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honest and sincere in what you believe, then why was Paul converted in the first place? He was the epitome of an "honest and sincere," "religious" person, fully persuaded in his own mind (Acts 22:3, 23:1, 26:9-10; Gal, 1:13-14; Phil. 3:4-6). But it was not enough, was it??

My friend, what we believe religiously, matters! What we believe concerning religious matters will determine whether we go to Heaven or Hell! This is how serious it is. We are not on "different roads to the same goal"! Now, we may be on different roads, but rest assured that one road

leads to Heaven and the other road leads to Hell (Matt. 7:13-14). These are our choices!! When people declare that it does not matter what you believe as long as you are honest and sincere, they are teaching something completely foreign to the Scriptures. We must follow what the Bible and the Bible alone says on matters of religion, as well as in every other area of our life (Col. 3:17)!! If people will not give us book, chapter, and verse for their actions, we need not listen (I Pet. 4:11). The next time someone asks the question "Does it matter what I believe religiously...?" How will YOU answer them??

Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com ♦

I Am Your Bulletin

- I am not just another piece of paper.
- I am your weekly church information sheet.
- I do not come to you easily, or without expense.
- I cost money, time, thought, and energy.
- I should not be taken for granted.
- I can only be as useful and valuable as you allow me to be.
- I am often abused and overlooked.
- Sometimes all I get is a fleeting glance.
- Sometimes all I get is a critical analysis.
- I want so much for you to read me, study me, appreciate me, and make me useful for your spiritual activity and development.
- I want to serve you.

About the Hillcrest church of Christ

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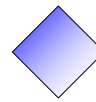


Schedule of Assembly

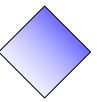
Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*

*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month

www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com



The Voice of Truth



October 3, 2010

Charges To Christians

By Jimmy Pettigrew

One of the real problems of Christianity is a lack of dedicated service to Christ. You must serve Christ zealously and faithfully. Living the Christian life is pictured in the New Testament as: warfare (Eph. 6:10-18), an athletic event (1 Cor. 9:24-26; Gal. 5:7). A good start, so important in a race, does not insure a successful finish. Christians need to remember these charges for running the Christian race.

(1) "...stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong" (1 Cor. 16:13). Paul exhorts the Corinthians to stand fast. Meaning, stand fast in the truth (Jno. 17:17), God's word (Psa. 119:9), the New Testament (2 Cor. 3:6), the gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16), the doctrine or teaching of Christ (2 Jno. 9). This is the urgency needed by all saints! We must prove our worth as a soldier of Christ and fight the spiritual warfare that Christians must wage! Stand fast in the faith, always be eager to defend (1 Pet. 3:15) and contend (Jude 3). Stand for things which Christ stood for, stand for the things which Christ died for, stand and ask for the old paths (Jer. 6:16).

(2) "Abstain from every form of evil" (1 Thess. 5:22). When one has learned what is good or true, and what is evil and false, he should hold fast the true and abstain from the evil. In 1 Timothy 6:11-12, follow a discourse on a number of evils and the disastrous results that come upon those that follow such things. Paul addresses Timothy as a "man of God", indicating that he is one who is committed to God in this life. In view of the evils just mentioned (1 Timothy 6), Paul urges Timothy to "flee these things" (vs. 11). There are times when running is not cowardly, but wise. It is absurdity, foolishness and madness to remain in the presence of temptation needlessly. It is not wisdom to deliberately place one's soul in jeopardy. When Joseph was approached by the wife of Potiphar for the purpose of fornication, Joseph fled the scene completely. We cannot always avoid temptations, but we do not have to remain in their presence. "Do not enter the path of the wicked, And do not walk in the way of evil. Avoid it, do not

travel on it; Turn away from it and pass on" (Prov. 4:14-15).

(3) "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (Jno. 14:15). This says in effect, that love for the Lord is evidenced in keeping His commandments. If you'll keep on loving Me, you'll keep my commandments. "And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He that saith, I know Him, and keep-eth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him" (1 Jno. 2:3-5). "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love, even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love" (Jno. 15:9-10). This love for God is not simply an emotion. It is a disposition that seeks the glory of God. It is an attitude of submission to His will. It is the desire to do His bidding! Love is not only obeying commands; it is having them! "He who has my commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to Him" (Jno. 14:21). Love MUST be expressed in obedience! Such glorifies the Son and thus, glorifies the Father. Do you love the Father? Do your actions show that you do?

(4) "...Be ye yourselves also holy in all manner of living" (1 Pet. 1:15). We are encouraged to live lives of complete dedication to God. As the song we sing, we need to:

Take time to be Holy,
speak oft with thy Lord;
Abide in Him always,
And feed on His word.

Are we taking time to be holy when we want worship services shortened? Or, when we want the sermon not to

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be over twenty minutes? We want the prayers short, the songs few. What's the big hurry? Are we in a hurry to visit the sick and erring after services? No, we want to go to a restaurant and eat a delicious meal, watch TV or whatever we desire. If the Lord's Supper is served first, some brethren will partake of it and leave on a trip the minute after they partake! Is this taking time to be holy, or is this taking

time for our own desires? We need to forget the cares of the world and take time to be holy! We should study God's word and pray every day.

