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## What is Valley Station Church?

It is a group of Christians determined to be pleasing to God. How do they do this? They do all in their power to follow the teaching of Jesus Christ with no changes, additions, subtractions or alterations.

It is a group of Christians that claim no human denominational affiliation — just Christians working and worshipping together at the Lord's word teaches.

If you need Christ as your Lord and Savior, we believe you will find him among the Christians at Valley Station.

**Come and see.**

The **VALLEY TIDINGS** is published monthly by the church of Christ, meeting at 1803 Dixie Garden Drive, Valley Station, Kentucky 40272

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Sunday Bible Class 9:30 A.M.  
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 P.M.  
Wednesday Bible Classes 7:30 P.M.  
Ladies Class, Thursday 10:00 A.M.

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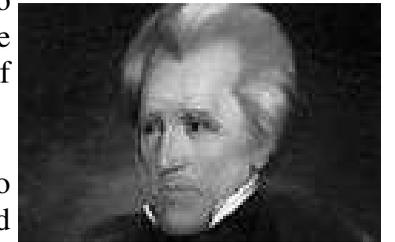
# Valley Tidings

**Set For The Defense of the Glad Tidings**

Volume VIII, October 2007, Number 10

## Andrew Jackson's Mother's Advice

In 1781 Andrew Jackson, then 14 years of age, enlisted in the American army; was captured and thrown into prison where he had smallpox. His mother, Elizabeth Hutchinson Jackson, through exchange, arranged for his release and nursed him back to health. Responding to an urgent appeal, she left him to go to Charleston to nurse some sick neighbors who were confined there on a British hospital ship. This errand of mercy cost her life. She caught yellow fever and died.



Almost her last words to her young son were:

“Andrew if I should not see you again, I wish you to remember and treasure up some things I have already said to you. In this world you will have to make your own way.

To do that you must have friends. You can make friends by being honest and you can keep them by being steadfast. You must keep in mind that friends worth having will in the long run expect as much from you as they give to you. To forget an obligation or to be ungrateful for a kindness is a base crime -- not merely a fault or a sin by an actual crime. Men guilty of it sooner or later must suffer the penalty. In personal conduct be always polite but never obsequious. None will respect you more than you respect yourself. Avoid quarrels as long as you can without yielding to imposition. But sustain your manhood always. Never bring a suit in law for assault and battery or for defamation. The law affords no remedy for such outrages that can satisfy the feelings of a true man. Never wound the feelings of others. Never brook wanton outrage upon your own feelings. If ever you have to vindicate your feelings or defend your honor, do it calmly. If angry at first, wait till your wrath cools before you proceed.”

These words were repeated by General Jackson on his birthday March 15th, 1815 at New Orleans to three members of his military family. Major John H. Estow, Major Wm. B. Lewis and Captain W.O. Butler. “Gentlemen,” said General Jackson, “I wish she could have lived to see this day. There never was a woman like her. She was gentle as a dove and brave as a lioness. Her last words have been the law of my life.”

# The “Prosperity Gospel”

Chris Perry



If it were to be judged merely by popularity, Joel Osteen’s “ministry” would be a success. The television broadcast of Lakewood Church’s services reaches 100 million homes, and Osteen’s book *Your Best Life Now* was a New York Times Best Seller. However, an interview on *Larry King Live* a couple of years ago provided a glimpse into the heart of Joel Osteen’s message. While there is no doubt that Mr. Osteen earnestly desires to provide some type of guidance to those who hear him, there is just as little doubt that his message—and that of many others like him—falls short of Biblical demands in several key ways.

First, one cannot help but be taken aback by Osteen’s aversion - not just *avoidance* but *aversion-to* anything remotely related to doctrine. Notice Osteen’s noncommittal attitude after being asked, “But don’t you think if people don’t believe as you believe, they’re somehow condemned?”

