

# 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. 20 - May 19, 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:** Devin Bryant  
**Opening Prayer:** Devin Bryant  
**Song Leader:** Kwame Abdul  
**Second Prayer:** Melvin J. 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.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

(JAMES 5:16)

- ▶ **Ellen** (member of the Westside church of Christ in Ohio) has petition our prayers due to some extreme hardships she's faced with.
- ▶ **Becky's** mom boyfriend, Randy is scheduled to have open heart surgery to repair three different problems and is in need of prayer.
- ▶ **The Webb's** daughter is doing much better with chemo treatments.
- ▶ **Carolyn** recently fractured her tibia. The doctor waned her to use a wheelchair or walker, but she has been hobbling around with them. She has been going through other health issues as well. Please keep her in your prayers.
- ▶ **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. Also, she has asked that we keep her sister, Ashley in prayers.
- ▶ **Patty** will be going to Kansas soon for surgery.
- ▶ **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.

## BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & NEWS

### ✓ May Birthdays

Tarie - 2nd

Kenneth - 6th

Devin and Melvin - 17th

A Potluck lunch is planned at Mr. Ron's on Wednesday. His son-in-law had surgery.

### ✓ Anniversaries

Sebastian and Erica - 9th

Men's meeting will take place next week.

### ✓ Local Church News.

Fellowship dinner is the last Sunday of each month.

### ✓ Traveling.

Matt Johnson, Sis. Pudgy, Sis. Penny

### ✓ Patty is in Oklahoma for a while.

### ✓ Hiram Church of Christ News

Congratulations are due! Melvin J. Bryant III graduated from Kennesaw State University on May 8, 2019!

# “When the SEED is Received on Stony Places”

Matthew 13:5-6

By

Melvin J. Bryant II

Two weeks ago, we started this series discussing the DIFFERENT types of ground the Lord’s word is received upon! To be honest, “some” people will not receive NOR be receptive to the TRUTH of God’s word when they hear it! Most people are receptive in different ways, whether it is from a positive manner or negative, people will either RECEIVE the Truth and Accept it, Receive it and once challenges arises, they will leave it....Or; most will refuse it all together! Jesus wants us to understand the different types of SOIL the Word falls upon and how the SOIL reacts to the SEED that’s planted! There was on an occasion in Luke chapter 13:23, one came to the Lord and said, “Lord, are there FEW who are saved?” Jesus would tell them to, “**Strive to enter through the NARROW gate, for MANY, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.**” (verse 24 cf. Matthew 7:13-14). Even in this, Jesus is telling us that the life of a disciple, (the life of a Christian) is one that is DIFFICULT! We are to be encouraged by scriptures like Acts 14:22! As a matter of scriptural record, 2 Timothy 3:12 the Bible tells us, “Yes, and ALL who desire to live GODLY in Christ Jesus WILL SUFFER Persecution.” The problem is that people don’t want to hear this part of the gospel.

- They want to hear John 3:16, 1 John 4:16, and although these scriptures are GOOD and Encouraging, and heart warming to the soul....we need to hear them and preach them too; *However.....*Just as one will accept these scriptures, (and so many more like them), they ought to be willing to accept scriptures like 2 Thessalonians 2:8-9! Scriptures like Matthew 13:47-50!
- Most religious folk today don’t want to hear this, and; it’s no different than what we find in Isaiah 30:10, the people in that day DID NOT want to hear the TRUTH, And sadly, they were children of God! They WANTED to hear “Lies,” “Smooth things,” “Deceits!”
- Even when Jesus demonstrated MIGHTY Works, some STILL did not Repent! (Matthew 11:20)!

What is a Parable?

- A “Parable” is, “that (which) serves as a model or example pointing beyond itself for later realization, type, figure.” (BDAG 3rd ed., p. 759).”
  - And the key to understanding “Parables” is to identify the symbols:
  - The “SEED,” is the word of God” according to, Luke 8:11!
  - The “SOWER” is Jesus according to Matthew 13:37!
  - The “SOILS” represents the type of people receiving the Word of God. And, Jesus describes “Four” types of people who the Word of God is Presented to!
  - The FIRST Jesus mentioned are those who Receive “Seed” (Receive the Word of God) by the “Wayside”! These people hear the Word of God, (they hear the truth pertaining to the kingdom of God)! They have the ABILITY to Understand it, BUT they choose NOT to! (Luke 8:12)!
  - We come to the Second SOIL, the Next Class of People and they are;
- I. THOSE WHO RECEIVE SEED ON STONY PLACES** (Matthew 13:5-6).

