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Christ - The Community - and You

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Christian Echo

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Christ - the community - and you

You are invited to hear
Mr. G. P. Holt discussing
practical Christianity.



G. P. Holt has a unique and interesting manner of presentation. His quick wit coupled with an intelligent array of facts and observations make his lessons extremely effective.

Holt graduated from Southwestern Christian College, and now serves on their Board of Directors. He currently lives and preaches in Indianapolis, Indiana.

A preaching background of 30 years have given Holt a real insight into people's problems and how God's Word relates to them. A Family man, he and his wife, Olivia, enjoy three boys and two girls.

Holt will deliver the following lessons for us:

SUNDAY	"Let The Redeemed Say So"
	"The Gate of Heaven"
MONDAY	"Old Time Religion"
TUESDAY	"Meeting Ground for God and Man"
WEDNESDAY	"Bible Conversion"
THURSDAY	"After Death What Then"
FRIDAY	"A Way That Seemeth Right"
SATURDAY	"They Passed Him By"
SUNDAY	"He Trembled, But Did Not Repent"
	"It Is Enough"

October 6 - 13, 1968

Morning Services: 7 a.m. - College Church of Christ
Evening Services: 7 p.m. - Highland Church of Christ
High School Youth Devotional: 6:30 p.m. - Highland Chapel

The people of the Highland Church of Christ are currently involved in the following efforts to help other people:

*Christian Homes --- providing living facilities and care for unwed mothers; group living facilities for children deprived of parents; an adoptive service for smaller children.

*Spiritual Head Start --- providing new opportunities of food, medical care and special education for socially and mentally handicapped Abilene children.

*Bible School --- a complete range of classes from 4 weeks on up. Over 165 teachers, your friends and neighbors, currently teach these classes at 9 a.m. each Sunday and 7 p.m. each Wednesday.

*Christian Service Center --- participating in this effort to supply food, clothing and counseling to Abilene adults who have suffered unusual misfortune or difficulties.

*Mission Program --- ten missionaries, including one in America, live and work and study with the people of their particular country in a daily effort to make individual lives more meaningful.

*Abilene State School Program --- providing weekly sessions of religious education and spiritual development for mentally retarded children and adults residing at this institution.

*Worship Opportunities --- three formal periods of worship each week under the direction of M. F. "Mid" McKnight, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sundays and 7 p.m. each Wednesday.

*Herald of Truth --- an international radio and television program carried on 800 stations to a weekly audience of over 10,000,000 people. John Chalk, Radio Speaker, and his family live in Abilene.

*Youth Activities --- a full range of endeavors with two aims: to serve people, and to teach our youth the joy of helping others.



will continue to be over-crowded and there will continue to be confusions in the churches. Lets rebuild the home, lets go back to the old-time way, the Bible way and witness a difference in the conduct of men and women, boys and girls in this great land of our's.

IT IS ALL A MATTER OF HEART

(This is the Lecture that was delivered by Brother G. P. Holt in a Race Forum in the deep South, Atlanta, Ga., June 26, 1986.)

Brethren in Christ, the question before us at this time is "How to promote better relationship between the "Black" and "White" Church of Christ. I say "Black and "White", because I find not this distinction in the Bible. We should all agree that many racial attitudes that exist with the church today are sinful. Discrimination in the realm of color, inferiority because of skin color, prejudice, hate, etc.

To me the beginning place for correcting this evil that is among us today is to realize that: prejudice, discrimination, the inferiority - and superiority complex, the master - slave relationship is believed to be right among preachers, Elders and members of the Church of our Lord.

I cannot believe that these men are practicing and teaching these things, as hypocrites. They believe them to be right. They have been taught that they are right and before there can be a correction of these conditions we must first prove that they are wrong. If this can be done, we will then see a change of hearts, and this my brethren is a Matter of the Heart.

Hearts must be changed or this evil that plagues us today will never end. If a man believes in his heart, God has made him a little better than his brother of another color, his heart is wrong. If a man believes that certain privileges should be afforded him and not his brother because of his skin, his heart is not right. If a man feels that his brother is inferior to him just because he is black - His heart is not right before God. "As a man thinketh in his heart so is he"—If he thinks right, he is right. If he thinks wrong, he is wrong. And only the pure in heart will see God.

