

The Tennessee Tribune

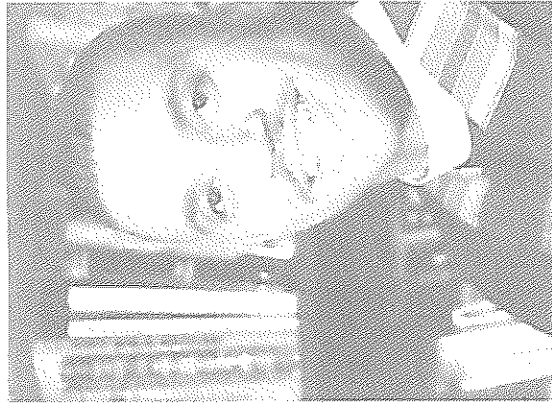
Volume 23, No. 34, 3 Sections

THURSDAY, August 23-29, 2012

\$1.00

Corrected by Christ: Allowing the Redeemer to Reform our Behavior

A Commentary by Jason Curry



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I was greatly honored when a Chapel Assistant asked me to listen to one of his sermons which was recorded in the Fisk Memorial Chapel. Our University is truly blessed in that our Student Government Association President, Minister Philippe Andal, is also an outstanding preacher of the gospel of Jesus Christ. As an "older brother," mentor and colleague in the ministry, Minister Andal asked me to read his sermon and make suggestions as to how he may improve his delivery, enhance his content or "correct" any errors that may have inadvertently committed within the course of time allotted to him. In many respects this young man is further along than I was at his age inasmuch as I used to cringe at the very thought of hearing myself on tape of seeing my face in a church video. I applaud Minister Andal for continuing to strive for a higher form of excellence, and I take my ecclesiastical responsibility of helping him achieve his goals very seriously. In the same manner in which God,

through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, guides me to texts to preach while leading me away from others, helps me to preach my convictions instead of my doubts, convicts me about the need to love those who use or persecute me, and corrects me so that I may repent and be forgiven through His grace, I too have the solemn and sacred responsibility of helping and correcting young leaders so that they may maximize their potential as preachers of the Gospel. Thank God for the candor of conversation which often leads to new dimensions of revelation and higher heights of inspiration.

God corrects us because God loves us. If God did not love us, He would allow us to fumble and folly about with no care or concern regarding how our thoughts or actions might offend Him, ourselves and the people around us. Sometimes God answers our prayers by saying "no;" however, it is important to realize that the person, treasure or situation that we des-

perately want may ultimately lead us away from God. Christians are truly blessed in that we are often convicted and corrected by God's word. When we are inclined to hate, Christ says "love (Matthew 5:44)." When we are captured by fear, Christ says: "Have faith (Matthew 14:31)." When we are convinced that we are all alone, Christ says: "I am with you (Matthew 28:20)." Through his everlasting word, and by his abiding presence, Christ convicts us, challenges us and corrects us because he loves us. True reform only comes from the Redeemer. We can be rectified only through the Reconciler. Thank God for the privilege of being corrected through God's word.