

THE ONE BODY

The church is the body of Christ, "And he is the head of the body, the church (Col. 1:18). There is only one body, one church. "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all" (Eph. 1:22-23). The New Testament teaches that there is only one body; this one body is the church. We are "fellow heirs of the same body" (Eph. 3:6). We are "reconciled to God in one body" (Eph. 2:16). Christ is founder of only one church. "Upon this rock I will build my church" (Matt. 16:18). Jesus did not say that we would build a church, His church or one of His churches. He said,

"I will build my church." The word "church" signifies singularity. Jesus did not build many different churches, but one! None should encourage any to seek the church of your choice, but the church of Christ's choice, that is, the one that is Christ-built, blood-bought (Acts 20:28), the one in which He is the Saviour of (Eph. 5:23).

Since there is one, and only one church and since Christ saves only those in that one church; thus, if one living today is not a member of that church (Rom. 16:16), then he is not saved. ♦

THE SIN OF DOING NOTHING

He made no mistakes and took no wrong roads;
 He never humbled the ball;
 He never went down beneath the load.
 He lost no hard fights in defense of the right;
 He never bled with his back to the wall.
 He never fell faint in his climb to the light;
 He simply did nothing at all.
 So death came nigh, for life slipped away,
 And he feared for the Judgment Hall.
 When they asked him why, he said with sigh:
 "I simply did nothing at all."
 So, God will pardon your blunders, my friend,
 And regard with pity your fall.
 But the one big sin that surely means Hell,
 Is simply to do nothing at all. ♦

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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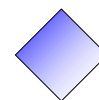


Schedule of Assembly

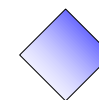
Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*

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

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The Voice of Truth



July 31, 2011

Has God Ever Left Any People Without Law?

By Jimmy Pettigrew

Some teach the doctrine that the Gentiles were not under any law. To prove their teaching, that Gentiles were not under any law, they teach when Paul wrote, "For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without the law: and as many as have sinned under the law shall be judged by the law" (Romans 2:12). Or, "For when the Gentiles that have not the law do by nature the things of the law, these, not having law, are the law unto themselves" (Romans 2:14). So, it is taught that the Gentiles were totally without law.

WRONG! God has never left any people without law. Even in the beginning, in the Garden of Eden, there was law. In fact, there was negative and positive law. "And Jehovah God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And Jehovah God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Genesis 2:15-17). We all know what happens next; both sinned by being disobedient to God (Genesis 3:6-19). "Therefore, as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin; and so death passed unto all men, for that all sinned" (Romans 5:12). People without law one cannot sin: "For until the law sin was in the world; but sin is not imputed when there is no law" (Romans 5:13). From the time of Adam, God dealt with men under the Patriarchal law. When Paul wrote Romans 2:12, he obviously meant that many of the gentiles as have sinned without the Law of Moses will perish without it. It is certain that they were not without any kind of law. If that had been the case, they could not have been charged with sin, for Paul wrote, "Where there is no law, neither is there transgression" (Romans 4:15). Therefore, where there is transgression, there is law, divine law. Sin is transgression of God's law, "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4). The Bible says that the sinfulness of the people caused God to destroy the world, all but eight people by the flood

(Genesis 6).

In the book of Amos, the prophet starts off with severe rebukes regarding the nations around Israel. Many transgressions had seen committed by Edom, Moab, Ammom and Tyre (Amos 1:11-2). God would not have wasted time rebuking them if, as some who erroneously teach, the gentiles were not answerable to God. Gentiles were not under any kind of law. Well, broken law demands pay! The nations are to be punished because of their transgressions. What about Jonah and Nineveh? "And the word of Jehovah came unto Jonah the second time, saying, Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee" (Jonah 3:1-2). "Yet forty days Nineveh shall be overthrown" (Jonah 3:4). If Nineveh did not repent they would become as Sodom and Gomorrah. "And the people of Nineveh believe God" (Jonah 3:5). Nineveh was a pagan city, nonetheless, they believed God. Jesus declared, "The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and, behold a greater than Jonah is here" (Matthew 12:41). "And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil which he would do unto them; and he did it not" (Jonah 3:10). When God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way, His marvelous mercy was extended to them. When their faith in God led to repentance and brought forth fruits thereof, their relationship to sin and God's righteousness was altered. If they were not under law, how could they have sinned? "For through the law (cometh) the knowledge of sin" (Romans 3:20). Would God be just in punishing the people of Nineveh if they had no law, could not be doers of the law? The gentiles transgressed divine law. What law? The gentiles violated Patriarchal law, the law which they were amenable.

