

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. 16 No. 21 - May 26, 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

"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: Devin Bryant
Opening Prayer: Devin Bryant
Song Leader: Kwame Abdul
Second Prayer: William Weaver
Lord's Table: Clarence Proctor
 Melvin J. Bryant III
Message: Melvin J. Bryant II
Closing Prayer: Kwame Abdul

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

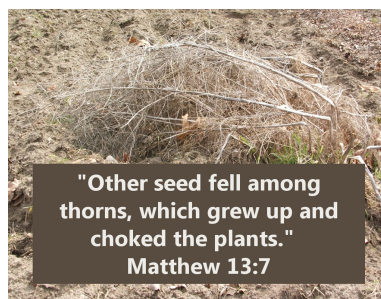
The Morning Hour

- 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



"Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants."
 Matthew 13:7

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)

- ▶ **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** had hip replacement surgery last Monday, 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 suffered an injury on an ATV and is at the Shepherd Center in Atlanta. Let us keep him, his wife Sheri and family in our prayers.

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & NEWS

✓ May Birthdays

Tarie - 2nd

Kenneth - 6th

Devin and Melvin - 17th

2019, let us keep her in prayers for a successful recovery.

Men's meeting will take place next week.

✓ Anniversaries

Sebastian and Erica - 9th

Fellowship dinner is the last Sunday of each month.

✓ Local Church News

✓ World Church News

✓ Traveling.

Matt Johnson and family

✓ Patty is in Oklahoma for a while.

✓ Hiram Church of Christ News

Sister Carolyn had surgery on May 20,

“When the SEED is Received among Thorns” Part III

Matthew 13:7

By

Melvin J. Bryant II

In the Parable of the “Sower,” Jesus is teaching us that the Word of God will FALL upon different types of “Hearers”! The **FIRST** “Hearer” is the one who hears the “Word of God” by the “Wayside!”

- We will call these people the “Wayside Hearers” Or; “Hard of Heart Hearers”! Jesus said they HEAR the word of God, And although they CAN understand it, satan comes along and snatches what was sown in their hearts, “...LEST they should BELIEVE And Be SAVED”!!!! (Luke 8:12)!
- But here is the question.... “What does satan SNATCH from the hearts of the “Wayside Hearer”? The SIMPLE answer is ANYTHING that the Word of God teaches us to Do, Believe and Obey! For instance: The Word of God (Jesus) teaches that ONE is to be TAUGHT by God! (John 6:45)! But satan comes along and says, “No, Muhammad can teach you his doctrine through means of the Koran....The Catholics can teach you their doctrine through means of the Catholic Catechisms....The Baptist can teach you their doctrine through means of the Baptist Manual!”
- Most people don’t want to be “Taught by God,” they rather be taught by some man who will tell them “Smooth words....Flattering speech’ and deceive the hearts of the simple!” (Romans 16:17)!
- The Word of God commands that ONE BELIEVES in the Son of God! But satan comes along and says, “No, don’t believe in the Son of God, believe in Charles Taze Russell and the Jehovah’s Witnesses....their teaching to Love God and to Obey Him....” But; you can’t find where God told us today to call ourselves Jehovah’s Witnesses NOWHERE in the Bible! And, the Jehovah Witnesses are just as CRAFTY as their father is!

(1) Their father (their daddy) is the DEVIL!

- As a matter of FACT, Jesus tells another Parable in Matthew 13:37-39 which is the Parable of the Tares, and in this “Parable,” Jesus TELLS us that the WICKED one, (the devil) has children! So, the Jehovah Witnesses Daddy is the Devil! Or; ANY OTHER religious group of people OUTSIDE of the ONE church (Ephesians 4:4, the church of Christ) we read about in the Bible. (Romans 16:16)!
- Have you all ever thought about this....In Ephesians 4:4-6, there are 7 “Ones”! One BODY, SPIRIT, HOPE, LORD, FAITH, BAPTISM, GOD the Father! Now, most people will accept ONE Father is God the Father! They will accept ONE Lord which is Jesus! They will accept ONE Spirit which is the Holy Spirit, And these THREE are the “Godhead” (Romans 1:20; Colossians 2:9; Acts 17:29)! BUT; as SOON as the Bible mentions the OTHER ONES, there is a problem! If you will accept THREE of the ONES in Ephesians 4:4-6, you HAVE to accept the other FOUR Ones in Ephesians 4:4-6! You CAN’T have THREE without the other FOUR! And;

(2) Jehovah Witnesses will make a valiant EFFORT to show you from scripture that “Jehovah Witnesses” is in the Bible! (Isaiah 43:10).

