

## What Do I Owe My Congregation? Author unknown

**I owe it my loyalty.** I must help carry out every good work it undertakes. I should help other congregations in special efforts, but I should not neglect my home congregation. I owe it my dependability. I am depending on it for many things it does in my behalf. It is not fair and right for me to depend on it and not be such that it cannot depend on me.

**I owe it my financial support.** It takes money to operate the church and preach the gospel. I am responsible to the Lord to give as He has prospered me. My home congregation has first call on my financial ability, for if the members of the church do not support the work of the home congregation, it will not be supported. The expenses go on whether I am there or not, so I should make up my contribution when absent.

**I owe it my presence.** If everyone stayed home there would be no worship of God. I am responsible as anyone to attend all of my congregation's services. I must not be a parasite.

**I owe it the influence of a godly life.** The life I live either helps others to obey the gospel or makes it the harder for them. How I live affects the work of the church and the salvation of the lost. I should live in such a way that my life will be blessing to others. ♦

## GOD HAS A RIGHT Author unknown

- God has a right to a definite part of your time
- He has the power to take all of it.
- God has a right to a definite part of your money
- He has the power to take all of it.
- God has a right to be glorified through your tongue
- He has the power to take all of it.
- God has a right to be honored through your influence
- He has the power to take all of it.
- God has a right to your life ♦

## What Must I Do To Be Saved?

- Hear and Learn** - Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; John 6:45; 17:3  
**Believe** - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24  
**Repent** - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30  
**Confess the Lord** - Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21  
**Be Baptized** - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27  
**Continue in the Apostles' Teaching** - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17

## About the Hillcrest church of Christ

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### Our Address

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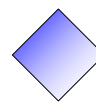


### Schedule of Assembly

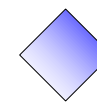
**Bible Study:** Sunday, 9:00am  
**Worship Service:** Sunday, 10:00am  
**Bible Study:** Wednesday, 7:00pm\*

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

www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com



# The Voice of Truth



October 16, 2011

## The Eyes Of The Lord By Jimmy Pettigrew

God is watching! *“For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, And his ears unto their supplication: But the face of the Lord is upon them that do evil” (1 Peter 3:12).* The righteous are the ones over whom God watches to bless them. They are here contrasted with *them that do evil.* God’s protection, guardianship, and care are so meaningful for the Christian. God sees all that happens on the earth. We are prone to accept only that which is visible, and since we cannot see God watching, we are unmindful of His constant surveillance!

So, it is difficult for any of us to remember always that there is an all seeing eye watching our every our every act at all times. Yet, we’re told, *“Jehovah looketh from heaven; He beholdeth all the sons of men; From the place of his habitation he looketh forth upon all the inhabitants of the earth, He that fashioneth the hearts of them all, that considereth all their works” (Psalm 33:13-14).* God sees and knows all that takes place in the world. *“The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good” (Proverbs 15:3).* There is no possible way to escape this all seeing eye of God! Job says, *“For his eyes are upon the ways of man, and he seeth all his goings” (Job 34:21).* God sees all! The ungodly try to forget it and often succeed in banishing Him out of their thoughts (Psalm 10:4). Yet, despite all their efforts to hide, still He sees them. His eyes are in every place. Heaven, hell, and the secret places of the earth are all open before Him (Proverbs 15:11; Psalm 139:8). He is watching the evil; whether the king is on his throne (Acts 12:23); or in his palace (Daniel 5:5); or the servant indulging in his secret sin (2 Kings 5:20). Yes - he may shut out the sun, but he cannot shut out the eye of God, no darkness or deep shadow can hide man (Job 34:21-22; Jeremiah 16:17). Reckless indeed is he to do or think that he could hide from God; and then - such is the root of atheism (Psalm 14:1) - thinking he can do so (Isaiah 29:15).

