

THE GOSPEL TRUTH

Hiram Church of Christ

www.hiramchurchofChrist.com · 7660 Nebo Road, Hiram, GA 30141 · (770) 943-9977

LARGE ENOUGH TO SERVE YOU AND SMALL ENOUGH TO KNOW YOU

"If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen."

1 Peter 4:11

"Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you." Romans 16:16

FIRST CENTURY CHURCH IN THE 21ST CENTURY

MINISTER: MELVIN J. BRYANT II

ORDER OF WORSHIP





Announcements: Melvin Bryant III
Opening Prayer: Melvin Bryant III
Song Leader: Kwame Abdul
Second Prayer: Clarence Proctor
Lord's Table: Devin Bryant

Message: Melvin J. Bryant II
Closing Prayer: Alex Johnson

Attendance

Morning Hour: TBA
Bible Class: TBA
Worship: TBA
Wednesday: TBA

Weekly Service Times

 The Morning Hour 9:00am
 Bible Class 10:00am
 Morning Worship 11:00am
 Wed. Evening Bible Classes 7:30pm

The Morning Hour

- Announcements
- Prayer
- Song
- 25 Minute Study
- Card Writing/Mail Outs
- Prepare for 10:00am Bible Class

Missions: India & Childhaven

PLAN OF SALVATION

- ★ Taught by God - John 6:45
- ★ Believe - John 8:24
- ★ Repent - Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30
(Repentance entails counting the cost - Luke 14:25-33)
- ★ Confess - Matthew 10:32-33
- ★ Be Baptized - Matthew 28:18-20
- ★ Live a FAITHFUL life until death - Revelation 2:10

Matthew 25:1-13



WHAT IF WE BEGAN TO TREAT OUR BIBLES THE WAY WE TREATED OUR CELL PHONES?

WHAT IF WE...

...carried it with us everywhere?

...turn back to get it if we forgot it?

...checked it for messages throughout the day?

...used it in case of emergencies?

...spend an hour or more each day using it?



What would our lives look like?

ONGOING HEALTH ISSUES

Lea Overton (Jeff's mother), Ron McCurry (shut in-visits requested), Amy Brown, Polly Tunstall (Amy's mother), Ann Phillips, Harold and Dean Reeves, Vera Patrick, Mary Troup, Joanie Saporito, Patty Dale, Daniel Welker (kidney transplant), Al Gattis (COPD), Ben Westbrooks (leukemia) Mary Brock.

Continued Prayers Needed

Jamie Franklin, Charlie Griffin, the Webb Family, Ron McCurry. Sis. Pudgy son Art.

PRAYER REQUESTS

(JAMES 5:16)

- ▶ **Alma Lismore**, Bro. Bryant's grandmother passed away yesterday morning. Let us keep his family in our prayers.
- ▶ **Baby Luke Jackson** and family is in need of prayer as he continues to undergo testing and recovery from surgeries.
- ▶ **Artemas Holloway** lost his brother. Let us keep him and his family in prayers.
- ▶ **Sis Penny** has asked that we keep her in prayers.
- ▶ **Deborah Abdul** asked prayers for her mom, Emlyn Potts regarding health related issues, and her cousin Brandon Potts.
- ▶ **Dene Reeves** is in need of our continual prayers.
- ▶ **Mary Brock** has asked that we keep her in prayer.
- ▶ **JoAnne Proctor** is in need of continual prayers.
- ▶ **Kilwonia Chandler** is still having complication from her surgery. Let us continue to keep her in prayer.
- ▶ **Jerry Barber** is in need of prayers as he will be going to court to seek justice regarding the murder of his son.
- ▶ **Joe Ceasar** and the O'Quinn St. Church of Christ in our prayers.

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & NEWS

☑ August Birthdays

Dean Reeves - 8th
Mary Troup - 11th
Pudgy Parson - 18th
Harold Reeves - 31st

☑ Anniversaries

Kwame & Deborah Abdul - 17th

☑ Hiram Church News

The ladies are conducting a class each third Monday of the month. All women are encouraged to attend.

Make plans to stay for the last Sunday fellowship meal.

In addition, we plan to resume all regular Sunday morning Bible classes the first week in September.

☑ Baptisms

Josiah Johnson was baptized on January 1, 2020! Let us rejoice and encourage our new brother in Christ!

☑ Local Church News

☑ National Church News

BCS Church of Christ in College Station, Texas had their 4th annual Men's Development conference and it was a success! Let us pray for the efforts of

developing our young men to be Strong men of God!

☑ World Church News

☑ Traveling

“UNPREPARED”
Matthew 25:1-13
By
Melvin J. Bryant II

Far too many people have left this time side of life, “Unprepared”! And, there are SO MANY others who are living, BUT; they too are “Unprepared” for eternity! When I say;

I. UNPREPARED

- A. I mean, “Not ready”! (BDAG pg. 97).
- B. “Not being prepared”! (Louw & Nida vol. 1 pg. 683).
- C. “Not ready or one is unprepared to deal with something”! (dictionary.com)
 - The person is unready, caught off guard, surprised, And, for an informal definition, the person was caught napping, caught slipping!
 - EVERYTHING in life should be done with some form of preparation!
 - School test, obtaining a CDL license, a Pilot’s license, a Driver’s license all consist of Preparation! You will pass ANY of these things if you prepare properly!
 - As Christians, we are to be “Prepared” for the Return of the Savior! Amos 4:12 says it like this, **“Prepare to meet your God....”!**
 - *Nonetheless*, there is an AMAZING thing about Death, and that is that it does not Discriminate! It doesn’t care if you’re black or white, rich or poor, young or old! “IF” you’re a mother or father, an aunt or an uncle, a brother or sister, a child or a grandparent, a Racist or not, an American or a Russian...An entertainer, athlete or Not...Death is coming, and EVERYONE on the face of the earth has a, “Date with Death” and you nor I can escape it!
 - The reason why this is Biblically true, is because of Hebrews 9:27; Ecclesiastes 3:20! Death is a Biblical TRUTH! NO MAN can (nor will) live here on earth forever!
 - Why is this true? Two things: (1) John 14:2-3 and (2) 2 Peter 3:10 (cf. Daniel 12:2; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18)! We who are “Faithful” to the Lord our God can rest assure that He is going to return to get us!
 - *Nonetheless*, so many people DIE “Unprepared” and won’t experience the beauty of meeting the Lord in the Air! So many people are at this very moment “Unprepared” and will DIE in that state or “Unpreparedness”!

