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best describes us? If we are only interested, but not committed to Christ, then this is the time to repent!

Conclusion

Remember dear readers what Richard Blanchard said, "There's a difference between interest and commitment. When you're interested in doing something, you do it only

when it's convenient. When you're committed to something, you accept no excuses; only results." I might add a similar thought: "Those who want to, find a way. Those who don't want to, find excuses."

Folks, it is high time that we got past the "interest" stage and got "committed"!! If you are not committed, you can change from just being interested to being committed! This is what needs to be done! Will you do it?

Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com ♦

**Being ReNEWed
By Jonathan L. Perz**

The concept of "new" is strongly emphasized in the Bible. For example, you have an Old Testament and a New Testament. While the New Testament is really a fulfillment of the Old Testament (read **Matt. 5:17**), there are some changes that make the "New" better than the "Old" (read **Heb. 8:7-13**).

This same concept should be portrayed in a Christian's life. When we are baptized, we are to walk in "newness of life" (read **Rom. 6:1-4**). Having been delivered from the law of Moses, we should serve in "newness of the Spirit" (read **Rom. 7:6**). As Christians, we are to purge out the old leaven of malice and wickedness, and keep the feast with a "new lump"—the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth (read **1 Cor. 5:6-8**). A Christian should be a "new creation," standing in direct contrast to that old creation they once were (read **2 Cor. 5:17** and **Gal. 6:15**). A converted sinner, otherwise known as a Christian, should

also be viewed as a "new man" (read **Eph. 4:24** and **Col. 3:10**).

Where Christians often miss the point is in the change that "new" implies. Being renewed implies change. If there is not a tangible and observable difference between the man you were before Christ became the driving force in your life and the man you are after that point, you have to begin to ask yourself—have I, am I, letting Christ change my life?

The life that has truly been touched by Christ cannot help but change. You will have a new outlook, a new hope. Your aspirations will change. Your lifestyle will change. Your appetites will change. Your desires will change. Your affections will change. All of sudden, the old will truly be old to you and you will be renewed.

Credit: www.moodychurchofchrist.com ♦

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

- Hear and Learn - **Rom. 10:17** m. **10:9-10** ; **1 Pet. 3:21** ; **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; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21**
- Be Baptized - **Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27**
- Continue in the Apostles' Teaching - **Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17**

About the Hillcrest church of Christ

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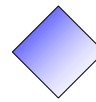


Schedule of Assembly

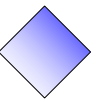
Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*

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

www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com



The Voice of Truth



June 20, 2010

**Lack of Knowledge
By Jimmy Pettigrew**

God had a controversy with his people because there was no knowledge of Him in the land: "Hear the word of Jehovah, ye children of Israel; for Jehovah hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor goodness, nor knowledge of God in the land" (**Hosea 4:1**). The basic reason for destruction was the lack of knowledge, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I also will forget thy children" (**Hosea 4:6**).

It was not that knowledge was not available, but that they had rejected it, and it is seen as a rejection to God! Indeed, knowledge is priceless! "Receive my instruction, and not silver; And knowledge rather than choice gold" (**Proverbs 8:10**). The knowledge of the ways of God is always a greater possession than material wealth like silver and gold. The things of God are always best for us. Thus, only "fools hate knowledge?" (**Proverbs 1:22**). But, "Wise men lay up knowledge" (**Proverbs 10:14**). "For wisdom shall enter into thy heart, And knowledge shall be pleasant unto thy soul" (**Proverbs 2:10**). "For wisdom is a defence, even as money is a defence; but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom preserveth the life of him that hath it" (**Ecclesiastes 7:12**).

God intended that knowledge play a vital role in the lives of His people. We are to be (1) "filled with all knowledge" (**Romans 15:14; Colossians 1:9**). We are to abound in knowledge (2 **Corinthians 8:7**). We are (2) grow in knowledge (2 **Peter 3:18; Colossians 1:10**). Knowledge is one of the (3) *Christians virtues we are to add to our lives* (2 **Peter 1:5-11**). In fact, God places such a premium on knowledge that the word "knowledge" itself is the key word of one of the epistles - 2 **Peter**. In fact, God places such a premium on knowledge that He told Israel that (4) He desired "Knowledge of God more than burnt offerings" (**Hosea 6:6**).

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I also will forget thy children" (Hosea 4:6)

How is your knowledge of God? "Can you prove when and where the church was established?" "Where is Jesus' sermon on the new birth found in the New Testament?" "Who was the first Gentile convert?" "Who accompanied Paul on his first missionary tour?" A test was conducted with a freshmen class at a College Bible department, in which 91% of those who took the examination were members of the church. Some of the results obtained from this test are interesting.

- (1) 33% of the students did not know that Jonah was prophet who was on a ship bound for Tarshish and 33% did not know he preached in Nineveh.
- (2) 17% Did not know Romans was the sixth book in the New Testament.
- (3) 31% Did not know that Jude follows 3 John.
- (4) 55% did not know who wrote 2 Timothy.
- (5) 45% Did not know who wrote Revelation.
- (6) 21% Did not know that Isaiah wrote Isaiah.
- (7) 56% Did not know that Luke wrote Acts.
- (8) 20% Did not know that Lydia sold purple.
- (9) 92% Did not know that Christ's conversation with Nicodemus on the new birth is found in the gospel of John.
- (10) 87% Did not know from which cities Moses sent the spies out against Canaan.