The truth of God has been placed in the care of those who love the Lord. It is an awesome responsibility, so let us handle it aright, love it, obey it, live it and stand fast for it! ♦

Proper Attitudes About Worship By Jeff Asher

The history of the church at Troas is sketchy. Very little is known except what we read in **Acts 20:7-12**. Evidently Paul established this congregation near the end of his third preaching journey (**2 Cor. 2:12**). At some point they had an evangelist who worked with them by the name of Carpus to whom Paul had loaned some books (**2 Tim. 4:13**).

While little is known about their history, **Acts 20:7-12** reveals a lot about their enthusiasm and zeal for the worship of Jesus. They are a positive example of a proper attitude toward the worship of the saints for all Christians in all times.

Assembly For Worship

The Christians at Troas assembled every first day of the week to eat the Lord's Supper and engage in other acts of worship (**Acts 20:7**). Luke observes, *"the first day of the week when the disciples came together"* indicating it was their habit to do so. The fact that Paul remained in Troas for seven days further proves that this was the usual day when Christians met (cf. **Acts 20:16**).

We need to develop the habit of assembling with the saints (**Heb. 10:25**). Sunday is the *"Lord's Day"* (**Rev. 1:10**). It is the only day in the week to which we can attach any significance concerning Christ. It is the day of His resurrection (**Luke 24:1, 13, 21**). It is the day upon which He appeared alive to His disciples (**John 20:1, 11; Luke 24:30-43**). The gospel was first preached on Sunday (**Acts 2:1, 14**). The first baptism was performed on that day (**Acts 2:41**). It is the day of the week upon which the church came into existence (**Acts 2:47**). The worship of the saints upon this day of the week should inspire their hearts with love for Jesus, confidence in their salvation and zeal for the souls of men.

Do you have this habit of assembling with the saints?

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because Paul came to town their daily responsibilities did not disappear. They still had work to do the next day, children to care for and responsibilities at home. All of this and even more, yet they still managed to work in an all night session to hear Paul preach (**Acts 20:11**). How unlike some brethren they are. Today many are continually looking for ways to shorten the assembly. In some churches it is worship "by the numbers." We have to start "on time" and quit "on time." We can sing only two songs and not all the verses because we don't want to "go over." Preachers

"Does It Matter What I Believe?" By Jarrod Jacobs

Many ask this question in reference to religious matters. Some will try to say that it does not matter what we believe as long as we are honest and sincere about religious issues. Let us look to the Bible and see the consequences of that reasoning.

If, in religion, it does not matter what you and I believe, why did God say, *"Thou shalt have no other gods before me"* (**Ex. 20:3**)? Why did God not allow those Jews to worship the "god of their choice"? Isn't it possible that there were some Canaanites and heathens that were sincere and honest in their infant sacrifices, mutilation of their bodies, and other forms of "worship" to their gods? Yet, God did not allow such a thing (**Josh. 24:20**). Why would that be unless God expected worship to be to Him and Him alone, no excuses and no exceptions?

If, in religion, it does not matter what you and I believe, why did Jesus condemn the Pharisees and the Sadducees for their behavior? Let us notice **Matthew 15:9**. There Jesus said, *"But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."* Does this sound like Jesus does not care how we worship him? Is there a possibility that some may believe that they are truly worshipping God, but in reality it is *"in vain"*? Yes!

Another passage we ought to look at is found in **Matthew 22:29**. Jesus condemned the Sadducees at this time, and said, *"Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God."* How could these people "err" if it does not matter what you and I believe on religious matters?

Let us look at an early teacher and preacher of the gospel. A man by the name of Stephen. This space will not allow us to print the entire text, but please read **Acts 7** so you can understand the entire context. Toward the end of

are being forced to confine their sermons to 15 minutes. A twenty-five minute sermon is "long preaching" for some. God forbid that we should have a baptism.

We are living in troublesome times when the value of a sermon is determined by its length. Some folks are chaffing under long preaching because it is poorly prepared and delivered. However, others have a heart and mind somewhere else. They like them short because there is nothing in them. Do you have the Trojan spirit concerning worship? *Credit: www.pafield.com* ♦

Acts 7, Stephen condemns the Jews for refusing to believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. Please notice what happened, *"When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth...And cast him out of the city, and stoned him"* (**Acts 7:54, 58**). Does this reaction sound consistent with people who have heard words to the effect, "I'm O.K. and you're O.K. -- There are many roads to the same goal"?

Many times, Paul would cause a riot in the cities he visited. Why was this? This was because he taught *"THE gospel of Christ"* (**Rom. 1:16**)!! He taught that there was not another gospel of Christ. Therefore, you will follow the one true gospel, or a perverted gospel, period (**Gal. 1:6-9**). Paul caused a stir among the Philippians because he was accused of teaching *"customs, which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans"* (**Acts 16:21**). Does this sound like Paul taught that there are "many ways to serve God"? In Ephesus Paul, *"hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands"* (**Acts 19:26**). Why would he say this to such an honest and sincere group of people who were just trying to worship their goddess the best way they knew how? How do we know that these people were honest and sincere in their beliefs about the goddess Diana? For one thing, they shouted *"Great is Diana of the Ephesians"* for two solid hours to show their devotion to that idol (**Acts 19:34**). Paul did not teach these things in Ephesus alone, but everywhere that Paul went he taught the same gospel (**Acts 19:26; I Cor. 4:17**).

If it is true that God will accept you as long as you are

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