

STOP SAYING THAT JESUS WAS A GOOD MAN!

Elders:

John Deffenbaugh
Wayne Douthitt
Glen Honeycutt
Rick Hyder
Bill Reiboldt

Deacons:

Pete Babb
Carl Cobb
Alan Cook
Barry Flint
Casey Flint
Josh King
Mike Kidwell
Tim Murray
Bryan Reiboldt
Jim Scott
Peter Wald

Local Evangelists:

Danny Boggs
Luke Yates

Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday
6 p.m. Sunday

Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday
7 p.m. Wednesday

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2,000 years ago a man named Jesus roamed the Middle East teaching many people about Himself and about what He could do for others. One of Jesus' many roles was that of a teacher. He said in John 13:13, "You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am." Complementing His teaching, Jesus did many different acts of kindness for others. He fed lots of hungry people (Matthew 14:13-21). He healed the blind (Mark 8:22-25; John 9). He saved people from an intense storm (Luke 8:23-25). Because Jesus did lots of kind and good acts, even those who **don't** believe in Jesus as the Christ find Jesus to be a good person. In talking with atheists and those of other religions, it is quite common for them to claim, "I believe that Jesus was a good man, even though I don't believe that He is God." I understand why such people make such a statement, but I want to challenge that logic.

Picture yourself back in the classrooms of your old high school (or kitchen/bedroom/living room, if you were home-schooled). Imagine if your teacher was a kind person, yet he or she did a bad job at teaching you the facts. What if your math teacher taught you **some** truths about mathematics, but 60% of the teachings were found to be falsehoods? What if your teacher went even further and adamantly insisted that their teachings were 100% true, yet you could easily disprove their claims? What if your teacher, although kind and gentle, clearly fed you a conglomeration of lies? What would you have to say about that particular teacher?

If someone **willingly and consistently lies to you**, are you going to overlook all of their lies and claim that they are a good person? Of course not! Even though your high school teacher in the example above is a kind person, doing good deeds towards others, you wouldn't say that your teacher was a good person overall. The fact that they blatantly lied and deceived their students demands that they are not a good person. At best, they are mentally unstable or crazy.

Jesus, as a teacher, made an impressive number of claims about Himself. He claimed to be from

heaven (John 6:38). He claimed to have seen God (John 1:18). He claimed to know God in a close way (John 8:54-55). He claimed to be equal with God (John 5:16-18). He claimed to be God (John 1:1). He claimed to be the coming Messiah (Matthew 16:13-17). He claimed that He could forgive sin (Matthew 9:1-7). He claimed that He would be raised from the dead (John 2:19-22). He claimed that He could raise His people from the dead (John 5:28-29). If Jesus is not the Son of God, then all of these claims are blatant falsities. If Jesus is not the Son of God, then Jesus is a massive liar and far from being a good man.

If anyone reading this article has claimed that Jesus was a good person, yet you do not believe that He is the Son of God, I challenge you to stop saying that Jesus was a good man. Instead, be consistent, and say, "Jesus was a liar!" or "Jesus was mentally insane!" If anyone reading this article is a Christian and has a conversation with someone who makes the "good man" claim about Jesus, I urge you to challenge them on their logic.

The Bible is clear that the only One who is good – in and of themselves – is God. Mark 10:17-18 reads, "And as He was setting out on His journey, a man ran up and knelt before Him and asked Him, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' And Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.'" Jesus, by implication, here claimed that He is good because He is God. But Jesus did not just make this claim. He backed it up. He backed up His claims by performing miracles (Mark 16:20; Hebrews 2:3-4), fulfilling multiple prophecies concerning Himself (Matthew 21:1-5; Luke 24:44), and being resurrected from the dead (Mark 16:1-8; Romans 1:4).

Yes, Jesus was a good man. He is the greatest man to ever live on the face of the earth. As Christians, we need to persuade others to see their logical flaws and lack of consistency, trying to get them to know how truly great Jesus was, is, and will be! Remember, brothers and sisters, "Jesus is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). God is good, all the time. I hope you believe that truth and submit to that truth!

