

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. 34 - August 25, 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: Matt Johnson

Opening Prayer: Matt Johnson

Song Leader: Kwame Abdul

Second Prayer: Devin Bryant

Lord’s Table: Clarence Proctor
Melvin Bryant III

Message: Melvin J. Bryant II

Closing Prayer: Alex Johnson

Attendance

Morning Hour: 14





Bible Class: 16

Worship: 17

Wednesday: 15

Contribution: \$TBA

Weekly Service Times

 The Morning Hour	9:00am
 Bible Class	10:00am
 Morning Worship	11:00am
 Wed. Evening Bible Classes	7:30pm

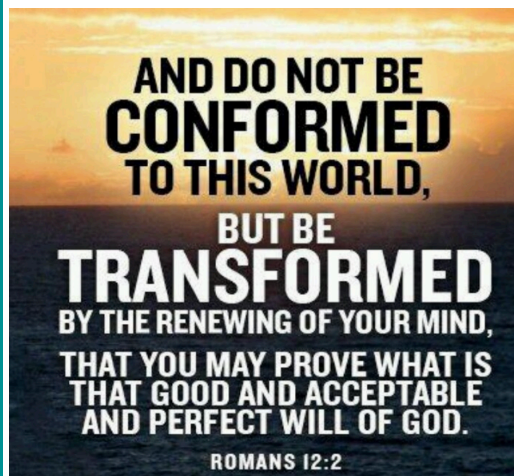
The Morning Hour

- 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



AND DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND, THAT YOU MAY PROVE WHAT IS THAT GOOD AND ACCEPTABLE AND PERFECT WILL OF GOD.

ROMANS 12:2

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) and her family.

PRAYER REQUESTS

(JAMES 5:16)

- ▶ **Kwame** is requesting for prayers for an upcoming surgery on Wednesday. Let us pray that all goes well with it. And, for his citizenship as he has applied for it.
- ▶ **Charlie** had surgery on his foot and has asked that we keep him in prayer that his health will improve.
- ▶ **The Webb's** daughter is in need of continual prayers for improved health results.
- ▶ **Carolyn** had hip replacement surgery and is in need of our continual prayer.
- ▶ **Ann Phillips** is still in need of prayer.
- ▶ **Ron McCurry** has requested continued prayers for his son in law.
- ▶ **Brother Melvin** has a co-worker, Dondrea Clay who is in need of prayers as she was injured on the job.

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & NEWS

☑ August Birthdays

Dene Reeves - 8th
Mary Troup - 11th
Pudgy Parson - 18th
Harold Reeves - 31st

☑ Anniversaries

Kwame & Deborah Abdul - 17th

☑ Local Church News

☑ World Church News

☑ Traveling

The Johnsons

☑ Hiram Church of Christ News

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

"YOU CAN CHANGE" Part II

Romans 12:2

By

Melvin J. Bryant II

Last week we embarked on the first part of this lesson regarding CHANGE! ANYONE can change, you have to put your mind to it! One would have to BELIEVE that they can be DIFFERENT from their previous state! And, the BEST conversion for a person to make after becoming a Christian is to submit themselves FULLY to the will of God! (see Romans 12:1).

The word "therefore" CONNECTS chapter 12 verse 1 to Chapter 11!

- In Romans chapter 11 Paul shows by way of example that most of Israel FAILED to obey God and *therefore* they were CUT OFF!
- He speaks about how the Gentiles are grafted in!
- To "Graft" something in is to UNITE with the stock of a growing plant!
- So, when Paul discusses how Israel were NATURAL branches in Romans 11:21, he says the REASON Israel (being the Natural Branches) were broken off was BECAUSE of Unbelief, And the Romans brethren are to STAND by Faith (Romans 11:20)!
- But here is the clincher for those who are BROKEN OFF because of UNBELIEF! (Romans 11:22).
- EVEN "IF" we are broken off today because of UNBELIEF, God can GRAFT you in again! (Romans 11:23). *However*, If we don't remain in the Faith of God's goodness, we too can be CUT OFF! A person CAN CHANGE! He tells Israel that although you were CUT OFF because of UNBELIEF, you can be Grafted in Again!
- So, once you are a Christian, and you FALL AWAY, (*that is*, you depart from the Faith) you don't have to stay LOST! God CAN Graft you in AGAIN!
- A perfect exemplar of this is found in the story of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11ff! (emphasis on verses 24 and 32, "my son WAS Dead and is Alive AGAIN; he WAS Lost and is FOUND", "for your brother was DEAD and is ALIVE AGAIN, and was LOST and is FOUND.").