II. JESUS SPOKE ON HOW HE PLANS TO RETURN UNEXPECTEDLY

- A. In Matthew 24:36-44 Jesus tells us, **“But of that day and hour NO ONE KNOWS, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father ONLY.”**
 - We know there have been a COUNTLESS number of people claiming to know when the Lord was to return and ALL OF THEM (Past, Present and Future) have been wrong and will continue to be wrong! NO ONE KNOWS when the Lord is to return but God the Father!
 - Jesus Illustrates by telling us what happened in the days of Noah, the ENTIRE KNOWN WORLD at that time was “Unprepared” with the Exception of EIGHT SOULS that was saved by water according to 1 Peter 3:20!
 - What were they doing as they were “Unprepared”? (see Matthew 24:38-39)!
 - ALL of them were “Unprepared” with the Exception of Noah, his sons and their wives!
- B. Jesus tells us in Matthew 24:45-51 of two servants!
 - One Faithful (verses 45-47) and the other Unfaithful and “Unprepared” (verses 48-51)!
 - So many people in our world comes to their day of death “Unprepared” for the other side of eternity! They lift their eyes up as the Rich man did in Luke 16:23-24 in total SHOCK, tormented in the flame!
 - Something needs to be noted: Just because you “SAY” you believe in Jesus does not make you a Christian! What did Jesus say in Matthew 7:21? There is a will of God that must be accomplished!

- Just because you occasionally speak of God on social media or anywhere else does not mean that you're saved! Just because you are in worship does not mean that heaven is guaranteed to you!
- Obedience to God is MORE IMPORTANT than lip service! What did Jesus say in Matthew 15:8-9?
- It is estimated that over 150,000 people die each day around the world, and the majority of those adults are lost entering into eternity "Unprepared"!

Here is a question....

C. How would you know "IF" you're "Unprepared"?

- "IF" you are an able body and can worship God every first day of the week and you choose NOT to, you are on your way to an eternity "Unprepared"! (Hebrews 10:25)! "IF" you and your children are fornicating, (*that is*, having sex outside of marriage), and you're promoting it, you're on your way to eternity "Unprepared"! "IF" you believe that drinking, smoking, gambling, are fun activities, you're on your way to an eternity "Unprepared"! "IF" you are a homosexual (or lesbian) OR; you support the LGBTQ community, you are on your way to an eternity "Unprepared"! If you don't believe it, please read 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21; Revelations 21:8 and Romans 1:32!
- Have you noticed when you call out SIN (the hit dog) always barks! They say things like, "*You use to be a fornicator, you use to drink, you use to smoke or gamble*" We never said we didn't! But; they say this to justify their continual state of sin!
- What does Romans 6:1-2 tell us? What is it, Romans 6:1-2, "*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who DIED TO SIN live any longer in it?*"
- We have to put to DEATH the Sin!
- Paul persecuted Christians, but he met the Lord on the road to Damascus, was told what to do by Ananias and guess what? Paul STOPPED persecuting the Lord's people (Acts 9:1ff)!
- One scripture as faithful children of God that we should be constantly reminding ourselves of is Galatians 1:10! We are to please God not men!

III. FIVE WISE AND FIVE FOOLISH VIRGINS (see Matthew 25:1-13)

- A. The Kingdom is heaven here is a descriptive title for the church!
- The TEN Virgins are servants (or Christians/Disciples)! The Lamps (and oil) are the Works that can't be transferred! These virgins understood enough to come OUT of the World to meet the Bridegroom, for they KNEW of the Bridegroom! They were all invited to the wedding feast! They ALL accepted the invitation. (This means that they all became disciples of Christ)! And, the Bridegroom of course, is Jesus Himself!
- B. There is a constant theme in scripture of how God wants us to be WISE! (cf. Matthew 7:24-25) and doing the work in the kingdom (James 1:25).
- So, "IF" we want to be WISE, we will HEAR what Jesus is saying and DO what He commands!
- C. Jesus also tells us what makes a person FOOLISH (Matthew 7:26-27)!
- Jesus tells us when ONE HEARS His sayings and does NOT do them! The word "foolish" here comes from a Greek word, "Moros" where we get our English word, "Moron"! It also can be translated as being "Stupid"!
- D. When we are "Unprepared"!
- The Five Foolish Virgins didn't take any oil with them!
 - There are SO MANY Christians living life carelessly! Many Christians truly believe they have plenty of time to get it right, so they avoid worship, they avoid Bible study, and other duties required of them! Can you imagine people seeing the return of Jesus then trying to hurry to get themselves together! Some will be repenting at the last minute, Atheist will be in SHOCK that there is actually a God, Others will be so scared, they won't know what to do! And; for the Faithful, we are going to REJOICE because we know we are Prepared!
 - Now, some might read this parable in disbelief because the Five Wise Virgins refused to share their oil! *However*, the lesson is that our PERSONAL Preparedness cannot be purchased for another person! We ALL will stand before the judgment seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10 cf. Matthew 16:27)! Be encouraged brethren until the last Amen!