sanctify the assembly, assemble the old men,*

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About the Hillcrest church of Christ		
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How to Contact Us	Our Address	Schedule of Assembly
Telephone: (920)499-5677 E-mail: <a href="mailto:hillcrestcofc@live.com">hillcrestcofc@live.com</a>  	1621 Hillcrest Drive Green Bay, WI 54313 	Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm* <small>*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month</small>
<b>www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com</b>		

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gather the children, and those that suck the breasts; let the bridegroom go forth from his chamber, and the bride out of her closet. Let the priests, the ministers of Jehovah, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, "Spare thy people, O Jehovah, and give not thy heritage to reproach, that the nations should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'" (Joel 2:15-17). When the solemn assembly was

### Our Earthly Tabernacle By David Padfield

While the apostle Paul was preaching at Corinth he met Aquila and Priscilla. "Because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers" (Acts 18:3). Like every Jewish boy, Paul had learned a manual trade aside from his chosen profession in life.

When writing to the saints at Philippi he spoke of his conflicting desires. On one hand he desired "to depart and be with Christ" (Phil. 1:23). On the other hand, he wanted to continue in his evangelistic work which would bring fruit from his labor (Phil. 1:22).

The phrase "to depart" is from a Greek military term which means "to break camp" or "strike ones tent" (Marvin Vincent, Word Studies In The New Testament, Vol. III, p. 425). Paul wrote these words while a prisoner in the barracks of the Praetorian Guard. No doubt Paul had watched Roman soldiers set up their tents and take them down a few days later. Paul was eagerly awaiting the day when his fleshly tent would be taken down for the last time.

In John 1:14 we read, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." According to A.T. Robertson, the verb dwelt means "to pitch one's tent or tabernacle" (Word Pictures In The New Testament, Vol. V, p. 13). What a thought the Lord of glory left heaven to take up residence in a tent!

The apostle Peter also compared his body to a tent. "Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me" (2 Peter 1:13-14).

Why would Bible writers compare our physical bodies to a tent?

called, even the children and suckling babes were to assemble with the elders to listen to the words of the priests. Did God know that this was not a good arrangement? **ABSURD, FOOLISH, LUDICROUS!**

Before one introduces anything into worship of the church he must have Bible authority. Let those who affirm that Children's Church is acceptable prove it by scripture. We need to get back to serious worship in the church! ♦

### A Pilgrim's Journey

When God spoke with Abraham, He told him to leave his homeland and journey to a foreign land (Genesis 12:13). "By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would afterward receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth" (Hebrews 11:8-10, 13).

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob lived in tents, though they could have lived in mansions. During their journey "they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth." They lived in tents because they were waiting for "the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God."

As Paul comforted the brethren at Corinth about the resurrection, he said, "For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. Therefore we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are

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absent from the Lord" (2 Cor. 5:1-6).

Paul makes two main points in this passage. First, when we put off our tent, we will have a permanent home in heaven (vs. 1). Second, while we are in this tent we are separated from God (vs. 6). Our earthly journey keeps us at a distance from Christ.

### Tents Speak Of Brevity

I enjoy camping. I love to set up our tent and gather firewood. My kids like sitting around the Coleman lantern telling jokes. I don't even mind sleeping on the ground. A night or two in a tent brings the family closer together. But, as much as I enjoy camping, I would hate to think of having to live in a tent permanently. We should feel the same way about our physical body (our present tent).

James rebuked those who put too much trust in the future. "Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit;' whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that'" (James 4:13-15).

All our future plans depend on the continuance of this life, what a frail and uncertain thing that is. Who knows the duration of a vapor? What hopes can be built on a mist?

One thing that should spur us on in the preaching of the gospel is the brevity of life. Several years ago I put a little sign on the pulpit which says, "The Apostle Paul. He preached as though he would never preach again, a dying man to dying men." I don't recall where I first read that quote, but I have tried to fashion my preaching around it.

### Brevity Means Urgency

In the Prayer of Moses we read that "The days of our lives are seventy years; and if by reason of strength they are eighty years, yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away" (Psa. 90:10). Though our lives might span seventy or eighty years, we are "soon cut off, and we fly away." Since our life is so brief, we need to get busy.

Parents must bring up their children "in the training

and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). Young people must "Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, 'I have no pleasure in them'" (Eccl. 12:1). Elders must "take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28). Gospel preachers must "Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching" (2 Timothy 4:2).

All of us must use our time wisely. Paul said, "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Eph. 5:15-16). We cannot spend our time thinking about "what might have been." Jesus warns us that "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62).

Each day we live moves us one day closer to our final camp. One day we will strike this camp for the last time and exchange our earthly tent for a home in glory. ♦

### Tomorrow Author unknown

**TOMORROW is the great enemy of advancement.** Boasting of TOMORROW is the lazy man's way of evading today's duties. TOMORROW leaves more tasks undone, more books unread, more houses un-cleaned, more programs un-launched, more resolutions un-kept than any other factor of life.

**TOMORROW is the great enemy of the church.** Our greatest liability is not our ignorance, nor our unconcern, nor our unwillingness, but—TOMORROW. More absentees have been neglected, more prospects have gone un-enlisted, more lessons have gone unprepared, and more lost people have gone unsaved because of TOMORROW than any other reason.

**TOMORROW is the great enemy of the soul.** TOMORROW has probably sent more people to hell than all other causes combined. While many infidels, agnostics, and atheists have gone to hell, thousands of "believers" have gone because they counted on TOMORROW.

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