Question: Was not Balaam a gentile prophet (Exodus 19:24)? What about Melchizedek (Genesis 14:8)? This

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implies a law of worship and the priest assist the people in obeying that law. **Romans 1:18ff** teaches us that the people have never been without the knowledge of God, *"that they may be without excuse"* (**Romans 1:20**). The gentiles transgressed divine law. The gentiles were never under the Law of Moses, for that law was given to the Jews only (**Deuteronomy 5:1-3**). However, the gentiles sinned! It

"Attitudes We Need To Avoid"

By Jarrod Jacobs

There are some people who are guilty of wrong attitudes, which result in wrong actions. We are not immune to such wrong dispositions. The Bible tells us of some who had wrong attitudes, and as a result, sinned. Let us consider the following.

Some Have A Proud Attitude.

Perhaps pride is one of the worst attitudes. It has raised its ugly head on many occasions. Pride is a dangerous attitude we are warned about on many occasions in the Bible. The Holy Spirit, through Solomon, warned of pride many times in the book of **Proverbs**. *"The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate"* (**8:13**). *"When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom"* (**11:2**). *"In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride..."* (**14:3**). *"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall"* (**16:18**). *"A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit"* (**29:23**).

We see several in the Bible who displayed pride. Consider Diotrefes who loved *"to have the preeminence"* (**III Jn. 9**). Because of his pride, he *"receiveth us not."* He not only used malicious words against John and others, but did not receive brethren, and *"forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church."* This man was so lifted up with pride, that he was literally out of control. He would allow nothing and no one to question his preeminence he had in that local church. Friends, this is as wrong as it can be!

Other examples of pride include King Nebuchadnezzar, who lost his kingdom for a time because he thought he was a "self-made man." This was wrong. (**Dan. 4:30-37, 5:20**). Ultimately, his grandson Belshazzar lost the kingdom forever because of his pride (**Dan. 5:22-31**). **Hosea 5:5-7** records that even God's people Israel were guilty of pride. As a result, God withdrew Himself from them.

therefore follows that the gentiles transgressed some law, but what law? The gentiles violated the Patriarchal law, the law which they were amenable. The correct conclusion is that the gentiles sinned by violating the law to which they were amenable (Patriarchal law), and the Jews sinned by sinned by violating the law to which they were amenable (Law of Moses). *"For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God"* (**Romans 3:23**). •

God has no part nor lot with a proud man. One with pride cannot be God's child. He uses those who are humble (**I Pet. 5:5-6**). Friends, do you have a proud attitude? If so, you need to change, for God hates that attitude (**Prov. 6:16-17**).

Some Have A Covetous Attitude.

To covet is to have *"avarice, i.e. (by impl.) fraudulency, extortion ... greediness"* (**Strong's**). In fact, Paul equates covetousness with idolatry in **Colossians 3:5**. When one puts all his energy in obtaining/acquiring a thing, he is covetous. Some may be covetous toward money (**I Tim. 6:10**), toward a person (**Ex. 20:17**), toward their own interests (**Eph. 4:19-20**), toward recreation (**I Tim. 4:8**), etc. Anything that you allow to come between you and God becomes your idol. It is that for which you covet and devout yourself. If we are going to be God's faithful children, we must not be covetous.

Some examples of covetousness in the Bible include Achan who coveted after *"a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight"* and caused the Israelites to lose the battle against the people of Ai (**Josh. 7:5, 18-21**). The remedy was that he was to die, as well as his family, in order for the Israelites to be in good standing with God (**Josh. 7:23-26**).

