

The Bulwark

SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

“HEY THERE GOOD BUDDY”

According to the story-teller, this really happened and he witnessed it. The preacher at the Baptist church in a small town in South Carolina was just beginning a prayer prior to his delivering the Sunday morning sermon. “Dear Heavenly Father...” Suddenly he was interrupted by a static sound, followed by a brief pause before a voice clear as the clanging of a bell said in a thick Southern drawl, “Hey there good buddy”.



There was a moment of hesitation, then all broke into laughter when they realized the voice was coming from the electric organ. Apparently it was picking up a “skip” conversation of a trucker on his CB radio. It almost goes without saying that throughout the remainder of the service people chortled as they thought back to “the voice” and thought perhaps God was responding to the preacher by calling him “good buddy”.

“God after He spoke long ago to the father and the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through who also He made the world.” (Hebrews 1:1-2) Moses knew what it was like to have God communicate with him one on one. In fact in Exodus 33:11 one finds, “the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.” By the

same token, the patriarch Abraham was also referred to as God’s friend (see 2Chronicles 20:7)

While it is true that God no longer speaks to mankind in the same way He did to Moses, Abraham and the prophets, that does not diminish the fact that we can still be viewed as a friend of God. The key to such friendship is seen in the passage noted earlier. Hebrews 1:1-2 and the recognition that God has now spoken to us through His Son, and He seeks to befriend us through Him.

“Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends if you do what I command you.” (John 15:13-14)

The invitation of friendship from God is extended to mankind through the gospel. There is however a response that is required. Consider how one “friends” another on “Facebook”. One of two things happens. First a request is offered to another in order to become “friends”, whereupon that individual accepts the invitation by “clicking” on “accept”; that one, by simple obedience has been befriended. In the second case, a request is sent out wanting to become “friends” with someone, but that request lays dormant, ignored, rejected or put another way snubbed. Without going through the proper procedure of compli-

ance that individual will never be added to the “friends” list of the one who issued the request.

David was said to be a man after God’s own heart, and the reason cited was that he would do God’s will (see Acts 13:22). In the various psalms that David wrote, it can be clearly seen that he had built a friendship with God that was a thing of beauty. We as well can construct a friendship with God, but it takes a willingness on our part to do the will of God. In short to comply with what is set forth in the pages of His word. To in essence confirm by our obedience that we have indeed “befriended” His Son, Jesus who is the Christ. Who provides access to the Father (see 1Peter 1:17-23, 3:21; John 14:1,6) (wbe)

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