



The Voice Of Truth

A weekly publication of the

Hillcrest church of Christ

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"THEY HAD BEEN WITH JESUS"

Jimmy Pettigrew

"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus, " Acts 4:13. The Jewish people saw a change in the apostles. They boldly told the people of being guilty of killing the Son of God (Acts 2). Even though they were unlearned, they could with boldness and spiritual knowledge confront the Jewish leaders. WHY? Because they had been with Jesus! The same principle is still at work among the disciples of Jesus today. Just as the Jewish people saw a change in the apostles, do people see a change in us? Can they tell we have been with Jesus?

Do they see a change in our life serving God and doing His will, or do they see the same person doing the same things in life as he/she did before? It is the Christian's responsibility to serve God, not mammon (Matthew 6:24). Serving God means serving Christ, which in turn, means following and living for Christ (John 12:26). It is mockery to claim to be a servant of Christ while living in disobedience to Him (Luke 6:46). Living for Christ demands us to live differently. Are we walking differently, or are we walking the same path that we followed before being a Christian? Can people see a change in us? Can people see the difference from church and the world?

Elders and deacons, are you being the best examples living before the flock? Do you study, try to convert others, given generously, attend gospel meetings, and assemble every time the doors are open? Sadly, some are not! No wonder why members think it is unimportant to do these vital things. It is difficult to follow that kind of leadership! Members, are you being the best examples to the world (Matthew 5:13-16). Elders and preachers should not have to beg Christians to study, try to convert others, give generously, attend gospel meetings, even assemble regularly. True servants do not have to be begged.

Brethren, we are to change our inner man which results in a change of our daily living. We are to be holy in all manner of life (1 Peter 1:15). We cannot live in a "twilight zone"!

"WHICH CHURCH SHOULD I ATTEND?"

One Where His Name Is Glorified

Acts 4:12- No other name whereby we might be saved.

Acts 11:26 - God gave the name Christian

1 Peter 4:16- We can glorify God in this name.

One Where His Teachings on Salvation Are Followed

John 14:6 - Only He is the way to heaven.

Hebrews 5:9 - All must obey Him to be saved.

John 8:24 - He said we must believe on Him.

Luke 13:3 - He said we must repent.

Matthew 10:32-33 - He said we must confess Him.

Mark 16:16 - He said we must be baptized to be saved.

One Where His Will Is Followed In Worship

John 4:24 - Worship must be sincere and proper actions.

Acts 20:7 - Lord's Supper on the first day of the week.

Colossians 3:16 - Singing praises to God.

Acts 2:42 - Prayer and teaching.

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 - Giving of our means on the first day of the week.

YOU SHOULD ATTEND THE CHURCH OF CHRIST "The churches of Christ salute you." (Romans 16:16)

It Is a Fact

Take a leafy branch from a tree. Lay it carefully aside and watch. Slowly the color fades, the leaves go limp, curl up and it is dead.

Take a fish out of a lake. Lay it carefully on the sand and watch. Frantically it twists, struggles, gradually weakens, then quivers and it is dead.

Take a church member; carefully allow him to separate himself from God in worship, fellowship, prayer and active service. Gradually his conscience quivers as he misses the Lord's Table. He frets at himself for missing the worship services as other activities begin to occupy his time. Soon there are many hypocrites in the church ... the church is always asking for money ... nobody cares about him. Finally, he takes a stand against the church and Christian living and he is dead.

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GOD HAS A RIGHT

God has a right to a definite part of your time

— He has the power to take all of it.

God has a right to a definite part of your money

— He has the power to take all of it.

God has a right to be glorified through your tongue

— He has the power to take all of it.

God has a right to be honored through your influence

— He has the power to take all of it.

God has a right to your life

— He has the power to take all of it.

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What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear and Learn - Rom. 10:17; John 6:45; 17:3

Believe - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24

Repent - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30

Confess the Lord - Matt. 10:32-33; Rom. 10:9-10

Be Baptized - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27; 1 Pet. 3:21

Continue in the Apostles' Teaching - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17