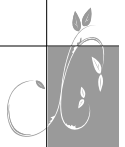




DEDICATION



To the memory of N. B. Hardeman





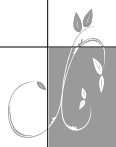
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SPEAKERS



Winford Claiborne

A native of Sumner County, Tennessee, Winford Claiborne has been an international voice for Christ since 1995 on the International Gospel Hour radio program, under the direction of West Fayetteville Church of Christ in Fayetteville, Tennessee.

Among the colleges he has attended are Freed-Hardeman University and Harding Graduate School. Freed-Hardeman later awarded him an honorary doctorate.

Winford has taught high school in four states and served as president of Georgia Christian School in Valdosta. He also taught Bible at Freed-Hardeman University for fourteen years and directed its lectureship for eleven years. He has worked with churches in four states.

Winford has two sons and three grandchildren. Since the death of Molly, his beloved wife of fifty-two years, Winford has continued his work for Christ. He lives in Fayetteville, Tennessee.

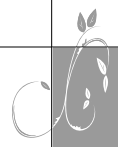


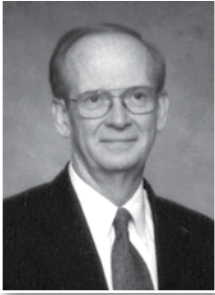
B. J. Clarke

Bradley Joseph (B. J.) Clarke, a native of Illinois, delivered his first sermon at the age of nine. Upon graduating high school in 1979, he entered Freed-Hardeman College and received a degree in Bible. He later received a master's degree in New Testament Text from Freed-Hardeman. In the late '80s, he served as an adjunct faculty member at East Tennessee School of Preaching and Missions.

B. J. has served churches in east Tennessee and north Mississippi. He will terminate his work with the Southaven church in August 2007 to work with Memphis School of Preaching and Gospel Broadcasting Network. He will continue to conduct gospel meetings.

B. J. and his wife Tamela have three children.





Jim Dearman

Jim Dearman, native of Smithville, Tennessee, is the program director of the Gospel Broadcasting Network. He earned his communications degree from the University of Tennessee, then a master's from Regions University. He has preached for thirty-three years in Alabama, Tennessee, and Texas. He also directed the Malaysia School of Preaching.

Jim began the *Sound Words* radio program in 1976. It later expanded and became the *Truth for the World* media mission work, for which he served as director of broadcasting.

Jim and his wife Janis have three children and nine grandchildren. The Dearmans are members of the Highland Church of Christ in Dalton, Georgia.



Garland Elkins

Tennessee native, Garland Elkins, is head of public relations at the Memphis School of Preaching where he serves as a faculty member. For more than fifteen years, he was the Associate Editor of *The Spiritual Sword*; now he co-edits the *Yokefellow* journal and writes tracts and articles for various publications. In 1984, he appeared on the Phil Donahue Show in defense of biblical teaching on church discipline. He has worked as the local preacher for churches in Tennessee and Virginia. He preaches in gospel meeting and speaks at lectureship in several states each year.

Garland and his wife Corrine live in Memphis, Tennessee.



Thomas H. Holland

Thomas H. Holland, a native of north Alabama, began preaching in 1950. He attended college at Freed-Hardeman, David Lipscomb, and Abilene. He received his Ph.D. from Illinois University. He has served as an instructor at Freed-Hardeman and David Lipscomb. He has served churches in Tennessee, Texas, Illinois, and Wisconsin. For sixteen years, he served as pulpit minister at Crieve Hall in Nashville. Tom presently preaches for Riggs Church of Christ in College Grove, Tennessee, and is a regular speaker on Gospel Broadcasting Network.

Tom is a prolific author, having written books on homiletics, doctrinal subjects, poetry, and humor. He has written more than fifty songs and has edited two songbooks. He is co-founder of the Diana singing and Columbia Bible Institute.

Tom is the father of two daughters and three sons and has seven grandchildren.

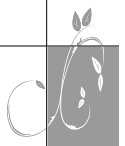


James W. Watkins

James Watkins is a native of Summerville, Georgia. After a stint in the Navy he married Foye Dooley in 1948. The young couple obeyed the gospel and brother Watkins enrolled in Montgomery Bible College, later continuing his education at Southern Christian University. He has served congregations in Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee.

