

# 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**

“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:** Devin Bryant

**Lord’s Table:** Clarence Proctor  
Alex Johnson

**Message:** Melvin J. Bryant II

**Closing Prayer:** Melvin Bryant III

## 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

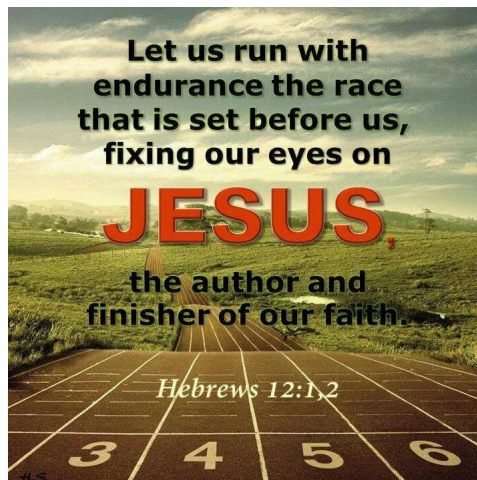
## The Morning Hour

- 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)
- ★ 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, Vera Patrick, Mary Troup, Joanie Saporito, Patty Dale, Daniel Welker (kidney transplant), Al Gattis (COPD), Ben Westbrooks (leukemia), Anita Berger husband Rich, Sis. Carolyn, Ashley (Sis. Erica's sister) and her family, Sis. Proctor, Anita Berger, Charlie Griffin, the Molden Family, Camilla Fields, Titus. Garrison Ihle.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

(JAMES 5:16)

- ▶ **The Webb's** Let us continue to keep them in our prayer.
- ▶ **Alex Johnson** friend Cassius is in need of prayer for an injury he sustained.
- ▶ **Carolyn** is still in need of our continual prayer.
- ▶ **Annie** is in need of prayer for strength after loosing a nephew.
- ▶ **Camilla** asked for prayer for patience and finishing up on her schooling.
- ▶ **Ron McCurry** is in need of continued prayers.
- ▶ **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.
- ▶ **Jamie Franklin** is in need of continual prayers after the lost of her parents.
- ▶ **Traci Bryant's** uncle passed away, let us keep her family in prayer.
- ▶ **Melvin Bryant** close friend Kieon Williams lost his brother. Let us keep his family in prayer as they cope with his sudden death.
- ▶ **Kwame** was sworn in as a U.S. citizenship on last Monday, let us rejoice with him!
- ▶ **Charlie** is to receive his prosthetic on next week. Let us be glad and rejoice with him!
- ▶ **Devin** will be graduating from Kennesaw State on the 17th. All are welcome to attend.

## BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & NEWS

### ✓ December Birthdays

Matt Johnson - December 3rd  
Josiah Johnson - 10th

Make plans to stay for the last Sunday fellowship meal.

### ✓ National Church News

Jack Evans Sr, passed away. Let us pray for his family during this difficult time.

### ✓ Anniversaries

Matt & Becky - December 1st

### ✓ Baptisms

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

### ✓ World Church News

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

### ✓ Traveling

Matt Johnson

### ✓ Hiram Church News

The ladies are conducting a class each third Monday of the month. All women are encouraged to attend.

### ✓ Local Church News

**Devin** will be graduating from Kennesaw State University on 17th. All are welcome to attend.

# "RUNNING THE CHRISTIAN RACE THAT IS SET BEFORE US"

## HEBREWS 12:1-2

By

Melvin J. Bryant II

In the New Testament, it uses many illustrations and comparisons to teach us an important lesson on living a FAITHFUL Christians life.

In **Matthew 7:24-27** Jesus speaks of TWO builders.

One who built his house on the Rock, *that is*, on the foundation of God truth! And, when the troubles come, family problems, financial problems, health related problems, this man ENDURES the hardship because his house is founded on the Rock! *However*, Jesus speaks of another class of people, the One(s) who build their houses on the sand. If you notice EACH builder experiences the SAME STORMS (**verses 25,27**)! With the second class of people, they HEAR the sayings of Jesus and decides NOT to do them, Jesus calls these people FOOLISH (verse 26), and their house is built (or established) on the sand, *that is*, on a foundation that is not solid, a foundation that is not the Word of God! And when those same storms appear, their house falls, and the fall is Great (verse 27)! When the storms come upon you, how strong is your house? Faith, regardless of how difficult the circumstances are must remain in Christ Jesus.

In **2 Timothy 2:1-3**, we have the example of the Christian life as a Soldier.

Paul writes to a young Timothy and encourages him to be strong in the Lord. We can learn a great deal from these scriptures and apply them to our daily lives as we face this life as Christians. *Nonetheless*, what is Paul encouraging Timothy to do?