“You know, I think that happens in our society. But I try not to do that. I tell people all the time, - preached a couple of Sundays about it. I’m for everybody. You may not agree with me, *but to me it’s not my job to try to straighten everybody out.* The Gospel is called the good news. My message is a message of hope, that’s God for you. You can live a good life no matter what’s happened to you. And so I don’t know. *I know there is condemnation but I don’t feel that’s my place.*” (emphasis mine throughout this article, CP)

It seems that Joel Osteen is not even willing to stand up for the fundamental ideals of the denominational world, let alone true Biblical doctrine. Larry King followed a question regarding belief with the following:

KING: “*What if you’re Jewish or Muslim, you don’t accept Christ at all?*”

OSTEEN: “*You know, I’m very careful about saying who would and wouldn’t go to heaven. I don’t know*

KING: “*If you believe you have to believe in Christ, they’re wrong, aren’t they?*”

OSTEEN: “*Well, I don’t know if I believe they’re wrong. I believe here’s what the Bible teaches and from the Christian faith this is what I believe. But I just think that only God will judge a person’s heart. I spent a lot of time in India with my father. I don’t know all about their religion. But I know they love God. And I don’t know. I’ve seen their sincerity. So I don’t know. I know for me, and what the Bible teaches, I want to have a relationship with Jesus.*”

Osteen gives no solid Biblical answers. His answer to the allimportant problem of human suffering is “*I don’t know Larry. I don’t know it all*” (while true to an extent, his knowledge seems horribly limited). Osteen’s favorite filler statement in this interview is “*I don’t know...*,” and truly he doesn’t appear to know much of anything concerning the word of truth. However, Jesus taught, “*And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free*” (John 8:32). Paul commanded Timothy to “*preach the word; be instant in season, out of*

*season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine*” (II Timothy 4:2).

Just as disturbing as Osteen’s lack of knowledge and concern for the basic truths of the Gospel is his focus on material success. Consider this exchange between King and Osteen:

KING: “*What is the prosperity gospel?*”

OSTEEN: “*I think the prosperity gospel in general is -- well I don’t know. I hear it too. I don’t know. I think what sometimes you see is it’s just all about money. That’s not what I believe. It’s the attitude of your heart, and so you know, we believe -- but I do believe this, that God wants us to be blessed. He wants us to be able to send our kids to college, excel in our careers. But prosperity to me, Larry, is not just money, it’s having health. What good is money if you don’t have health?*”

KING: “*Also many in the Christian belief are wary of too much material, aren’t they?*”

OSTEEN: “*Yeah, I think some of them are. But to me, you know, I hope people get blessed if they can handle it right. Because it takes money to do good You know to do things for people. To spread the good news. So I think it’s all a matter of your heart.*”

Those who listen in ignorance to Osteen’s messages cannot help but get the impression that righteousness equals wealth, which is merely an echo of Job’s friends: “*Remember, I pray thee, who ever perished, being innocent? Or where were the righteous cut op.*” (Job 4:7). However, such a materialistic view of God’s blessings is full of serious holes in light of the nature of the world. How many who have bought into such philosophies end up echoing the sentiments of the Psalmist: “*For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked*” (Psalm 73:3)? Joel Osteen might have trouble gaining support for his prosperity gospel from the literally millions of New Testament Christians here and in foreign lands who labor to get by from day to day *yet remain faithful to God.* To be sure, God has promised the faithful Christian the necessities of life (Matthew 6:25-33), and those who abide by godly principles will fare better than those in similar circumstances who do not, but the focus of the Gospel message is not salvation of the bank account (Matthew 6:19-21).

Joel Osteen and others of his mold provide what the masses want to hear. With “*itching ears*” (II Timothy 4:3) people in general want someone “preaching” to them who will do no more than stroke their fragile egos and reinforce their beliefs that if they work hard and are more or less good people, they will be blessed materially. However, may those of us who wear the name Gospel preacher “*not shun to declare all the counsel of God*” (Acts 20:27).

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“As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?” — Psalm 42:1-2