In 1997 brother Watkins became host of a new national television program, *Preaching the Gospel*. That work continues.

The Watkins reside in Lewisburg, Tennessee.





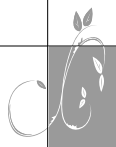
INTRODUCTION

The United States in 1922 was on the brink of the Modern Age, with radios, automobiles, and talking films soon to be staples of society. The greatest event of that era among churches of Christ also transpired—the first of N. B. Hardeman’s famous series of lessons, the “Tabernacle Sermons.” Having drawn thousands of listeners and tens of thousands of readers—the sermons were published in Nashville’s newspapers—brother Hardeman’s lessons were destined to become a part of the memories, libraries, and awareness of most New Testament Christians.

The United States in 2007 is well into a new millennium and the Age of Technology. Once again, a great occasion in the history of the Lord’s church transpires as the Gospel Broadcasting Network airs across the nation via live satellite television—a revisiting of Hardeman’s great lessons. The non-biblical history of the churches of Christ will record “GBN at the Ryman—the Tabernacle Sermons Today,” July 1–3, 2007, as an occasion of significance, much like the original “Tabernacle Sermons.”

The original “Tabernacle Sermons” called souls by the thousands back to the truth, the soul-saving message of the gospel. GBN’s “Tabernacle Sermons Today” broadcasts the same penetrating, soul-preserving message from God to countless souls across a nation where not only the population, but immorality and spiritual ignorance are burgeoning. Salvation of souls, purely and simply, was the intent of N. B. Hardeman and those who disseminated the original lessons. It is also the intent of the elders of the Highland Church of Christ and the staff of the Gospel Broadcasting Network who produce “GBN at the Ryman—the Tabernacle Sermons Today.”

The purpose of the elders of the Highland Church of Christ in Dalton, Georgia, in establishing and developing the work of Gospel Broadcasting Network, is the edification of Christians, the enlightenment of non-Christians, the encouragement of godliness, and the expansion of the borders of the Lord’s kingdom. May God bless us in these efforts and





bless all such endeavors that seek to bring glory and honor to our God and Father in heaven.

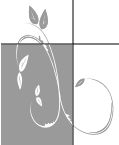
Barry Gilreath, Sr.,
for the elders of the Highland Church of Christ
and for the Management Team of the Gospel Broadcasting Network

Elders

Skip McNutt
Robert Moreau
Barry Gilreath, Jr.
Barry Gilreath, Sr.
Jimmy Woods

Management Team

Barry Gilreath, Sr., Executive Director
Jim Dearman, Program Director
Mike Hixson, Assistant Program Director
Gary McDade, Director of Development





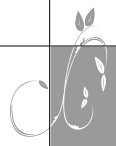
PRAYER

Almighty God, Our heavenly Father, Thou who art the framer of our bodies and the giver of our spirit. Thou madest man a little lower than the angels and hast crowned him with Glory and Honor. Here he bears the impress of divinity upon his brow and the stamp of God's image upon his heart. We acknowledge our superiority over all created things and we assume our responsibility to thee. Thou hast been good and great toward us and we call upon all within us to thank thee. We thank thee, Lord, for friends and for our loved ones—for kindred hearts and congenial spirits—for life with its joys and even for its sorrows. We pray, at this hour, for all men every where and in every condition of life.

We know there are many with heavy burdens and broken hearts. Suit unto them that which will be for their good and thy glory. Bless our friends and even our enemies. Over rule the wickedness of men to thy praise. Be with him who will speak to us today. May he speak as the oracles direct and may we hear in view of vast eternity. As we grow older, may we grow better.

“Cast us not off in the time of old age: forsake us not when our strength faileth.” Ever walk along beside us unto the end of the way and, finally, grant that we may pass through glory's morning gate to walk in Paradise. We ask all in the name of Christ. Amen.

—N. B. Hardeman, 1960





1



REPENTANCE

Thomas H. Holland

One of the last things that Jesus did before he left this earth was the giving of a charge or commission to his apostles. The Lord said,

Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem (Luke 24:46–47 NKJV).

