

Continued from Page Three, "And Satan Also Came Among Them"

church is just as good as another." Many are deceived.

Satan comes when the truth is preached about the plan of salvation. When men are taught to hear the word, have faith, repent of their sins, confess their faith, be baptized and live a faithful life, (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38), Satan comes among them and says, "You don't have to be to be baptized to be saved." Many take his advice.

We need to constantly be on guard against Satan. "...for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of

light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as ministers of righteousness..." (2 Corinthians 11:14-15).

Lest Satan come among us and deceive us, let us remember the advice given by Peter, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour." (1 Peter 5:8). Credit: www.moodychurchofchrist.com ♦

### I Am Your Bulletin

I am not just another piece of paper.  
 I am your weekly church information sheet.  
 I do not come to you easily, or without expense.  
 I cost money, time, thought, and energy.  
 I should not be taken for granted.  
 I can only be as useful and valuable as you allow me to be.  
 I am often abused and overlooked.  
 Sometimes all I get is a fleeting glance.  
 Sometimes all I get is a critical analysis.  
 I want so much for you to read me, study me, appreciate me, and make me useful for your spiritual activity and development.  
 I want to serve you. ♦

### 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

Evangelist: Jimmy Pettigrew

#### How to Contact Us

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#### Our Address

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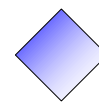


#### Schedule of Assembly

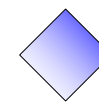
Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am  
 Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am  
 Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm\*

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

www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com



# The Voice of Truth



July 24, 2011

## "Is Christ Magnified In Your Life?"

By Jimmy Pettigrew

What do you do to a thing when you magnify it? The unthinking answer is, "You make it larger." But, a magnifying glass doesn't make the print larger. It improves your vision so that you see it more clearly and distinctly. Paul states that Christ would be magnified in his body. "According to my earnest expectation and hope, that in nothing shall I be put to shame, but (that) with all boldness, as always, (so) now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:20-21). Christ would be magnified by Paul's life. The world would see Christ more clearly and distinctly. Paul would be Christ's magnifying glass for the whole world! Paul became more and more like Christ, and the world could see Christ living and walking in Paul's life.

Is Christ magnified in your life? The world is to see Christ revealed in His followers. He declared, "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world... Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:14-16). This is what is meant to magnify Christ! "That ye may become blameless and harmless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom ye are seen as lights in the world, holding forth the word of life . . ." (Philippians 2:15-16).

The manner of life of the Christian will be either a real asset or a significant liability to the cause of Christ. The conduct of the Christian should "adorn" the doctrine of

God (Titus 2:10). "Adorn" means to beautify. The life of a faithful Christian reveals the beauty of God's will and way. "For ye were once darkness, but are now light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (for the fruit of the light is in all goodness and righteousness and truth), proving what is well-pleasing unto the Lord" (Ephesians 5:8-10).

The manner of life of the immoral or the indifferent member of the church is a stumbling block to others (Romans 14:13). The life of the faithful, dedicated Christian magnifies the Christ (Philippians 1:20). Christians are the epistles which the world reads before being introduced to those within the Bible. "Ye are our epistle, written in our hearts, known and read (of all men; being made manifest that ye are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us . . ." (2 Corinthians 3:2-3). By such epistles Christ is magnified to a skeptical world.

Do you magnify His obedient spirit (Hebrews 5:8-9; John 14:15)? Do you magnify His spirit of self-denial (2 Corinthians 8:9; Luke 9:23)? Would you preach that worship is incidental, Bible study is insignificant, giving is unimportant (John 4:23; Hebrews 10:25; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2)? What do you preach with your life? What kind of example of Christian living do you show?

