

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. 30 - July 28, 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: Melvin J. Bryant II
Opening Prayer: Melvin J. Bryant II
Song Leader: Kwame Abdul
Second Prayer: Devin Bryant
Lord’s Table: Clarence Proctor
Melvin Bryant III
Message: Melvin J. Bryant II
Closing Prayer: Kwame Abdul

Attendance

Morning Hour: 15
Bible Class: 19
Worship: 24
Wednesday: 14
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

SOLDIER
IN THE ARMY OF THE LORD

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's boyfriend, Randy had his surgery and is in need of our prayer for a healthy recovery.
- ▶ **Charlie** is having complications with his foot and has asked that we keep him in prayer that his health will improve.
- ▶ **The Webb's** daughter is in continual prayers for improved health results.
- ▶ **Carolyn** had hip replacement surgery and is in need of continual prayer.
- ▶ **Ann Phillips** is still in need of prayer.
- ▶ **Ron McCurry** has requested continued prayers for his son in law.
- ▶ **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 doing better and will be leaving the Shepherd Center this week.

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & NEWS

☑ July Birthdays

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

Our water is fixed in the back and Fellowship dinner will resume the last Sunday of each month.

☑ Anniversaries

☑ Local Church News

☑ World Church News

☑ Traveling.

Johnson's are traveling
 Ms. Carolyn is in Florida for a funeral

☑ Hiram Church of Christ News

"A Solider in the Army of the Lord"

(2 Timothy 2:3-4)

By

Melvin J. Bryant II

As we read in our text, Paul favored military imagery in many of his letters. He understood that the Christian life would involve "warfare"! It would involve Conflict, Battles, Challenges! Paul tells Timothy a few things in these few verses!

- (1) He says, to "commit what he has heard to 'Faithful MEN'!"
 - "Men" here is the Greek word "*anthropos*" which means, "A person of either sex, w. focus on a participation in the human race." (BDAG pg. 81).
 - Just because we find "Men" in the Bible does not mean that women are exempt! (cf. Matthew 4:19; 12:12).
- (2) He says, you "therefore must ENDURE....!"
 - That word, "Endure" comes from a Greek word that means, "to suffer physical pain, hardship and distress." (Louv & Nida vol 1. Pg 286)!
 - He also told Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:5 to "Endure Afflictions"! ENDURE problems that we as Christians will face in this ole life!
- (3) **HARDSHIP**
 - You know what happens with brethren who "Suffer Hardships" or things they struggle to understand? They leave the church! That's the **WRONG** thing to do!
 - James said in James 5:13 in the a-clause, "Is ANYONE among you SUFFERING"...it is that SAME Greek Word for Hardship in 2 Timothy 2:3, "Let him PRAY," NOT leave the church!
 - In this life, we are going to suffer sometimes with Hardships! The Lost of a Loved One! The Lost of a Job! The Lost of a Finances! The Lost (or failing) health! And a host of other things, BUT as Christians, we are to ENDURE the HARDSHIP!
 - Just because we are God's faithful servants does not exempt us from getting sick! (cf. 2 Kings 13:14)! And;
- (4) "Good Soldier of Jesus Christ." *However,*

I. **WHAT IS A SOLDIER?**

- A. Webster defines a "Soldier" as, "one who is engaged in a military service and especially in the army or military branch. It is an enlisted man or woman and they are skilled warriors. They are Militant Leaders, Followers or Workers!"
 - The Bible often describes our service to God as one who is an athlete in 2 Timothy 4:7-8! Paul said, "I have FOUGHT the Good Fight, I have Finished the Race, I have Kept the Faith." An athlete TRAINS his body to compete so that he can be PREPARED for the Fight....for the Race!
 - The Bible also describes our service to God as one who labors in the field of harvest in Luke 10:2! In our text, Paul compares our service to that of a "Soldier" as he tells Timothy in verse 3 that a "Soldier" MUST "Endure Hardship" and that he is to be a "Good Solider" while enduring these "Hardships" for Jesus Christ! As "Soldiers" we are to;
- B. Always be on DUTY
 - That is, we are on FULL DUTY in the Army of the Lord ALL THE TIME! (1 Peter 3:15)!
 - In our military branches of the world, they must look like and conduct themselves in a way as to "represent" that military branch in the best possible light!
 - As Christians, we are to ALWAYS make sure we dress appropriately and carry ourselves in a way that REPRESENTS the Christian life that our Commander will be pleased with!