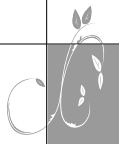
In preaching repentance we are following the Lord’s directive. The late and lamented N. B. Hardeman said that repentance “is a duty imposed upon all mankind. It is a plain command of God. It is universal in its application, and no man can refuse it and escape the responsibility that must come upon him.”¹

As we examine this vital subject—a subject just as important as when the Lord commanded it, the apostles declared it, and N. B. Hardeman effectively proclaimed it in 1922—we will consider the emphasis, the explanation, and the identification of what repentance is and who needs to respond to the Lord’s command.

Respect for the Emphasis

The voice of John the Baptist broke the “silence” that had lasted from the day of Malachi—some four hundred years—and the message that

1. N. B. Hardeman, *Hardeman’s Tabernacle Sermons*, Vol. I (Henderson, TN: Freed-Hardeman University, 1990), 197.





broke the silence was: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” (Matthew 3:2 NKJV).

Jesus began his public ministry in Galilee by declaring, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:17 NKJV). The Savior concluded his ministry in Galilee by rebuking “the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent” (Matthew 11:20 NKJV).

In some of his parables Jesus emphasized the importance of repentance. The shepherd who left the ninety-nine sheep and searched for a lost sheep was indeed happy when the one lost sheep was found. The Savior made the application of the parable: “I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance” (Luke 15:7 NKJV).

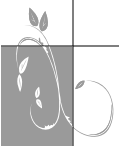
The next parable concerned a woman who found one of her ten coins she had lost and, like the shepherd who found his lost sheep, she called her friends and neighbors together to rejoice with her. Jesus then explained this parable: “Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents” (Luke 15:10 NKJV).

The Lord both preached repentance and commanded his apostles to preach repentance “to all nations” (Luke 24:47 NKJV).

When one examines the preaching of the apostles, he observes that they did what Jesus had charged them to do. Peter preached repentance in Jerusalem (Acts 2:38; 3:19). Paul preached repentance to the people in Athens (Acts 17:30–31). Peter told a baptized believer who had erred from the truth to repent and pray for forgiveness (Acts 8:22).

In his second epistle, the apostle Peter declared that sinful people have a choice: repent or perish (2 Peter 3:9). God’s desire is for people to repent.

Not only do people who by living in a world of sin have an acute need to repent, people in the Lord’s church who give in to the devil’s temptations need to repent. When the Holy Spirit authored letters to the seven churches of Asia, five of the seven had problems that called for repentance.





- The church at Ephesus was told to repent because the church no longer loved the Lord the way they should have loved him (Revelation 2:4–5).
- The church at Pergamos needed to repent because they had embraced false doctrine (Revelation 2:15–16).
- The church at Thyatira allowed a woman to teach and seduce the Lord’s servants to commit sexual immorality and to eat things sacrificed to idols (Revelation 2:20–22).
- The church at Sardis was spiritually dead and needed to repent (Revelation 3:1–3).
- The lukewarm, indifferent Laodicean church needed to repent (Revelation 3:19).

In the preaching and the Spirit-guided writing of the apostles, one is impressed with the emphasis given to the important subject of repentance.

Reason Explained

To understanding mankind’s fundamental problem is to appreciate the biblical emphasis of repentance. The basic problem of people is manifested in sin. Sin is not the fundamental problem of humanity. Sin is a manifestation of the problem. The problem is one of the mind of people.

What caused the first sin recorded in Scripture? The Holy Spirit through the inspired pen of the apostle Paul declared: “But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ” (2 Corinthians 11:3). The word *beguiled* means “to deceive” and as used in the case of Eve *beguiled* means, “as the serpent thoroughly beguiled Eve.”¹ The deception preceded the transgression (1 Timothy 2:14).

Sin comes from an uninformed, misinformed, deceived, corrupted mind. Jesus explained the origin of sinning. He identified the following sins: adultery, fornication, murder, stealing, deception, lasciviousness, an

1. W. E. Vine, *An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*, Vol. I (Westwood, NJ: Fleming H. Revell Co., 1966), 112.