A. Some Seed fell on Stony Places!

- The STONY Place represents something that is hard! Jesus said there were “some” earth there, BUT; not much! The word “Stoney” comes from a Greek word that means a, “rocky area with LITTLE topsoil.” (BDAG pg. 810).
- So, there is some “earth”there, where the SEED can be planted and take root, BUT; it’s not much! And, by it not having much earth, Jesus said, “...they IMMEDIATELY sprang up because they had no depth of earth!”

- B. There are TWO parts to the person who receive the Word of God in Stony Places!
- (1) They have “Rocky Areas” in their heart, *And*;
  - (2) They have “Earth,” “some” Good soil, some “topsoil”!
    - This is NOT good because this person does NOT have enough EARTH for the Word of God to be planted so that it can take ROOT! But Jesus can explain this a whole lot better!

## II. JESUS EXPLAINS THE SEED ON STONY PLACES

- A. He who received the SEED on “Stoney Places” is he who hears the Word of God and IMMEDIATELY receives it with Joy!
- There are MANY people who has heard the Word of God for the First time, and I tell you, they RECEIVED it with JOY! They are on FIRE for the Lord, His Word and His church!
  - They have ACCEPTED the fact that Jesus built ONE church!
  - They have ACCEPTED the fact that Baptism is Essential to Salvation!
  - They have ACCEPTED the fact that I must REPENT of ALL my past sins!
  - They have RECEIVED the Word of God with Joy!
  - They are MEMBERS of the Lord’s church! But there is a problem with these people!
- B. There is NO Root in them, they only ENDURE for a little while!
- The Word of God is in “little earth” (the soil) that’s in their heart...It took ROOT, but only for a “little while”! And WHY do these people Walk away from the TRUTH? Because....
- C. Tribulation or Persecution arises BECAUSE of the Word! (verse 21).
- I know this for SURE that we need to tell people, NEW Converts and Old Converts that Tribulation and Persecution WILL arise BECAUSE of the word! Here is the question....According to the TWO Soils we’ve studies thus far, WHICH ONE ARE YOU?!
  - The REASON why we have brethren who are “Stony Place” Christians is because they have NO ROOT in themselves! And Jesus tells us WHY!
  - Jesus said because of Tribulation OR Persecution!
  - There WILL be Tribulations in the World! As a matter of FACT Jesus tells us that there will be! (see John 16:33)!
  - Jesus is telling us that in the World, we will have, “troubles that inflict distress, oppressions, afflictions, tribulations!” (BDAG pg. 457)!
  - *However*, there is PEACE in Jesus, and this peace is available only because Jesus was willing to suffer by the way of the cross!
  - The verb in the phrase, “...you may have peace,” is present active subjunctive, *which literally means*, “that you may keep on having peace,” And when Jesus says this PEACE is, “in me,” Limits and Specify the area in which PEACE is Enjoyed. In Jesus alone is this blessing available.
  - This Peace is NOT in ANY OTHER, “...for there is NO OTHER name under heaven given among men whereby we MUST be saved.” (Acts 4:12)!
  - The early church suffered persecution. (Acts 11:19 cf. 2 Corinthians 1:8-9)! If they went through it, what make us think we can’t go through it?
  - As a matter of fact, Paul says we ought to GLORY in Tribulations (Romans 5:1-4).
  - The Word of God tells us that we ought to GLORY in Tribulations BECAUSE Tribulation produces perseverance! And, What is “Perseverance?” Perseverance is ENDURANCE!
  - It is, “the capacity to hold out or bear up in the face of difficulty!” (BDAG pg. 457)!
  - There are TRIALS on every hand....But you HOLD ON, and ENDURE until the end (Matthew 24:13)! Be encouraged church.....