- Just like their DADDY (the devil) mishandled the Word of God with Jesus in Matthew 4:6!
- Now, if you are a “Simpleton,” they will GET you with this. And, SADLY, most people in the world of Christendom, who will not open their Bibles and STUDY the Word of God for themselves are “Simpletons”! What is a “Simpleton”? A “Simpleton” is a “Foolish or Gullible people!”
- “FOOLISH” in the since that the person will say something that goes completely against the Word of God! Remember Job’s wife, “Do you still hold your integrity? Curse God and DIE!” (Job 2:9). To which, Job said to her in verse 10, “You speak as one of the FOOLISH woman speaks.!”
- GULLIBLE, in that, they are EASILY Persuaded! (cf. 2 Timothy 3:6)! So, Jehovah Witnesses will tell you their name is in the Bible and will direct you to Isaiah 43:10 where God told Israel, “You are My witnesses” BUT; God NEVER told THEM NOR us TODAY to call ourselves “Jehovah Witnesses!”

- As a matter of Biblical Fact, (And, you can “Fact Check Me” with the Bible ;-) God was talking to the Children of Israel THEN (Isaiah 43:1), Not His Children today! Today, (as God’s children) we can call ourselves “Christians” (Acts 11:26), “Disciples” (Acts 20:7), we call ourselves by the Biblical name, “Church of Christ” (Romans 16:16)! You can’t find ONE TIME where God told the children of Israel to call themselves Christians OR they identified as the Church of Christ in the Old Testament!
- The **SECOND** “Hearer” is the one who Receives the “Word of God” on “Stony Places”! We will call these people the “Stony Place Christians”, because they ARE Christians!
- Now, these people have a dual heart! (1) They have a heart that CAN receive the Word of God and indeed, they accept it for a little while, *However*, when Tribulation and Persecution arises BECAUSE of the Word, (Matthew 13:21), Jesus said this person IMMEDIATELY Stumbles! And, (2) the “Stony Place Christians” heart is that they don’t have enough acceptance of God’s word and are too hard in areas of their heart, (in areas of their minds) when they hear certain things within the Word of God! *Remember*, Jesus SAID, they STUMBLE because of The Word!
- We come to the THIRD class of People....

I. WHEN THE SEED IS RECEIVED AMONG THE THORNS (Matthew 13:7)

- A. The “Christian with a thorn in his side” is also a Christian and one who HEARS the Word (Matthew 13:22)!
 - But; there is a problem with this brother/sister. They have ALLOWED themselves to be CHOKED! But How? Jesus said;
- B. By the CARES of this World and Deceitful Riches CHOKE the Word, and he become UNFRUITFUL! (Matthew 13:22 cf. Luke 8:14).
 - I did some research on this word “Thorn” and, A “thorn” according to Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words originally denoted "anything pointed," such as "a stake." Now, think about this....The DESIRES of the world will keep POKING, STICKING and trying to get your attention! This is the job of Thorns!
- C. How do we FIGHT against “Sharp Objects”? (see Ephesians 6:16-17).
 - Darts are known for having what? Sharp Points! And, satan is the master of temptation and he will try every opportunity to get each and every one of us off God’s plan for our lives. *However*, “IF” we are not IGNORANT of his devises, (2 Corinthians 2:11).

II. JESUS EXPLAINS THE THORNS (Matthew 13:22).

- A. Jesus gives a detail explanation to what the “thorns” are and what effect they have on the “Christian with a thorn in his side”! (see also Luke 8:14).
 - Now we see the BATTLES the person is allowing himself to inflicted with! And, these persons allow the Cares of this world, the riches and pleasures choke the word out of Him!
 - Jesus said in Matthew 19:23–24 it’s HARD for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven, BUT; Jesus never said it was impossible, for ALL things are possible with God (verse 26).
- B. There is proof that it’s hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God! He BATTLES within himself to keep the pleasures of this life!
 - *Remember* the Rich Young Ruler? (Matthew 19:16-26). The Rich Young Ruler was told to do something he was NOT prepared for (verse 21)! He did not want to let go of those TEMPORARY riches! The Bible tells us that. “he went away sorrowful” WHY? “for he had GREAT possessions.” (Matthew 19:22). This is one of the saddest verses in the Bible.
 - Jesus tells us not to lay up treasures on earth....but lay up treasures in heaven (Matthew 6:19-21). And Matthew 6:21 is the clincher, Jesus tells us, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” The “heart” here means where your affections are! Let us NOT be of this sort, but let us remember and keep Matthew 6:19-21 dear and near to our hearts.