

Good News

From Getwell

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The Getwell congregation sends monthly support to the following:
Tennessee Children's Home, Spring Hill, TN
West Tennessee Children's Home, Pinson, TN
Potter Children's Home, Bowling Green, KY
Children's Homes, Paragould, AR

SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY ACTIVITY

SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:20 a.m.
Worship.....5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

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ON THE HOME FRONT

At this writing, we mourn the passing of former member and deacon George Barber, also known as G.W. He was the husband of Nell Barber. Both were beloved and respected by everyone who knew them. They attended Getwell for almost half a century. They raised two sons at Getwell, Phil and John. Mrs. Nell taught the five year old class for many years and also conducted a kindergarten program here for many years. George was a deacon for many years and could always be counted on when a task needed doing and always answered the call without complaint. Since I have the privilege of serving as a deacon, Brother Barber served as my mentor to being a good deacon.

I will end my article with a humorous story about Brother Barber, told to me by Pat Godwin, whose daughter, Kellie, attended Mrs. Nell's kindergarten. During the kindergarten sessions, Brother Barber was at the building a great deal. Mrs. Nell always referred on calling him "honey". The kids hearing him addressed this regularly started calling him "Mr. Honey". Good-bye to a Christian gentleman, who I look forward to seeing again in the promised land.

Another soldier of the cross we lost recently was Tom Holland. Brother Holland wore many hats- gospel preacher, educator, author, radio personality, story teller, composer and song leader. During my short stint at Freed-Hardeman, Brother Holland was my favorite professor. He taught 'Life of Christ' and 'Acts of the Apostles'. One of my first books in my library was Serman Design and Delivery by Tom Holland. It was given to me by my late Uncle Waylon Lawrence who was a gospel preacher. I think David Looney said it best about brother Holland and his lifelong service to our King, Quoting David from memory, "Brother Holland reached where he wanted to go."

Ron Wallace

Why Do We Have the Old Testament? (Part Two)

Bradley Smith

Last week, we began a study examining the question, "Why do we have the Old Testament?" We referenced Romans 15:4 and 1st Corinthians 10:11, and we noted that the Old Testament was written both "for our learning" (Rom. 15:4) and for our admonition (1 Cor. 10:11). This week we hope to examine additional points concerning, "Why do we have the Old Testament?"

THE LAW WAS A SCHOOLMASTER (GAL. 3:24).

"Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster *to bring us* unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith" (Gal. 3:24). Robert R. Taylor, Jr. observed that this "schoolmaster" would be similar to our modern-day school bus driver, taking the Jews to a place in which instruction would be provided. Passages given in the Old Testament would make clear that Jesus was the Son of God. Without the Old Testament, how could the Jews have known about the need for a Messiah (Gen. 3:15). Other passages such as Isaiah 53 give vivid prophecies of the Messiah. Micah 5:2 says:

But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, *though* thou be little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* out of thee shall he come forth unto me *that is* to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth *have been* from of old, from everlasting.

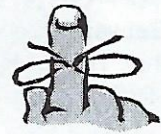
When examining the New Testament, one can see that Christ was indeed born in Bethlehem, just as Micah had prophesied (Mat. 2:1).

IT HELPS US UNDERSTAND THE NEW TESTAMENT

There are many references in the New Testament to Old Testament examples. One that stands out immediately is Hebrews 11. Without a knowledge of who Abel was (Gen. 4), how would we know about his "more excellent sacrifice" (Heb. 11:4)? Without a knowledge of Noah's life (Gen. 6-9), how would we understand his preparing an ark "to the saving of his house" (Heb. 11:7). These are just a few examples of the great examples of the Old Testament shedding light on the New Testament.

We hope that this study has been beneficial for all. These have just been a few examples of reasons as to why we have the Old Testament today, and why it is crucial that we study such. Remember Romans 15:4, 1st Corinthians 10:11, and Galatians 3:24.

RON'S REMINDERS



Atheism vs. Practical Atheism Foundations of Faith

Many people deny the existence of God. Some do so because they do not want to live under objective moral restraint. Others, however, reject God's existence and still attempt to live in a decent, ethical manner. These individuals keep their marriage vows, tell the truth, pay their taxes, and help their neighbors. They do not do so because they think themselves accountable to a higher power; they are atheists. C. S. Lewis was not surprised by this sort of behavior and observed, "Human beings, after all, have some sense; they see that you cannot have real safety or happiness except in a society where every one plays fair, and it is because they see this that they try to behave decently."¹

But why should an individual who denies God's existence keep her promises or play fair? Should she do so because she is trying to be pragmatic? If so, how does she respond when what works well for her doesn't work well for others? Does she then count noses and, as utilitarianism suggests, do what seems best for the greatest number of individuals? But what if the decision deemed best for the group is not best for her? And if there is no objective standard, what gives her the right to decide conclusively one course of action is better for the masses than another? All of these questions, and many others that could be raised, highlight the problem of establishing morality without God. Lewis forcefully made this point when he wrote, "The moment you say that one set of moral ideas can be better than another, you are, in fact, measuring them both by a standard, saying that one of them conforms to that standard more nearly than the other."² The question is, What is the standard? It is a question the atheist cannot

consistently answer, for those who reject God's existence are adrift in subjectivism. If there is no God, there can be no ultimate standard governing behavior in every instance.

Many people affirm the existence of God. Some live joyfully under His divine guidance and seek to do as Scripture directs. Others, however, affirm God's existence but live in a manner that denies such. These individuals break their marriage vows, lie, cheat on their taxes, and despise their neighbors. They profess the existence of God with their mouths but live as if God does not exist; they are practical atheists.

Perhaps we should consider whether a measurable difference is between those who deny God's existence (atheists) and those who live as if there is no God (practical atheists). The truth is the two groups will actually share a similar fate. Paul revealed this when he described how Jesus and His angels will return to take "vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thessalonians 1:8 NKJV). We must not only profess belief in God but also obey His will. The practical atheist is no better than the one who rejects God completely.

Notes

C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (New York: Touchstone, 1996), 29.
Ibid., 25

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