Since God knows all our goings, we should be aware of this, and live accordingly! We should have the same con-

viction as Hagar in saying, *“Thou God seest me” (Genesis 16:13).* Are you conscious of this as you plan and proceed in your daily affairs? God sees and reads us constantly! *“Hell and destruction are before the Lord: how much more then the hearts of the children of men?” (Proverbs 15:11).* Hell and destruction; every recess of the vast Hades; the state of the dead, and the place of the damned - are before the Lord, before His eyes; completely known to Him. How much more, then, the hearts of the children of men (1 John 3:20), no matter how unsearchable they are (Jeremiah 17:9-10)! There's no depth in them that He cannot fathom; no deceit so complicated, that he can't track them. Words aren't needed in order for Him to lay open the heart. He perceived Aaron's rebellious feelings as easily as Moses' angry words (Numbers 20:12, 24). The inward hypocrisy of His people was as open before Him, as if it had been stamped upon their foreheads (Deut. 5:28-29; Zeph. 1:12).

Yet, what a mass of practical unbelief there is in this plainly conclusive truth! For would men dare to tolerate their vain thoughts, light notions, trifles, impurities, if they really believed that the Lord searches their hearts? Would they attempt to conceal anything from His eye (Isaiah 29:15)? OH! Isn't it an overwhelming moment when a man has to stand the test of this searching eye? Brethren, make no mistake about it, your heart is open before your God. No covering of deceit can ever stand His searching eye. And all refuges of lies are pierced and laid bare. Though many of these passages are so well known, yet, how much have they really influenced our personal lives? Are we conscious throughout every day that God is silently observing our deeds and hearing our speech?

We can no more hide from God than could Adam and Eve in the garden. God knew why the prophet (Elijah) was hiding in the cave. Jonah was not hidden from God in the ship, nor yet in the belly of the great fish. Man cannot escape from Him. There is nothing that can hide from God!

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God is observing all we do, and hearing all we say. Just remember that God is really watching! • And there is no creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of him with whom we have to do (Hebrews 4:13).

“Lessons From Terror” By Jarrod Jacobs

10 years ago on this day, the citizens of this land were shaken to their core when 19 Muslims coordinated a terror attack upon our land; culminating in the worst attack on U.S. soil and killing more Americans at one time than any other time in our nation’s history. Even at this time, it amazes me to think of the “Twin Towers” being destroyed, a section of the Pentagon being destroyed, as well as folks dying in Pennsylvania while trying to overpower the terrorists.

As I watched in horror as the tragic events unfolded on September 11, I was numb with shock, as there was no way to put into words what one feels at a time when one’s own country is being attacked from an unknown enemy. Throughout the day on Tuesday ten years ago, many thoughts went through my mind; thoughts which are still with me to this day. In light of this grim anniversary, how thankful we ought to be to possess such an up-to-date book as the Bible which gives us insight into man and into the reasons for suffering, as well focuses the mind upon what is most important. Let us look to the Bible and see what lessons we can learn from God’s book.

We Are Vulnerable.

If nothing else, we need to understand that this country is not “invincible” nor immortal. It never has been. Let us understand this, for it is when the heart of man is haughty that destruction follows (Prov. 18:12). We remember that the boastful folks who claimed that “God Himself” couldn’t sink the Titanic soon drowned in the sea with many of her passengers!

How many would have imagined that the headquarters for our military was vulnerable to an air assault? It was! We also know that the original plan was for a plane to crash into the White House! In light of the relative “ease” with which the World Trade Center and Pentagon was hit, is there any doubt that a more skillful pilot(s) or less-responsive people onboard might have resulted in even more carnage?

God is observing all we do, and hearing all we say. Just remember that God is really watching! •

God Must Be Our Refuge.

When we recognize just how weak and vulnerable we are, we must humbly turn to the Lord for strength and protection. Let us learn a lesson from David, the King of Israel, who said, “The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my saviour; you save me from violence” (II Sam. 22:2-3). He wrote, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Ps. 46:1, 7, 11). He spoke of God being his refuge some 18 times in the Psalms. Is this our attitude? Being as vulnerable to attack as we are, in whom do we place our trust? Are we relying on man or God to protect and bless us? Solomon said, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart...” (Prov. 3:5). Will we do this?

Our Greatness Is Not Found In Our Physical Prowess.