I. PAUL HAD A FORMER LIFE (see Galatians 1:11-17)

A. Paul changed his former conduct!

- But there is some interesting points of reference that can be identified here!
 - (1) In verse 11, Paul says I'm preaching a gospel that's NOT according to man!
 - Today, there are thousands of different doctrines that are taught by men and NOT by God!
 - But how can one distinguish the doctrine of man and the Doctrine of God!
 - When a man speaks his own beliefs and it does NOT harmonize with the word of God, he is teaching a Doctrine of Man! (example: The sinners prayer)!
 - (2) There are some religions that receive their revelation from different means!
 - The Koran is from Muhammad, NOT Jesus!
 - Jehovah Witnesses is from Charles Taze Russell, NOT Jesus!
 - The Mormons is from Joseph Smith, NOT Jesus!
 - Paul said that the Gospel comes from the Revelation of Jesus Christ, NOT MAN!

B. Paul expounds on his former life in verses 13-17.

- What was Paul's "Former Conduct? He persecuted the church of God and tried to DESTROY it! (cf. Acts 8:1-3; 9:1-2; 26:9-11).

- C. He advanced in Judaism!
 - What does this mean? Paul was COMMITTED to Judaism! He was trained at the feet of Gamaliel (Acts 22:3)! He was so committed to Judaism that he excelled (or advanced) beyond many of his contemporaries (those of his own age, his own countrymen)! He was diligent, faithful to the service of Judaism! But Paul made a change! (Galatians 1:15-17).
- D. God revealed His Son in him was of miraculous manifestation (Acts 26:12-18).
 - “IF” a person has NOT changed from Darkness to Light! From the Power of Satan to God! They CANNOT have their sins remitted and they will NOT receive the inheritance with those who are sanctified by Faith in Christ Jesus! God desires ALL men to be saved and come to the knowledge of Truth (1 Timothy 2:4)! But that’s not going to happen church unless there is a CHANGE in your life! What is that change?

II. GOD COMMANDS THAT WE PUT OFF THE FORMER CONDUCT

- A. We’ve all heard the saying, “*Once you LEARN better, you do better!*”
 - God wants us to change! (see Ephesians 4:17-24)!
 - “IF” we change the INNER MAN, it will reflect with the outer man! It’s that INNER man (the heart) Jesus speak about in Matthew 15:19!
- B. The Bible has given us several accounts of individuals changing to serve and follow God!
 - In the Old Testament, the Book of Joshua, there was a woman named Rahab who had a Former Life, a Former Conduct! She CHANGED, and NOW we can forever READ about her in the Genealogy of Jesus Christ in Matthew 1:5!
 - There was a man named Apollos, eloquent man, Mighty in Scriptures in Acts 18:24ff, he was taught the way of the Lord more accurately, and he changed!
- C. Cities can change from their “Former Conduct”! (Nineveh is of this sort - Jonah 3:5)!
 - Upon their repentance, God changed His mind from destroying them! (Jonah 3:10)!

III. YOU CAN CHANGE FROM SINNER TO SAINT

- A. God is SO gracious that once He sees a change in you by way of your conduct and obedience to His word, He will save you! (see Ezekiel 18:21-23).
- B. The same holds true for the righteous!
 - The righteous can change from righteousness and commit iniquity and forever be lost if unrepented (Ezekiel 18:24)!
- ALL men can change for the better!
- If a man does not love his wife as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her (Ephesians 5:25), he can change!
- If a person is a harlot...You don't have to ALWAYS be a Harlot, you can change!
- You don’t always have to be a Womanizer, you can change!
- You don’t ALWAYS have to be a Smoker, you can change!
- You don’t have to ALWAYS be a DRUNKARD, you can change!
- You don’t have to ALWAYS be UNFAITHFUL to the Lord, YOU CAN CHANGE!!!!
- If you’re a Bad Father, you can change! (cf.1 Timothy 5:8)!
- “IF” you’re a bad mother, You Can Change! Herodias, in Mark 6:24 was a BAD mother, but you don’t have to be!
- It doesn’t matter what your state is, as long as the breath of life is in you, YOU CAN CHANGE, BUT it takes the renewing of your mind, CONFORMING to God’s righteousness in order for this to be effective in your life! Be encouraged brethren, until the last Amen.....