

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:** Matt Johnson
- Second Prayer:** Devin Bryant
- Lord's Table:** Clarence Proctor

- Message:** Melvin J. Bryant II
- Closing Prayer:** Alex 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

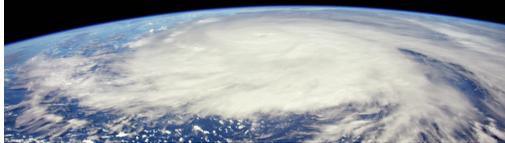
- Announcements
- Prayer
- Song
- 25 Minute Study
- Card Writing/Mail Outs
- Prepare for 10:00am Bible Class

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

Why are we here?



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)

- ▶ **Carolyn Watson** daughter Jetaun Watson had side affects to medication prescribes and is going through rehab! Let's keep her lifted 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.
- ▶ **Todd Bryant** came forward a few weeks ago asking for prayers regarding his family.
- ▶ **Isharah Macon** and family Covid-19 test result come back negative! Let us thank God and rejoice for them!

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & NEWS

☑ June 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!

"THE MEANING AND PURPOSE FOR OUR EXISTENCE"

Ecclesiastes 3:1

By

Melvin J. Bryant II

I. WHAT IS PURPOSE?

- A. "Purpose" is defined as, "The reason for which something is done or created or for which something exists." (Oxford)!
- B. *It is*, "the reason why something is done or used: the aim or intention of something. The feeling of being determined to do or achieve something. The aim or goal of a person, what a person is trying to do or become, etc."
- C. *It is*, "A persons sense of resolve and determination!" (Merriam-Webster).
- Have you ever asked yourself, "*Why are we here*"?
 - Why did God create us AND for what "Purpose" do we serve here on this place that God calls Earth?!
- First:** God can do whatever He pleases! (Psalms 115:3)! God had a DESIRE to create Mankind and so He did!
- Second:** There are some things that God has done but He has never told man why! (Deuteronomy 29:29). God has no obligation to tell us why! We just have to accept whatever God give us to know!
- Third:** God UNIQUELY created this place called earth, And; Earth is to be Recognized as a Temporary Home!
- *Nonetheless*, Earth is the ONLY PLANET that is unique from ANY (and all) OTHER PLANET! Earth has a "Purpose" (see **Isaiah 45:18**)!
 - It is the ONLY PLANET that God Created, and FORMED it to be Inhabited! No other planet is like earth!
 - There is a "Purpose" for everything! All things that God created here from the smallest insect (or creeping thing) to the largest animal has "Purpose"!
 - Even the animals that are extinct - like dinosaurs (Job chapters 40 and 41) served as a "PURPOSE" for God and His Glory! The mountains, seas, oceans and everything else is set in motion for God's "Purpose"!
 - EVERY Scripture in the Bible has "Purpose" and is Beneficial! (2 Timothy 3:16-17)!
 - EVERYDAY God allows us to wake up, we need to understand that there is "PURPOSE" for our very existence when we lift our eyes from slumber!
 - Most people believe that life is about waking up, having pleasure to its fullest absent from God, enjoy the 70 or 80 years that we "MIGHT" get to live here (Psalms 90:10) then we fade away! That's the WRONG "Purpose"!
 - Yes, it's appointed for man to die once (Hebrews 9:27) and we all go to one place (Ecclesiastes 3:20), so as we get older from adolescence, we need to seek God and His righteousness for our lives (Matthew 6:33)!
 - There is a stark reality that we will depart from here one day and enter into another reality because there is an afterlife (see Proverbs 23:18)!
 - "Some" men, in their futile minds has suggested that there is NO LIFE after death, *however*, the Bible says otherwise! The Rich Man in Luke 16:22, Died from this Reality and lifted his eyes to another, BUT; where HE was, there was No hope!
 - But; in the Interim, we need to know why we are here! There is a "Purpose" for each and every person that has graced the earth!

- There is a famous quote from George S. Patton where he said, “*Live for Something rather than DIE for Nothing!*” Here is a somewhat reflection of that quote from the Bible, Romans 8:13-14!
- One “Purpose” for mankind is to LIVE according to the SPIRIT of God!
- I often hear preachers on Television and Social Media talking about your “Purpose” and your “Destiny” and what God has in store for you, and they ask, “*Are you living in your Purpose, are you Walking in your Purpose?*”! And then, they point to the Pleasures of Life, the Advancement of the Human Experience and how much Material Wealth one can obtain! This is FAR from the truth!
- One passage that favored among many is **Jeremiah 29:11-13!**
- In order for God to have these plans for them, they were to be SEEKING God with ALL their heart!
- So, “IF” one is to live in their True “PURPOSE,” they ought to be “Seeking God with ALL their heart diligently!” Therefore, living in your “PURPOSE”, or; Walking in your Purpose has everything to do with God’s guidance, God’s Instructions!
- Pointing to Material Wealth is NOT it! (see Luke 12:15). LIFE does NOT consist in the ABUNDANCE of things which you possess! God’s “PURPOSE” is NOT for you to be born into this World, NOT search for Him Diligently, live your life the way you choose to, and disregard His will for your life! This is NOT why we’re here!
- God desires all men to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4) and to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9)!
- Our STEPS should be Ordered by the Lord (Psalms 119:133)! *Therefore*, His WORD teaches us what our True “PURPOSE” is in this life!
- So, when ministers and preachers (or whomever) tell you that God’s “PURPOSE” for you is to be RICH? HOW (or why)? When Jesus refutes this in Matthew 19:23-24! And, of course, Jesus didn’t say the Rich could NOT be saved, BUT; He did say it’s HARD for MOST of them to be saved!
- The Rich Young Ruler was a child of God (Matthew 19:16-26) and it was HARD for him to let go of his wealth!

II. IT IS NOT IN MAN TO DIRECT HIS OWN STEPS (see **Jeremiah 10:23!**)

- A. As God’s creation, we have NO RIGHT to Direct Our Own Steps while we are here on earth!
 - God has the Right to tell us (as His creation) how we are to LIVE in this Life, for He created us!
- B. We are to RELY on Him (see **Proverbs 3:5-8!**)
 - “IF” we Trust God with ALL our heart, TRUST His Process and His Purpose for us through His Word, NOT leaning on our own Understanding, then we can KNOW what our TRUE “Purpose” is in this life!
 - BUT; what does that mean to “Lean on our OWN understanding?”
 - For YEARS, man has a desire to be RICH and they have invented schemes to advance themselves for that “Purpose”!

For instance:

- God’s word tells us HOW to obtain this world’s goods and anyway OUTSIDE of God’s way is sinful!
 - (1) You can receive this world’s goods by way of inheritance! (Genesis 25:5 see **Ecclesiastes 2:17!**)
 - (2) You can receive a “Gift” (Genesis 25:6)!
 - (3) God commands that we WORK for this world’s Goods (2 Thessalonians 3:10)!
 - (4) We can “Invest” (Matthew 25:27)!
 - Guess what’s NOT on the list? GAMBLING!
 - We are to TRUST God and lean NOT on our own understanding! Let us NOT engage in activities we can find authorized by the word of God!

III. WE ARE HERE TO GLORIFY GOD (see **Revelation 4:11!**)

- A. We are created to GLORIFY God, to Honor and Praise Him! If we don’t have this “Purpose” first, our life is meaningless, we’re living in the WRONG reality and Purpose! Be encouraged!