(1) He says, "**Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus**".

- That word "Grace" here...is referring to the Spiritual atmosphere in which the Christian should exist in and remain in. It is the TEACHING of the Lord Jesus Christ!
- And, the only way a person can receive "Grace" is to be obedient to it. (**Titus 2:11-12**).
- Noah found grace (**Genesis 6:8**), and did ALL that God commanded him (**Genesis 6:22**).
- **2 Peter 3:18** commands that we, "GROW in the Grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." Now, to "Grow in Grace" is to become better informed in the doctrine of Christ.

(2) He tells Timothy in **verse 2**, "**You must commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also**".

- Paul tells Timothy to commit these things to "Faithful" men. Not to men who are just "believers" in Christ Jesus, but to "Faithful" men. Men who are LOYAL, Men who are Trustworthy, Men who are Committed, who would, under NO Circumstance betray the Lord's teaching!

(3) Paul says, "**You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ**".

- Paul is saying, as a Christian (soldiers), you're going to go through some difficult times, you're going to suffer some troubles, you're going to be afflicted sometimes, but you must endure!
- As military soldiers in times of war who understands when he ENLISTED himself, he must endure the troubles of bombs over head, endure stray bullets flying his way, the dark dreary and cold nights of war, and even, the possibility of death. Soldiers must endure tough times because they enlisted themselves as soldiers of war and KNEW, these thing could possibly happen.
- So as Christians, we ENLIST ourselves as Soldiers of Christ, we are to understand that the RAIN will descend, the FLOODS will come, the WINDS will blow, and beat on us, BUT; when they do come, we are to ENDURE the Hardships as a Good Soldier of Christ!
- Stephen in **Acts 7** is a perfect exemplar of this! He understood that when he ENLISTED himself as a Soldier of Christ, he had to be bold in his stand for Christianity and he KNEW that he could DIE for the cause of Christ.

- In 2 Timothy 2:4, Paul would use a contrast with the warfares of the world and how a soldier needs to commit himself to Christ.
- No one who serves as a soldier entangles (or get themselves caught up) with the affairs of this life. He must be willing to serve as a faithful soldier to the one who has enlisted him as such.
- *Therefore*, Christians are NOT to be so entangled with the affairs of this life that they cannot render faithful service to the Lord! NOTHING should come between our service to God!
- What things of this life that Christians entangle themselves with?
- Temptations, allurements, evil desires of the heart and so on! Demas is of this sort (**2 Timothy 4:10**). Jesus spoke a parable regarding the cares of this life in **Luke 8:14**, how one will go out and are choked with the cares, riches, and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity!

## I. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS THAT OF RUNNERS IN A RACE

- A. For the Christian, he runs the race of life that he might receive the glory and honor which comes from God. (see **1 Corinthians 9:24**).
- Allow us to understand that there is important differences, as well as striking similarities in such a contest as Paul refers to here.
    - (1) Paul says, “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize.”
      - Paul uses the allusion to the Isthmian Games that were held every two years at a place that was about nine miles on the seacoast from Corinth. The Isthmian games were comparable to our Olympic Games in that men would compete in a variety of different sports. Paul, in writing to the Corinthians, would use this illustration as a similarity to the Christian race.
      - Now, in the world verse 24, when they run...“Only one receives the prize.” *However*, everyone of us who endures the Christian race can receive “the crown of glory that will never fade away.” (1 Peter 5:4 cf. 2 Timothy 4-7-8).
    - (2) “And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.” (v. 25).
      - That word “Temperate” means, “to exercise complete control over one’s desires and actions - to control oneself, to exercise self control”. (Louw and Nida vol. 1 pg. 750).
      - We as Christians must train ourselves in the “Word of God” without murmuring or without complaining in order for us to compete for that, “Imperishable Crown”. (**Philippians 2:14**).
- B. We cannot run the Christian race set by men! (see **2 Timothy 2:5**).
- Now, there are going to be some people in our world, that will not compete for the prize but think that they are. In order to compete for the prize, one must “SUBMIT” to the Rules and Regulations, in order to be considered for the Christian race.
- C. Those who will NOT compete or who are not in the Christian Race!
- (1) An atheist! Because he has no belief in God! He’s a FOOL! (Proverbs 14:1)!
  - (2) One who believes in the race but won’t enter in it! Who are these people? They can be the Felix’s (Acts 24:25) and the Agrippa’s of the world (Acts 26:28)!
  - (3) People who believe they are in the Christian race but have entered following another man’s rules! These people are those who are in ANY church not found in the Bible!
- Be encouraged brethren, let us RUN, looking to Jesus, the Author and finisher of our faith (**Hebrews 12:1-2**). Until the last Amen....