

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

“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: Kwame Abdul
Second Prayer: Clarence Procter
Lord's Table: Melvin J. Bryant III
Devin Bryant
Message: Melvin J. Bryant II
Closing Prayer: Alex Johnson

Attendance

Morning Hour: 16
Bible Class: 23
Worship: 27
Wednesday: 15
Contribution: \$ 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

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“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

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)
- ★ Confess - Matthew 10:32-33
- ★ Be Baptized - Matthew 28:18-20
- ★ Live a FAITHFUL life until death - Revelation 2:10



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), Sebastian and Erica Suarez, Ron McCurry (shut in-visits requested), Amy Brown, Polly Tunstall (Amy's mother), Ann Phillips, Harold and Dean Reeves, Mary Brock's daughter Potts/Williams family, Kilwonia Chandler, Barbara Helton, Vera Patrick, Mary Troup, Joanie Saporito, Charlie Griffin, Patty Dale, Daniel Welker (kidney transplant), Al Gattis (COPD), Shirley Glosson (radiation), Ben Westbrooks (leukemia), Anita Berger husband Rich, Sis. Carolyn, Ashley (Sis. Erica's sister) and her family, Sis. Dean, Sis. Proctor, Anita Berger.

PRAYER REQUESTS

(JAMES 5:16)

- ▶ **The Webb** family lost their daughter Kira. Let us keep them in our prayers.
- ▶ **Anita Berger** test result was favorable, but she is still in need of prayers for complications.
- ▶ **Kwame** had a successful surgery and is in need of continual prayers as he heals from it. And, for his citizenship as he has applied for it.
- ▶ **Charlie** had surgery on his foot and has asked that we keep him in prayer.
- ▶ **Garrison Ihle**, the 5 month old baby of some friends of the Johnsons had his surgery. Please keep him and his family in our prayers.
- ▶ **Carolyn** is still in need of our continual prayer.
- ▶ **Ron McCurry** has requested continued prayers for his son in law.
- ▶ **Mary Matthews**, the aunt of Sis. Traci Bryant is being treated for cancer. Let us keep her lifted in prayer.
- ▶ **Brother Melvin** has a co-worker, Dondrea Clay who is in need of prayers as she was injured on the job.
- ▶ **Kaitlyn Hunter** mom is in need of continual prayer for difficulties with her medication!

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & NEWS

☑ October Birthdays

TBA

☑ Anniversaries

TBA

☑ Hiram Church News

Sis. Becky will be conducting a ladies class each first Monday of the month. All women are encouraged to attend.

☑ Local Church News

☑ World Church News

☑ Traveling

Sis. Pudgy

☑ Hiram Church of Christ News

Our water is fixed in the back and Fellowship dinner will resume the last Sunday of each month. Please plan to stay.

Kaitlyn Hunter was baptized on September 15th. Let us keep her in prayer for strength and faithfulness.

Jonathan Reaves was baptized on September 29th. Let us keep him in prayer for strength and faithfulness.

"BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS GROWTH" Part I

Galatians 5:22 - 2 Peter 3:17

By

Melvin J. Bryant II

In life, even at conception, we are GROWING! Even in BIRTH we are growing at ALL times! And, the year we are born, until the current day of our existence, we are growing OUTWARDLY and should be Growing INWARDLY! Even when the Outward man starts to perish, (*that is*, we get older) our Inward man should continue to grow! 2 Corinthians 4:16 says it like this.... "Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our OUTWARD man is perishing, YET the INWARD man is being renewed day by day." We ought to be GROWING, Renewing ourselves Day by Day!

- At some point in our lives, we STOP Physically Growing! *Nonetheless*, we ought NOT to worry about it (Matthew 6:27)! Zacchaeus was of short stature in the Bible (Luke 19:1ff), And Jesus was NOT concerned with his height, BUT his heart! (Luke 19:9).
- In the preceding verses of our text, Galatians 5:19-21, the Bible mentions what the works of the flesh are....Adultery, Fornication, Uncleaness, Lewdness, Idolatry....and so on! And the Bible tells us that for those who PRACTICE such things will NOT inherit the kingdom of God in verse 21!
- But then the Holy Spirit SHIFTS the thought from the Words of the Flesh and the dangers of participating and practicing those things to what the Fruit of the Spirit is!

I. THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

- A. Everyday, we ought to be GROWING by the "Fruit of the Spirit"!
 - In our text, Galatians 5:22, Paul being the writer as he was GUIDED by the Holy Spirit to write these things according to 2 Peter 1:20-21.
 - Once we become Christians, we need to be replacing the evil desires of the heart, with the Fruit of the Spirit! We need to be....
- B. Replacing the Unclean Spirit (or spirits - see Matthew 12:43-45).
 - The Unclean Spirit is restless in verse 43! It's that stuff that you once did that tries to resurface itself in your Christian walk! He has NOWHERE to turn because he has been REJECTED, PUT OUT of your house!
 - Now, the HOUSE is a representation of the Living Human Anatomy (your body)!
 - So, this Unclean Spirit is restless and decides he wants to RETURN to his house from which he came! But it don't have to (James 4:7)!
 - We ONLY allow things to enter into our hearts (our minds) "IF" we want them to! Nonetheless, even within our thoughts, we ought to be bringing it to the obedience of Christ! (2 Corinthians 10:5).
 - Once we are CLEANSED of our sins, the evil that once HOUSED itself in our bodies should no longer be there! "IF" we are not careful, we can ALLOW more evil spirits, more "Works of the Flesh" to enter into our HOUSE (our body) and the last state of us will be WORSE than the first BECAUSE we have ALLOWED more evil to enter into us!
 - Now in our text, the Fruit of the Spirit begins with....

II. LOVE

- A. "Love" is a UNIVERSAL language!
 - There is NOT a Country or a Nation that does NOT have "Love" in it!
 - The Greek Word for "Love" here is, (ἀγάπη) "Agapē"!
 - Agape defines itself as, "to have love for someone or something, based on sincere appreciation and high regard - to regard with affection, loving concern." (Louw Nida vol. 1 pg. 292).

- Now, “LOVE” is an action! John 3:16 shows us God’s Love for us! And, “LOVE” has Characteristics, Qualities, Mannerisms!
- (1) We are to “Put on Love” (see Colossians 3:12).
 - Love is to be clothed on us DAILY, And we are to be Growing in our love for God, His word and our fellow man! When we have “LOVE” within us, filling our hearts and minds, it is the BOND, it is the thing that brings EVERYTHING together! It brings “Tender Mercies together”, It brings “Kindness, Humility, Meekness, Longsuffering”!
 - There is NO GREATER FEELING than to KNOW that someone LOVES YOU! Cares about you....have you best interest in mind with NO reservations!
 - (2) Love is Behavioral
 - When we “Put on Love” it behaves itself in a certain fashion! (see 1 Corinthians 13:4).
 - (a) Love SUFFERS long.
 - The Greek here is, “*makrothumei*” (μακροθυμει).”
 - The word is rendered as “Patience” in James 5:7-8! It means, “[1] to remain tranquil while waiting, to have patience, wait!” [2] “to bear up under provocation without complaint, be patient, forbearing.” (BDAG pg. 612).
 - Therefore, since “LOVE” suffers long (or is longsuffering, is patient) that tells us that LOVE ought to hold firmly WITHIN US through Great Difficulties!
 - LOVE may face Disappointments or Dissatisfactions, but the kind of love Paul encourages in this text continues through such hardships.

For instance:

 - Our marriages, family life will suffer sometimes, but we don’t just throw in the towel, we KNOW that it’s a difficult time, BUT we ought to be PATIENT, long suffering and allow God’s word and the PRAYERS of the saints to help us during this ordeal!
 - (b) Love is KIND
 - It means, “To show one’s self mild, to be KIND, use KINDNESS.” (Thayer, 671).
 - This is the only place in Scripture where this word is used. Paul is not saying that LOVE never demands a “firm and stern hand,” but rather that even sternness must always possess a disposition that is considerate of others!

Example: Last week as most of us are aware, Botham Jean’s brother Brandt Jean made national news when he asked the judge to hug his brother’s murderer Amber Guyger! We had BROTHERS in the Lord’s church (the church of Christ) ANGRY over the verdict! AND, because brother Brandt Jean hugged the officer (Amber) who killed his brother! A few things I want to point out here:

 - (1) Amber Guyger STOOD before the world and apologized for her actions in murdering our dear brother. When this happens, we ought to forgive (Luke 17:3)!
 - (2) Brother, Brandt Jean showed LOVE and Kindness!
 - Remember, the Bible tells us that, “Love suffers long and is kind....”
 - Do we REALIZE how LONG this family has been suffering the death of their loved one?
 - Brandt Jean let his light shine before men even during this most DIFFICULT time! God wants us to have the FRUIT of the Spirit which is LOVE!
 - Ephesians 4:32 tells us that we are to be, “....KIND to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.
 - Stay encouraged brethren, until the last Amen.....