Luke Yates

His own people, eager to do what is good – Titus 2:14



Betty Ball, Jack Brodie, Ed Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Jerry and Louise Faules, Joe and Teresa Freund, Phyllis Goins, Faye Haight, May Hill, Wilma Hill, Doris Jones, Max Naramore, Price Naramore, Mark Strohl, Helen Swem, Corin Thomlinson, Richard Tink, Bobbie Tuggle, Robin Van Dorn, Margaret Wald, Ruth Ann Wilson, Treva Wolgamott, Velda Wood, and Neosho Christian School.

- Jerry Faules transferred to Medicalodge today for rehabilitation.
- Wilma Hill had back surgery Monday in Springfield.

Sympathy: We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Julia Fehring in the passing of her mother, Leona Conrow Saturday. Visitation is from 6-7 p.m. Wednesday at Duenweg Baptist Church on 7th Street, and funeral services will be held there at 10 a.m. Thursday.

Thank you for all your cards and prayers.

In Christian Love,
Glenda Daniels

I need prayers. Thank you all! Lee is doing ok and eats good. He will come back soon to be with all. Thanks for the money, it helped so much.

Lee Crabtree

Wishing all of you a beautiful Easter! Thank you for all your prayers and generosity! It will be very helpful during my recovery.

God bless,
Loretta Yocum

Dear Hillcrest Members, thank you. The lives you touch, the happiness you inspire, the wonderful difference you make...especially for us.

In Christ,
Steve and Terry Hanger

Thanks to everyone for the cards and prayers and support during this time of loss. It's such an encouragement to be part of a loving church family like Hillcrest.

Teresa Hanger and the Hanger Family



This Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. *Your Favorite Book You've Never Read*
(Danny Boggs)
P.M. *Our Optimistic Outlook*
(Luke Yates)

Thursday morning ladies' Bible class will meet at 8:30 this week.

Men's Barbecue Night: Men, join us for good food and a good time together this Thursday at Big R's in Joplin. Meet at the Hillcrest parking lot at 6:00. 

Neosho Christian School invites you to their annual **Benefit Banquet** this Saturday. A few seats are still available. Hors d'oeuvres and silent auction begin at 5 p.m., and dinner will be served at 6 p.m. This year's guest speaker is Anderson Maestri, educator, author, and public speaker. See the invitation posted for more details.

NCS

Kids and Families Devo: All families with kids below seventh grade are invited to the Boggs' home for a campfire devotional at 5:30 Saturday, April 29. Please see Jessica if you are coming and find out what to bring.



Fifth Sunday Giving: Our next opportunity to give specifically toward the payment for our new fellowship building will be Sunday, April 30. Make prayerful plans as we anticipate moving in soon.

Juice boxes: We're collecting juice boxes to help with the Bright Futures effort to send needy Neosho children home with nutrition over the weekends. Place your donations in the west nook of the foyer.



Watch!

Our week at Green Valley Bible Camp is only 54 days away! Register at greenvalleybiblecamp.com. Whoever gets the most friends to come to camp with them will get a cash award of \$123.03!

Remember to give an extra dollar every Sunday to help someone in need. Last Sunday we helped a member of our congregation whom we love and who needed the help.



Upcoming Area Events:

- The ladies at the Fordland church of Christ invite all ladies to their 5th Annual Ladies Retreat this weekend, with guest speaker Donna Faughn.
- The ladies at the Aurora church of Christ invite all ladies to their Ladies' Day this Saturday from 9:30-noon. Lunch will be served.
- The Miami church of Christ will host a gospel meeting with John Moore next Sunday to Wednesday, April 23-26. See the bulletin board for details. Meet at the Hillcrest parking lot at 6:00 Tuesday if you would like to ride the van.



Who is graduating from high school or college this spring? Please notify Jessica.

ASSIGNMENTS

Prayers Sunday, April 23

- AM Opening: Luke Yates
- AM Closing: Troy Risley
- PM Opening: Jr Collinsworth
- PM Closing: Todd Murray

Scripture Reading Sunday, April 23

- 2 Samuel 22:1-7, Nathan Babb
- Prayers Wednesday, April 26**
- Opening: Ethan Murray
 - Closing: Danny Boggs

| RECORDS | 04-16-17 | 04-10-16 |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| Bible Study | 90 | 143 |
| AM Worship | 149 | 181 |
| PM Worship | ? | 132 |
| Wednesday | 114 | 134 |
| Contribution | \$7,006.76 | \$6,862.50 |
| Budget | \$7,630.58 | \$7,075.67 |