The Bible tells us, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage” (Ps. 33:12). The reason this country is in the position it is in is not because of our: money, bombs, legislation, jobs, social policy, etc., but because we were founded upon the basis that God is the Lord, and we must fear and follow Him (Ecc. 12:13)! The founding fathers of this country recognized God as Supreme; but our continual drifting from this truth and away from God does nothing but bring sorrow!

This country is great because God made us great. “The most High rules the kingdom of men, and gives it to whom he will” (Dan. 4:17, 25, 32, 5:21). Just as in days gone by, when God is through with us, we will be gone, and another nation will take our place. Are you not sure about this? Then, answer this: Where is the Roman empire today? How about Babylon? Remember the phrase, “The sun never sets on the British Empire”? The British stole that phrase from the Spanish after they defeated their Armada! Of course, we know that Britain today is not what she once was!

Let us not fool ourselves. Our greatness comes from

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God and no where else. One quote often attributed to Alexis De Tocqueville states: “America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.” When we forget our God and His word, God will “give us up” (Rom. 1:24, 26, 28) and we will go the way of past empires, and the way of Israel and Judah. God’s will will be done in all things, and not ours. Therefore, let us recognize and worship the Source of our strength (II Sam. 22:33; Job 36:5).

We Can Overcome With God’s Help.

Do any of our dear readers remember when the two houses of Congress stood together and sang “God Bless America” on the Tuesday evening of 9/11? If this is truly our wish for God (Not Allah, Buddha, ourselves, etc.) to bless America, and we act accordingly, then we will overcome with God’s mighty hand. However, a country who merely does this “for the camera,” or in a hypocritical manner, will certainly face God’s wrath!

It is only by and through the strength of our Lord that we can overcome and endure as a nation. Let us ever be grateful to God for His blessings upon this land to this present hour. In fact, the apostle Paul told us it is a command that we show gratitude to God. He wrote, “Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (I Thess. 5:17-18). How grateful are we to God to live in a free country, where we can worship Him without fear of retaliation? How grateful are we in Kentucky to live in a part of the country that has been untouched thus far by the hands of terrorists?

Our Enemy Is Known.

Just as we know the identities of the attackers from 10 years ago, so also, the enemy of mankind since the beginning, is known. Our enemy is Satan! Among other things, Satan wishes to strike fear into the hearts of men and women, much like those terrorists tried to do on September 11. This is something he does so that men will yield to temptation and sin (Jas. 1:14-15; I Jn. 2:15-17).

Christ tells us in no uncertain terms that Satan is our enemy (Matt. 13:39). Satan hates us, and wishes us harm. Satan is a liar and a murderer (Jn. 8:44). He is our adversary who wishes to devour men (I Pet. 5:8). He uses every trick he has in order to deceive men and to keep them from following the Lord and being saved in Heaven (II Cor. 11:3, 13-15). Much like those terrorists on 9/11, he uses our own strengths against us at times, and we

end up destroying ourselves spiritually because we are not vigilant.

Yet, just as God is the Strength of this nation, so also is He the strength of every person in the world! He will not allow us “to be tempted beyond (our) ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that (we) may be able to endure it” (I Cor. 10:13). We can look to God for help in times of trouble and temptation, just as we can look to Him for help and comfort in times of national calamity.

Conclusion

David penned, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. Selah. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God will help her when morning dawns. The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah. Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has brought desolations on the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the chariot with fire. Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth! The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah.” (Ps. 46).

Though we are ten years removed from the events of a bright, beautiful Tuesday morning in September, God is still in Heaven. May God help us as we strive to cope with present problems, and with spiritual problems. May we humbly turn to God and submit to Him in all things. May the citizens of this nation wake from spiritual slumber and become Christians (Mk. 16:16) before it is too late (II Cor. 6:2). May those who have fallen away (Gal. 6:1) realize that this day is given to them as a result of God’s longsuffering. Therefore, we need to take advantage of it while we can (II Pet. 3:15). Let us act in a way that is pleasing to God and get our lives right with God while we can (II Cor. 6:2). As we know, some do not have this option anymore!

Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com ♦