We might also consider the covetousness mentioned in **I Timothy 6:10**. *"For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."* Notice that those who would covet after money, or wealth err from the faith. The NKJ says, *"some have strayed from the faith in their greediness."* The NAS says, *"some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith."* It is a dangerous matter indeed when we think of

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those who covet after money or wealth. When people put this first in their lives, they are turning away from God and from His soul-saving word!

Some Have A Self-Sufficient Attitude.

Some, especially in this country, have the attitude that they can do it all by themselves. Some never admit their need for God, but think that all things depend upon them and their efforts. We need to realize that we are not self-sufficient, but are helpless. We could do nothing if it were not for God. We would not be here if it were not for God. **Colossians 1:17** teaches that Christ *"is before all things, and by him all things consist."* Consist means *"to set together, i.e. (by impl.) to introduce (favorably), or (fig.) to exhibit; intrans. to stand near, or (fig.) to constitute:—approve, commend, ... make, stand (with)"* (**Strong's**). The NAS says, *"in Him all things hold together."* In other words, were it not for our Lord, nothing would even exist! How dare we think we are self-sufficient in any way? How many times have we sang, *"I Need Thee Every Hour"*? Do we really mean that? Or, is our attitude toward Christ one of "don't call me, I'll call you"?

Some who had a self-sufficient attitude include the rich fool of **Luke 12**. Jesus, in speaking of him, showed that this man thought he had provided all of this for himself. Notice in **Luke 12:16-21**, that the personal pronoun "I" is used by him 6 times in this short account. He had not thought about God, nor thanked Him for the bounty. He was merely concerned for himself, and lost it all in a night!

The Christians James wrote to thought they were self-sufficient as well. James told them, *"Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil"* (**Jas. 4:13-16**).

Their proud, arrogant boasting was evil in God's sight. They thought they were self-sufficient, could provide for their own, and did not need to include God at any point. They were wrong then, and we are wrong today if we think we do not need God. We do not know what may come tomorrow (**Prov. 27:1**). Therefore, we need to remember who holds tomorrow, and live for Him!

Some Have An Apathetic Attitude.

To show apathy is to not show interest or concern. Therefore, those who show apathy toward the Lord and His church show no concern or interest for the Lord and His church. This can do nothing but damage people spiritually. Yet, there are many today so caught up in worldly pursuits, that they have no interest, nor concern for the things that are most important.

There are many apathetic people mentioned in the Bible. Consider the fact that Paul had to remind those *"that are rich in this world"* that they had a responsibility to the Lord and His cause (**I Tim. 6:17-19**). If they were not careful, they would only show their interest in material pursuits, and no interest in the Lord. Another who was apathetic was Agrippa. When faced with the greatest decision one can make in this life, he refused, saying, *"Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian"* (**Acts 26:28**). He was very aware of the doctrine of Christ (**v.26**), but had no interest or concern in it, nor for his soul. In fact, there are many today who show that their interests lie in other things beside the gospel. When people show apathy toward the Lord and His church, it shows that we need to watch ourselves lest we also become apathetic (**I Cor. 10:12, 15:33**).

Conclusion

As always, we need to examine ourselves (**II Cor. 13:5**). Let us make sure we are not guilty of these wrong attitudes, for they will develop into wrong actions! In some, it is already apparent what attitude they have. Let us do our best to live by the Bible, to follow its precepts, and love the Author. If we are guilty of harboring any of the attitudes we have studied, then let us repent and turn from those things while we have the time to do so. May God help us all to have the right attitude, to live for Him, and look forward to Heaven when this life is over.

Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com ♦

HOW TO GET WHAT YOU WANT

If you want friends — **be friendly.**
 If you want someone to smile — **smile.**
 If you want courtesy — **be courteous.**
 If you want knowledge — **study.**
 If you want a good name — **live right.**
 If you want to reap well — **sow well.**
 If you want to be a Christian — **obey God's word.**
 If you want to go to heaven — **live a Christian life.**