You are the only gospel some people will read; the only sermon some will hear; and the only epistle some will accept! Jesus Christ should be magnified in the life of the Christians! ♦

### THINK ABOUT IT!

When a farmer stops plowing his land, stops planting seed, and stops harvesting his crops, he has stopped doing those things that identify him as being a farmer. When a Christian stops attending worship services regularly, stops studying, stops giving as he has been prospered, and has stopped working for the Lord, he has stopped being a Christian because he has stopped doing those things that identify him as a Christian. "By their fruits ye shall know them," (Matthew 7:20). ♦

#### In This Issue...

Page 1 - "Is Christ Magnified In Your Life?" | THINK ABOUT IT!  
 Pages 2 to 3 - "A Church 'Disassociated' ..."  
 Pages 3 to 4 - And Satan Also Came Among Them  
 Page 4 - I Am Your Bulletin

## “A Church ‘Disassociated’ ...”

By Jarrod Jacobs

Back in August of 2010, we spoke about Becky Herzog and how she and her daughter were meeting in the Seven Hills Baptist Church building and attempting to “reeducate Owensboro” on the subject of homosexuality through a group known as PFLAG — Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (See: *The Old Paths*, Vol. 17, No. 23, 8/8/10). This problem has not gone away in nearly a year since we wrote and warned people about it. In fact, now it is reported that the Seven Hills Baptist Church, now called, “Journey Fellowship” is being “disassociated” from the Daviess-McLean Baptist Association (DMBA) because of their stand on homosexuality, and allowing folks like PFLAG to meet in their building. (Source: *Messenger-Inquirer*, Wed., 7/13/11, p. A1)

After reading the article from Wednesday, a number of things made an impression upon me, an outsider, witnessing what is happening between “Journey Fellowship” and the DMBA. Let us look closely at these events and compare them with Scripture.

### Confusion Results When Man Does Not Follow God’s Word Completely.

When reading this article, we see that the DMBA has essentially said that if “Journey Fellowship” (Seven Hills Baptist Church) expects to stay in good relations with the “association”, then they need to give up their acceptance of homosexuals and not allow those folks to use their facilities for monthly meetings. Otherwise, the DMBA will “disassociate” themselves from a group that has been associated with them for the last 100 years.

While I commend a principled stand, and not allowing such a long association to cloud the real issue; I can’t help but notice that in examining the practices of the Baptist denomination in America, it is evident that this group, whether in the DMBA or not, does not follow God’s word faithfully, anyway! This is evident because they teach that man is born in sin, when the Bible does not so teach (**Ezek. 18:4, 20; Matt. 18:3-4; Mk. 10:14-15; Rom. 3:23; etc.**). They teach that instrumental music in worship is acceptable, when the Bible does not teach that (**Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16**). In addition to this, naming their group, “Baptist” and calling themselves “Baptists” is a practice unknown in the Bible. The disciples in the first century were called “*Christians*” (**Acts 11:26**). Further, there are no Baptist churches to be found in the Bible (**Rom. 16:16**). These are a few items which show us that these folks are

not following God’s word.

Therefore, when discussing the subject of homosexuality and what God thinks of it, it is kind of confusing for the DMBA to turn to one in their association and say that their practice of accepting homosexuals is “unorthodox in doctrine” when the whole body of Baptists do not follow the doctrine of Christ, anyway! (**Prov. 26:7**) Folks, if I can see that, so can many others in this town! A little later in the same article, the “Credentials Committee” (Where is that found in the Bible?) was quoted as saying the “Journey Fellowship” church was “free to move as it believes God is directing it.”

Wait! If these folks were told they are free to move as they believe God directs, and they claim that God is directing them to accept homosexuals; then the DMBA is saying that they will disassociate from a group of people who say they are doing what God accepts! What? How confusing! Toward the end of the article, the “Credentials Committee” spoke again saying that “Journey Fellowship” has “the right to define its own doctrine but it has no right to define the doctrine of the DMBA.” Anyone else confused, now? Why this fuss in the first place if the position of the DMBA “Credentials Committee” is that a church can “define its own doctrine”?

