

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

Vol. 16 No. 28 - July 14, 2019

“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





ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements: Matt Johnson
Opening Prayer: Matt Johnson
Song Leader: Kwame Abdul
Second Prayer: Melvin Bryant III
Lord’s Table: Clarence Proctor
Devin Bryant
Message: Melvin J. Bryant II
Closing Prayer: Alex Johnson

Attendance

Morning Hour: TBA
Bible Class: TBA
Worship: TBA
Wednesday: TBA
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 - Rightly Dividing
- 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)
- ★ Confess - Matthew 10:32-33
- ★ Be Baptized - Matthew 28:18-20
- ★ Live a FAITHFUL life until death - Revelation 2:10



BIBLICAL WARNING

SUGAR-COATED PREACHING IS DANGEROUS TO YOUR SOUL.
2 Timothy 4:3-4

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).

PRAYER REQUESTS

(JAMES 5:16)

- ▶ **Kwame** is requesting for prayers for his citizenship. Let us pray that all goes well with it.
- ▶ **Becky's** mom boyfriend, Randy had his surgery and is in need of our prayer for a healthy recovery.
- ▶ **The Webb's** daughter is in continual prayers for improved health results.
- ▶ **Carolyn** had hip replacement surgery and is experiencing some difficulties, let us keep her in prayer.
- ▶ **Mrs. Joanie** has not been feeling well lately. Please keep her in your prayers.
- ▶ **Mary Troup** had mouth surgery and is in need of our prayers.
- ▶ **Ann Phillips** is still in need of prayer.
- ▶ **Ron McCurry** has requested continued prayers for his son in law.
- ▶ **Erica** is in need of prayer for her overall health. She appreciates the calls and prayers.
- ▶ **Sis. Arnold** has requested prayers for her niece who has aggressive stage 3 cancer.
- ▶ **Sis. Cruise** has some serious health issues and is in need of prayer.
- ▶ **Don Blackwell** executive director of GBN and minister/elder for the Southaven church of Christ is in continual prayers.

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & NEWS

☑ June Birthdays

Traci Bryant - July 1st
 Ron Mc Curry - 6th
 Alex Johnson - 20th

☑ Anniversaries

Kenneth & Vera Patrick, 3rd
 Clarence & JoAnn, 10th
 Anthony & Joanie, 15th

☑ Local Church News

☑ World Church News

☑ Traveling.

Patty is in Oklahoma for a while.

☑ Hiram Church of Christ News

Sister Carolyn had surgery on May 20, 2019, let us keep her in prayers for a successful recovery.

Fellowship dinner is the last Sunday of each month.

"The EXCUSES That We Make"

Luke 14:16-24

By

Melvin J. Bryant II

Many of us are guilty of making excuses at one time or another! I KNOW I'm guilty of making excuses if I didn't complete a particular task, I find myself making an excuse for why I didn't do it! We find ourselves making excuses for many things in our lives! We've ALL heard the story of the little boy who didn't turn in his homework assignment! The teacher asked, "*Johnny, where is your homework?*" and the first thing that came out of Johnny's mouth was, "*The dog ate it!*"! Even when we are to be doing the Lord's will....Reading (1 Timothy 4:13), Studying (2 Timothy 2:15), Evangelizing (Matthew 28:18-20), MANY of us will make "Excuses" for NOT doing what the Lord instructs! Jesus said in Luke 6:46, "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?"

I. EXCUSES DEFINED

- A. Excuses comes from a "Greek word" that means, "To try to serve or to justify"!
 - The word originally meant, "to give a defense or reason for something."
- B. Strong's Greek Dictionary Defines Excuses as, "to beg off, i.e to deprecate, decline, to shun, Avoid....refuse, reject!"
- C. Louw & Nida defined "Excuses" as, "to ask for with urgency, even to the point of demanding —'to ask for, to demand, to plead for.'" (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 406)."

