

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

Message: Melvin J. Bryant II
Closing Prayer: Matt 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

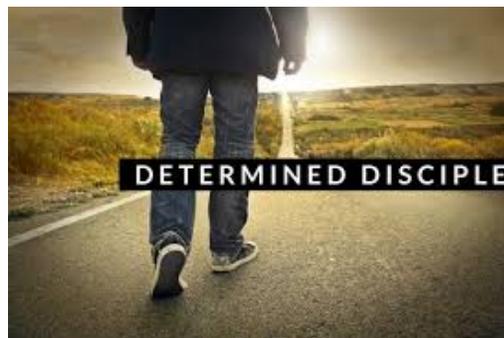
- Announcements
- Prayer
- Song
- 25 Minute Study
- Card Writing/Mail Outs
- Prepare for 10:00am Bible Class

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

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)

- ▶ **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 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 II - "A Determined Disciple"

Matthew 6:21; Luke 9:57-62

By

Melvin J. Bryant II

Determination is another important factor of being a Christian or a Disciple of Christ! *However,*

I. WHAT IS IT TO BE DETERMINED?

- A. The Hebrew equivalent for determined is, "to be strong, strengthen, let's grow strong, make FIRM, PROVE to be Strong!"
- B. *It is*, "to be FULLY DEVOTED to some course of action."
- C. *It is*, "having a FIRM decision and having a resolve NOT to change, a FIRMNESS of purpose; resolute." (COED).
 - A "Determined" person who is fixed on the Righteous Things of God is one who is Immovable! He's STEADFAST, he decides and refuses to change his mind!
 - As Disciples, we're encouraged to be "...Steadfast, Immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord..." (1 Corinthians 15:58).
 - NOTHING should shake our course of action and work in the Lord regardless of what hindrances we may face!
 - Jesus tells us, "**where your TREASURE is, there your heart will be also.**" (Mt. 6:21).
 - ANY person whose TREASURE is in anything in this life, (Job, Business, Family, etc.) you will find a MAN that is, "Dedicated, Determined and Dependable" to what he values most!

For instance:

- If a man is a Workaholic and is Absent from Worship and his Family life, it is safe to say that his HEART (his mind) is into his job, his work, and not FULLY into the Worship of God NOR; the Full Development of his family that God has graciously blessed him with!
- When this happens, the children becomes older, the respect you once garnered is a thing of the past since you were never around to discipline them and confirm the word to them (Ephesians 6:4).
- Your wife, although she and the children never wanted for anything financially, her life is Depleted, VOID of the Continual Affection that was due her (1 Corinthians 7:3a) and now she feels empty and unloved because you were NEVER there to foster those affections!

There is a SERIOUS price to pay when this happens!

- What is that Price? Absent from Worship, Service and Duty to our God!
- We ought to make a commitment, to be Determined in our minds never to willfully miss a service to our God (Hebrews 10:25-26).
- Absent from our wives, children and the godly development to our family!
- Yes, the benefits and reward may allow life to be comfortable to your family, BUT; at what cost? Eternal separation from God?!
- This reminds us of Moses, (Hebrews 11:24)! Rather than enjoy the "Passing Pleasures of Sin," Moses rather esteem the reproach of Christ Greater Riches! There is a GREATER reward on the other time side of life! Proverbs 23:4-5 helps us more with this!
- So, "IF" you're overworking, and there is a VOID in your spiritual development, your Worship to God takes a Back Seat to your desires, your relationship with your wife and children is suffering, you find yourself putting more attention to detail with your secular job and God is NOT number ONE in your life, CEASE, as the proverb writer would say!
- What's more important, an eternal home with the family God has blessed you with!

- Be DETERMINED to change the paradigm of your life and submit yourselves to the will of God!

II. THE DETERMINED LOOK EVERY MAN'S LIFE SHOULD START WITH!

- A. Whether you're married or single, every man's life should start with this!
- (1) God is to take Precedence over ANY and EVERYTHING in your life! (see **Mark 12:29**).
 - (2) Family is to come next! (cf. Ephesians 5:23; Ephesians 6:4)!
 - The man is the HEAD of his wife, *he is*, "the one who is of supreme or pre-eminent status, in view of authority to order, command." (Louw & Nida vol. 1 pg. 738).
 - He is commanded to lead his wife and family in all things including spiritual things (1 Corinthians 14:34)!
 - In 1 Corinthians 14:35, he is to be in WORSHIP with his wife!
 - He is to KNOW how to RULE his own house (1 Timothy 3:5)!
 - (3) Your job or place of employment!
 - We know what 2 Thessalonians 3:10 tells us, "...if a man would not work, he should not eat." And, "whatever his hands finds to do, do it with all your might...." (Ecclesiastes 9:10).
 - BUT; work, labor (as much as it is commanded for us to do) does NOT take precedence over Family and surely NOT God!

III. RUTH WAS A DETERMINED WOMAN (see **Ruth 1:7-17**).

- A. Ruth was DETERMINED not to forsake her mother-in-law and was DETERMINED to serve the God of heaven!
- A Moabites, the Daughter-in-law to Naomi!
 - Naomi has another Daughter-in-law named Orpah, and all three of these women were married to men who would later die and leave them widows!
 - Now the reason Naomi's husband Elimelech left Jerusalem and took their sons to Moab is because there was a famine in Jerusalem and he thought it would be better around pagans! It's NEVER a Good idea to leave God's Faithful People under NO circumstance and surround yourselves around pagans! (1 Corinthians 15:33)! Even if things gets rough, God always visits His people and protects them!
 - Naomi tried to convince them to return to their people (verses 8,9,11-13) Orpah was persuaded to return, but Ruth was the only one who clung to her (verse 14).
 - Word of caution: Naomi should have never tried to persuade them to return to idolatry, serving the pagan god Chemosh (Numbers 21:29).
 - *Nonetheless*, Ruth was FULLY DEVOTED to her course of action" NOT to leave Naomi and was WILLING to serve the God of Israel and die a widow in the process!
- B. Paul was a, "Determined Disciple"! (see **2 Corinthians 11:23-28**).
- All of the Hardship's Paul experienced, he was DETERMINED NOT to allow these things to take him off course and lead him down the wrong path!
 - Once we have DETERMINED in our minds to be a Disciple, nothing should sway us from our steadfastness in the Lord!
- C. Jesus was STEADFAST, He was IMMOVABLE, He was "Determined" to do His Father's will! (see Luke 9:51)!
- Jesus KNEW that He had to DIE in Jerusalem! He KNEW the suffering He had to come to, and was DETERMINED not to allow anything nor anyone to stop Him from doing His Father's will! Let us be Determined Disciples, "Steadfast, Immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." (1 Corinthians 15:58)! Be encouraged brethren, until the last Amen....