Yes, confusion results when people do not follow God’s word. This event is a prime example. Here are two groups of people on opposite sides of an issue, but claiming God is behind them both! Had they simply followed God’s word completely, there would have been real unity (**I Cor. 1:10, 14:33**), agreement on matters of faith (**Eph. 4:5**), and tolerance in matters of opinion where Scripture is not violated (**Rom. 14**). Had they followed God’s word completely, they would have rejected man-made names and worship practices, and would have been satisfied with what has been revealed in the New Testament (**Jn. 4:24; Acts 2:42; Eph. 5:19; Acts 11:26**; etc.). Too, had they followed God’s word, such organizations as the DMBA would not exist, for no such organization is authorized in Scripture. Christ died to purchase nothing but His church! (**Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:47, 20:28**)

### The Truth Is Understandable, And It Unites Us When We Obey.

Instead of listening to what men say about the Bible,

*Continued on Page Three*

*Continued from Page Two, “A Church ‘Disassociated’ ...”*

why don’t we just read the Bible, ourselves? When we do, we will learn some amazing things! First, relative to this study, we learn that homosexuality is a sin and it is condemned by God in both the Old and New Testaments! (**Lev. 18:22, 20:13; Rom. 1:26-27; I Cor. 6:9-10; Jude 7**). Therefore, God is not “directing” anyone in another direction. In fact, He will not “personally” direct anyone to do anything, but directs us through the pages of Inspiration (**Gal. 1:6-9; Jude 3; Jas. 1:25**)!

Further, when we read the Bible, we learn that it is not up to man to “define” doctrine. The doctrine of Christ has been revealed and our job is to accept it (**II Jn. 9:11**)! *“It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps”* (**Jer. 10:23**). This principle is still true, and men need to be reminded of

### And Satan Also Came Among Them By Johnie Edwards

*“Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also among them”* (**Job 1:6**). Satan never passes up an opportunity to do his work. He came among the twelve apostles. *“Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve”* (**Luke 22:3**). Satan can do his work more effectively when he comes among people. I would like for us to notice some instances when Satan came among people and to notice some applications.

He came among Adam and Eve in the garden. After God had placed man in the garden of Eden with the responsibility of dressing and keeping the garden and with the restriction of not eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil lest death come, Satan came among them and said, *“Ye shall not surely die”* (**Gen. 3:4**). Anytime God makes His will known to man, Satan is there to tell man the very opposite.

Satan came when Christ was baptized. The baptism of Jesus is recorded in **Matthew 3:13-16**. *“Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil”* (**Matthew 4:1**). Surely the devil does not pass up the opportunity of coming among those who have just been baptized. He tries to make them concerned with the cares of this life. He sets them to criticizing instead of hearing to profit. He tries to cool down their ardor, abate their love, chill their praise, freeze their prayers and kill their zeal. Satan likes a “sleeping church.” It’s his business to rock the cradle, hush all noise and drive away even a fly which might light upon the sleeper’s face.

it on a regular basis!

### Conclusion

What will we see next among the denominations? I don’t know. However, I do know that the Bible says, *“evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived”* (**II Tim. 3:13**). Those who hold to the Baptist doctrine of inherited sin, impossible apostasy, instrumental music, wearing the names of men, etc., cannot hold back the floodgates of homosexual-acceptance and the like for very long. Neither can WE if we are simply following the footsteps of men! Don’t fall into this trap set by Satan. Let God’s word guide us and do only what the Lord says (**I Pet. 4:11**) *Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com* ♦

Satan comes when the Gospel of Christ is preached. In the parable of the sower, Satan is pictured as coming among the wayside hearers. *“Those by the wayside are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved”* (**Luke 8:12**). Satan comes among people whenever the gospel is being preached and tries to steal the word away. He tries to get folks to question the way of God. For he knows that, *“They that gladly received his word were baptized...”* (**Acts 2:41**).

Satan came among Ananias and Sapphira. Ananias and Sapphira sold a possession. Then Satan came among them. *“But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?”* (**Acts 5:3**). When Christians get ready to give to the Lord’s work, what better time for Satan to come among them? If he can get us to think the Lord’s work is not very important and that we can get by without giving very much, then Satan has us going his way.

Satan comes about when the truth is preached about the name we must wear. When it is pointed out that we must wear the name Christian, (**Acts 11:26, 26:28; I Peter 4:16**), Satan comes among people and tells them, “There is nothing in a name.” Many believe him.

Satan comes when the truth is preached about the church. When people are taught that they must be a member of the Lord’s church to be saved, (**Acts 2:47; Ephesians 5:23**), Satan comes among them and says, “One

*Continued on Page Four*