

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

Vol. 17 No. 29 - July 19, 2020

"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: Matt Johnson
Opening Prayer: Matt Johnson
Song Leader: Devin Bryant
Second Prayer: Alex Johnson
Lord's Table: Clarence Proctor

Message: Melvin J. Bryant II
Closing Prayer: Kwame Abdul

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

*To be a disciple of Christ,
YOU ACCEPT
CHRIST'S TEACHINGS.*



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.

PRAYER REQUESTS

(JAMES 5:16)

- ▶ **Artemas Holloway** lost his brother Antwan on last Monday. 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.

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & NEWS

☑ July Birthdays

Traci Bryant - 1st
Ron McCurry - 6th
Alex Johnson - 20th

☑ Baptisms

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

☑ World Church News

☑ Traveling

☑ Anniversaries

☑ Local Church News

☑ 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.

☑ 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!

"A Dedicated Determined Dependable Disciple"

Part I - "A Dedicated Disciple"

Matthew 6:21; Luke 9:57-62

By

Melvin J. Bryant II

It is simply amazing to me that many who profess to be Christians say they are following Jesus, but when it comes to "Dedicating" themselves to the cause of Christ, many fail!

- Dedication is one of the most IMPORTANT factors as a Christian, and I'm thankful to God that we have some "Dedicated" members of the Lord's church who commit themselves EVERY Week to worshipping God the Father in spirit and in truth! But;

What is Dedication?

- Dedication means, "the quality of being Dedicated or Committed to a task or a purpose." (Dictionary Online).
- *It is*, to "devote (time, effort, or oneself) to that particular task or purpose." (Oxford)!
- Merriam-Webster defines "Dedication", it says, "to devote to the worship of a Divine Being specifically: to set apart (a church) to sacred uses with solemn rites."
- So, Dedication is simply commitment to a task or purpose!
- Now, today, before one "Dedicate" themselves to Christ, that one must become a Disciple! (Matthew 28:18-20).
- One cannot "Dedicate" themselves to Christ UNLESS that one becomes a Disciple First!
- God's invitation to Salvation is for ALL men who OBEY Him (Hebrews 5:9)!
- And, once we become Disciples, we have to understand that God is looking for....

I. DEDICATED DISCIPLES

- A. A "Disciple" is simply, "a pupil, (or;) a person who becomes a follower". (BDAG pg. 609).
 - So, today, we can be called "Disciples" or followers of Christ!
 - We can ALSO be called, "Christians" Christians are followers of Christ! (Acts 11:26)!
 - We can be called, "Saints" (Romans 1:7)!
- B. Think about the things that we "Dedicate" ourselves to!
 - Most of us Men, when we met our spouse for the first time, we put TIME, EFFORT and ENERGY into winning her for ourselves!
 - Most of us when entering into a career will "Dedicate" ourselves to whatever we need to do, so that we can Attain the Goal that we're trying to accomplish.
 - For those Business Owners, we "Dedicate" ourselves to the company that we've started.
 - Athletes "Dedicate" YEARS of training to become the best at what they do!
 - And, think about this....During this pandemic we're experiencing, most people are not as "Dedicated" to the service of God like they should be.
 - There are many excuses, but these same ones have no problem traveling to the Grocery Store, the Doctor's office, to work and they are sure to be careful when they step out!
 - *However*, WHERE is the Dedication? Why don't you use the same CAREFULNESS, the SAME CAUTION to come to the House of God for Worship?
 - You see, we "Dedicate" ourselves to that which WE desire to do, to that which want to do, BUT; when it comes to our "Dedication" and service to GOD, I just can't do that!
 - Our text, Matthew 6:21, what did Jesus say? "For where your TREASURE is, there your HEART will be also." I'm not suggesting Food, Doctor's Appointments, etc., are not important, *however*, there is hypocrisy in it! (see **Matthew 15:7-8**)!
 - If you can be extremely careful with your desires, you can be careful in worship to God!

- As Christians, should we not “Dedicate” ourselves to the will of God?
- Doing things with all that we have in us, being “Dedicated” to what we do is a Biblical principal (Ecclesiastes 9:10)!

C. As a “Dedicated Disciple” we MUST Endure, “Hardships!” (see **2 Timothy 2:1-3**!)

- Even when things became challenging, there were Christians in the first century that continued to “Dedicate” themselves to the Lord our God! The Apostles in Acts 5:40 was beaten and suffered shame for the cause of Christ! Even in the face of DANGER AND DEATH (Acts 8:1), the early “Disciples DEDICATED” themselves for the cause of Christ!
- “IF” were going to be “Dedicated Disciples,” there are THREE things listed in **verses 1-3 (2 Timothy 2)** that we need to consider!

(1) Dedicated Disciples are to be STRONG in the Grace that is in Christ Jesus!

- ☞ **First:** it starts with us! (verse 1)!
- ☞ But; what makes us STRONG in the Lord? (see **2 Timothy 1:13-14; 1 Timothy 6:3-5**!)
- ☞ So, Sound Words are Wholesome Words, they are the Words of Jesus Christ and His doctrine, and; “IF” MEN don’t CONSENT to what Jesus has said, AND; to the Doctrine, that MAN knows NOTHING!
- ☞ **Second:** Paul showed how “ALL those in Asia” turned from the Sound Words, who were NOT “Dedicated Disciples” AND; he told Timothy by name who “some” were! (see **2 Timothy 1:15**!)
- ☞ In order for us to be “Dedicated” to the Lord, we will come across those who are NOT as Committed as we are! They have NOT counted the full cost of Discipleship!
- ☞ But those individuals should NOT “discourage” us from our service to God!
- ☞ Paul noted those who were not faithful (Phygellus and Hermogenes - **verse 15** cf. Romans 16:17-18) And, those who were (The Household of Onesiphorus - **verse 16** cf. Philippians 3:17).

(2) We are to commit ourselves to God’s Grace first, then Commit that Grace to Faithful Men!

- ☞ We’ve all heard the saying, “*Practice what you preach*”!
- ☞ That word “Men” there in verse 2 comes from the Greek Word, “*Anthropos*,” and in this context, it is referring to a human being, whether it be male or female!
- ☞ MEN can teach and Usurp Authority over other Men and Women!
- ☞ WOMEN can teach other Women (according to Titus 2:3-5), BUT; she is NOT to Usurp Authority over the man according to 1 Timothy 2:11-12!

(3) We must ENDURE Hardships! (see **2 Timothy 2:4**)

- ☞ In verses 4-6, Paul shows that our service to Jesus is compared to Different Occupations!
 - (i) In verse 4, Paul uses a metaphor and compares the Christian life to a Soldier!
 - Once we have committed ourselves to the Christian life, God has enlisted us as a Soldier, He has added us to the church (Acts 2:47), we are in Full Duty, Full Service to Him! Now, in Full Duty, 2 Timothy 2:3 tells us that we , “...therefore must ENDURE Hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”
 - The only way we can be a “Good Soldier” is to be “Dedicated” to our service to God! With being a “Good Soldier,” it will affect our relationship with those who don’t share in the same religious convictions as we do! (cf. Luke 14:26)!
 - Once we have ENLISTED ourselves as Soldiers of Christ, we should not abandon our responsibility because of ANY HARDSHIP! We are to be Faithful soldiers for Christ until the day we DIE (Revelation 2:10). Be encouraged brethren, until the last Amen....