In Acts 5 we have a record of what I am talking about, Trouble in the Lord's Church. But, I want you to note that it did not begin in the church. The trouble here began in the heart - for Peter said, "Why has Satan filled your heart to lie"—They lied at church, in church, but it began in their hearts—and the lie that filled their hearts had a beginning place—it began at home, it was discussed at home. Their hearts were filled at home and they brought to church - to God's house - that which was conceived at home, filled their hearts.

These two people were liars because it was in their heart. (As you think in your heart, so you are.) They were liars at Church because of the heart and home. How can we have better race relations in the Lord's Church? It will have to begin in our home, because it is in our home as children that we learn our first lessons in hate, prejudice, discrimination. And while verbal instructions are seldom used—indirect verbal instructions are not avoided. Our children overhear us using such terms "Mick" (Irish), Wop (Italian), Dago, Nigger, Paddies, etc. This suggests to the child that these persons are inferior and the users are enjoying a superior position.

When this type of thing is done in the home it transmits racial attitudes.

The short comings and deficiencies of Negro servants are freely paraded before children, and stereotyped images of Negro behavior are related. Better church relationship must begin in our homes.

In the process of growing up, children identify with their parents. A common expression of this identification is found in imitative behavior—the behavior of the adult. In this manner he assimilates and internationalizes the norms of the world about him. They become a part of his very existence, an integral part of his being - they will do and think and act as the parents do.

You move out of your home because a Negro moves in. The child sees this and at the same time hears you talking about loving everyone from the pulpit—then he is confused because our gospel and our practice are two different things.

Now - if these sins are in the home, they will get into the heart, and if they are in the heart, they will be seen in the church, and as goes the home so goes the church.

Most Negroes do not feel comfortable in the quiet "white church" because there they are exposed to catty remarks by children because of what they have heard at home, and "Look Who's Coming to Dinner" remarks; looks from the adult members. He sees the preacher look over at the Elders who are about to faint because he is afraid of the members reactions; so, in the next business meeting they agree to cease to be Christians. You ask why? Well there are a number of reasons given:

1. It is not me, it is the Elders - this from the preacher.
2. It is not us, it's the members—and on down the line

When are we going to begin to teach the truth, and stand up for the truth as far as the race question is concerned? "Of a truth I perceived that God is no respecter of persons" - Acts 10:34—And if we have respect of persons, James says we sin. James 2:9.

If we are ever to have the right kinds of relationships between the races in the church of Christ, it will be when we are all Christian enough to be just Christians, Our Lord, Not A Campbell, Our Lord not David Lipcomb, Our Lord M. Keeble, Our Lord not G. P. Bowser is the only example we can follow.—It is not a question of what the *Gospel Advocate* says or the *Christian Echo*, but what sayeth the scriptures on these matters.

The wisdom of the world is foolishness with God. - 1Cor. 3:18.

Brethren, we *must* begin to practice what we have preached for all these years and begin to do unto others as would have them do to us. This is the answer, just be a Christian—not a white, - black - yellow, - you folk, those folk kind of Christian, but just a Christian. This is enough.

I do not want to be one-sided on the question. We as Negroes have in the past laughed when were not tickled, scratched when we were not itching, making the white man think that what he was doing and saying was right and that we liked it. But brethren, we were lying to you, - and may God forgive us. We made you think that putting us in your basement or attic was all right with us, even though we knew what James taught. Brethren, we lied to you.

We made you think because you sent your preacher over to attend our tent meeting that was showing your love for us, Brethren, we lied to you.

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IT IS ALL A MATTER OF HEART

(Continued from page three)

We made you think that we believed you would not let us use your pool to baptise a sinner was because of the neighborhood, Brethren, we lied to you.

We made you believe that your *Gospel Advocate* was the greatest paper in the brotherhood even though you put our news on the back page and marked it "Colored" - Brethren, we lied to you.

And Brethren, if in this meeting here in Atlanta, Ga. we give you the impression that you are right, follow the racial stratifications as they now exist in the Brotherhood, and that we are pleased with being treated like step-brothers, we will be lying and a devil's hell awaits us.