II. JESUS GAVE A PARABLE TO COMBAT EXCUSE MAKING

- A. Excuse making is nothing new (Ecclesiastes 1:9), and has been around since the beginning of time!
 - Remember Adam? Eve? (Genesis 3:12-13)!
- B. A Certain Man gave a Great Supper and invited MANY! (Luke 14:16-17)!
 - The Man here in the parable is symbolic of God!
 - The Great Supper is symbolic of God's earthly kingdom...And;
 - "The Many" will be the Israelites or today, ANYONE in the world that's invited!
- C. ALL things are ready
 - The fullness of time has come, ALL things are ready is likely symbolizing the time AFTER the Lord resurrection!
 - God has extended His invitation to MANY, to EVERYONE!
 - Romans 1:6 tells us, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the POWER of God to salvation for EVERYONE who believes, for the JEW FIRST and ALSO for the GREEK!" Now notice...
- D. The "Excuse" of the FIRST Man (Luke 14:18)!
 - "I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused."
 - It is highly unusual for one to buy land without First SEEING it!
 - Even "IF" he bought the land without seeing it first, WHY the urgency to see it NOW after being invited to the Great Supper!
 - Why NOT first go to the feast then AFTERWARDS go see about your land?

Application:

- Many will NOT come to worship because they are preoccupied with the things of this world!
- I'm too busy trying to find my dream house or trying to find a house! I'm too busy trying to Sell my house! And we KNOW there are more insane EXCUSES! If men would just READ their Bibles and understand what Psalms 50:10-12 tells us! ALL things belong to God...You House, Your Car, Your Land, EVEN Your own LIFE, so WHY would ANYONE put ANYTHING before the Lord!

- So, the FIRST man made an “excuse” not to come to the Great Supper on “Property” that he does NOT really own, BUT; just borrowing from the Lord ANYWAY!
- E. The “EXCUSE” of the Second Man (Luke 14:19)!
- "I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused."
 - This too is a “weak excuse” NOT to come to the “Great Supper”!
 - Could he NOT test them AFTERWARDS? Could he NOT have “tested” them on another day? Why is it so urgent to test them once you’ve been invited?

Application

- How many times do we find ourselves making “excuses” to “excuse” ourselves from the Lord’s invitation (from church) because of work or some business we have to run?
 - How many times have we heard of people saying, “I can’t come today because I have to work.”
 - Now here is the questions we need to ask ourselves....Who blessed you with the Job? Who gave you your life health and strength? Who gave you the means to buy those five yoke of oxen or the food you put on your table? GOD did....And Since God gave you these things, WHY make Excuses NOT to serve Him?!
 - Even the founder of Chick Fil A (who, mind you) is NOT and was NOT a Christian closed his business doors on the first day of the week!
 - Now allow me to give you all some added incentives the Lord has in place that MANY of you may not be aware of...
 - Federal Law, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 letter (J), protects individuals from discrimination, based on religion unless an employer demonstrates that he is unable to reasonably accommodate to an employee’s or prospective employee’s religious observance or practice without undue hardship on the conduct of the employer’s business and with so many companies today, this is unlikely!
- F. The Third Man “Excuse”! (Luke 14:20)!
- “I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.”
 - Another PITIFUL “Excuse!”
 - The invitation was (and is) given to ALL, why NOT bring your wife to the “Great Supper”? Why NOT bring your “Wife” to worship?

Application:

- How many of us have used the Family as an “excuse” (or we KNOW of members who use family as an excuse) NOT to come to worship?
- How many of us have used the “excuse” of a family member coming from out of state as our “excuse” NOT to come to the “Lord’s house”?
- Why can’t we bring them to service with us and “IF” they have no desire to come, LEAVE THEM AT THE HOUSE!
- We should NOT allow ANYONE to stop us from serving and worshipping God!

III. KEEPING OURSELVES AT THE MASTERS FEET. (Luke 10:38-41).

- A. *Sometimes* we can get ourselves caught up like Martha and NOT realize where our TRUE focus should lie!
- Sometimes we can put the cares of this life before the commandments of the Lord and not realize that we are to be keeping ourselves at the Master’s feet by keeping His commandments!
 - Martha was WORRIED and TROUBLED about MANY THINGS and we need to realize what Jesus has said to us Matthew 6:25-34! I pray this lesson has served as a reminder of how we are to KEEP OURSELVES at the Feet of Our Lord by doing those things He has commanded and for us to keep ourselves committed to His will! Until the last Amen....