- Paul told Timothy that women are to “...adore themselves in modest apparel” (1 Timothy 2:9)! But for some reason, when the summer months comes around, many people in the world, AND “most” Christians FORGET what this means, and they will come out the house looking like Adam and Eve BEFORE the Lord God made them “tunics of skin” and CLOTHED them (Genesis 6:21)!
- Soldiers in the Lord’s Army are NOT to be dressed in ways that is unbecoming of the Christian lifestyle!

II. THE SOLDIER MUST ENDURE HARDSHIP

- A. When one engages in warfare, *sometimes* that “Warfare” will have the “Soldier” to endure some “Hardships” and when this happens in the “Soldiers” life; “IF” he’s not strong enough (or prepared himself) to endure these “Hardships”, it will have him to go AWOL.
- AWOL is a Military term that means, “Absent Without Leave!” And, God didn’t give you as an enlisted soldier permission to leave!
 - Have you ever known of someone (or this could be you) who have SO many things piled upon themselves that you feel like giving up sometimes?
 - The “Hardship” of this life, family, finances, health related problems, etc.!
 - There are SO many “Hardships” that we face in this life BUT; as a Soldier in the Army of the Lord, we CANNOT allow these “Hardships” to get the best of us to the point that we go AWOL (Absent Without Leave)!
 - When one is enlisted as a soldier in the military, he UNDERSTANDS the dangers he has signed up for. He can go to war at anytime and that war can cost him his life!
 - As a Christian, once we are enlisted, we have CHOSEN to accept the conditions of the Commander and Chief, Jesus, I can’t stress this enough (John 16:33)!
 - Jesus has WARNED us of what a Good Soldier will have to go through in this world and as a Good Soldier, we are to ENDURE the tribulations we face!
 - Jesus said how we need to ENDURE in order to be saved (Matthew 24:13)!
 - WHY is it that MOST can FUNCTION properly at their place of employment while experiencing ALL these issues....Family, Financial, Health related issues, and so on, and function properly for 5 days a week at 40 hours a week! BUT; when it comes to serving God on the first day of the week, I have heard brethren say, (and people say) they can’t come because of these problems! God wants us to ENDURE until the end!
 - *Remember*, that word “endure” means to continue to suffer patiently OR keep going as you go through these “Hardships”! Do I need to remind us of what James tells us in James 1:2-4?!
- B. As Soldiers we are to engage
- *Remember* Elijah confronting the 450 prophets of Baal in 1 Kings 18?
 - *Remember* David in 1 Samuel 17:48, how he “...hurried and RAN toward the army to meet the Philistine.” Goliath? He was NOT afraid to confront the enemy!
- C. We are commanded to “GO” (see Matthew 28:19)!
- “GO”, *that means* we are to “commence”, we are to “engage”, we are to “approach” the enemy or those who are looking to become “Soldiers”! This is one of our orders!
 - And what is our DUTY in going? (see Matthew 28:19-20). Now, is this telling us that we are the ONES who are to be doing the “Engaging”? Sure it is! As soldiers we cannot....

III. ENGAGE IN WARFARE, ENTANGLING OURSELVES WITH THE AFFAIRS OF THIS LIFE.

- A. What are the “affairs of this life?”
- ANYTHING that prevents us from serving God! Sporting and children’s events, etc.!
 - Let us hold fast as faithful servants of God and be the kind of Soldiers the Lord God desires for us to be! Until the last Amen....