Let us notice some of the curses and tragedies of ignorance (1) *Ignorance was one of the sins which crucified Jesus* (**Acts 3:17; Luke 23:34; 1 Corinthians 2:8**). (2) *Ignorance alienates one from the life of God* (**Ephesians 4:18**).

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(3) Ignorance precipitates the establishment of one's own righteousness (Romans 10:3). (4) Ignorance causes the individual to err (Matthew 22:29; 2 Peter 3:1-9; Acts 17:29-30). (5) Ignorance leads people to wrest the scriptures to their own destruction (2 Peter 3:16). (6) Ignorance causes people to be destroyed (Hosea 4:6; Isaiah 5:13). (7) Ignorance will keep one from being converted

scripturally (Matthew 13:15). (8) Ignorance will cause people to ultimately be lost (2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Acts 17:30-31).

With ignorance prevailing as it does among members of the body of the Lord, let us now read Hosea 4:6 and tremble: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee." •

"Interest Or Commitment?"

By Jarrod Jacobs

What do the disciples in John 6 and Luke 9, the Pharisees of John 12, and Agrippa (Acts 24) have in common? (For your study, read: Jn. 6:60-66; Lk. 9:57-62; Jn. 12:42-43; and Acts 24:24-27.) We might not see the connection at first, but it is there! Put simply, what at first seems like random characters are actually connected by their attitudes toward the Lord. You see, while all these people expressed an interest in Christ, none of these people were actually committed to Him!

On one occasion, a man named Richard Blanchard said, "There's a difference between interest and commitment. When you're interested in doing something, you do it only when it's convenient. When you're committed to something, you accept no excuses; only results." With this in mind, let me ask you, dear reader, "Are you interested or are you committed?"

God

Is God just a passing interest to you, or are you committed to Him? In the New Testament, we are told, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33). Are we obedient to Christ's word?

For too many people, God is merely Someone we are "interested" in when it is convenient for us! When "inconvenient" or when we are "too busy", then we push God to the side. How tragic when we see from the Bible that God demands first place!

When Jesus spoke of the love we ought to have for God, He said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" (Matt. 22:37). Does this sound like a passing interest in God is acceptable, or should we make an actual commitment?

Perhaps we can better appreciate what is needed if we

ask this question: "Are we God's interest, or is He committed to us?" Look at what he has done. He created us, He sustains us, and has sent His Son to this world to be the sacrifice for our sins (Acts 17:24-25; Jn. 3:16; I Jn. 3:16). Truly, God is committed to us. Are we committed to Him?

Marriage

We have many people interested in marriage, but few truly committed. If you don't agree, just read the paper and see how many folks file for divorces on a weekly basis in this town! We need to be a people who are committed to, not just interested in, marriage.

I say this because marriage is a relationship that was created by God (Gen. 2:18-25). He expects a man and woman who marry to stay married for life (Rom. 7:2-3). They need to be willing to work through the ups-and-downs in life, and stay married "til death do us part"! Tragically, we live in a society that does not encourage us to do this. We are encouraged to stay married "til we find someone better", or "til we grow apart," etc. This is contradictory to Bible teaching!

When we read about marriage in such passages as Ephesians 5:22-33; Titus 2:3-8; and I Peter 3:1-7; we are seeing a true picture of commitment to one another. A husband and wife's relationship are an illustration of Christ and the church. Don't we owe it to God, ourselves, as well as to our children and future generations of people to live in such a way as to express true commitment?

Friends, when we are committed in our marriage, we will remember Ephesians 4:26-27 and live by it! There, we are told, "Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil". When we are committed to one another, we don't let things get "out of hand" with our anger!

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When we are committed to marriage, we ought also remember that if we have issues with one another (we are different people, after all), then we will strive to get those problems resolved as soon as possible (Matt. 5:23-24; 18:15)!

When we are committed to marriage, we will treat one another the way we want to be treated (Matt. 7:12). This is key to a happy and peaceful home-life. Remember, marriage is a relationship where two different people (opposite genders), from two different families (hopefully), growing up in two different backgrounds, join their lives together into one! Yes, this takes true commitment on the part of both! Are we that committed, or are we just interested? Let us answer this question before we get married!

The Bible

When thinking about one's interest versus his commitment, I like to read what David had to say in Psalm 119. David wrote:

"With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (v. 10-11)

"Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end" (v. 33).

"I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved" (v. 47).

"Thou art my portion, O LORD: I have said that I would keep thy words" (v. 57).

"O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day" (v. 97).

"Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (v. 104-105).

These examples represent just a small sampling of passages we could read that extol the value and virtues of the Bible!

A prime example of the difference between interest and commitment can be found by observing the differences between the apostle Paul and the Athenians of Acts 17:16

-34. The apostle Paul came into town, preached the truth and stood against the idolaters, proclaiming and living the truth that there is only One God and that men need to be saved from their sins. The Athenians, on the other hand, "spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing" (v. 21). They really didn't care about what was true or false. They just wanted to hear some nice-sounding "story"!

Which describes us? Are we interested, or committed? Are we satisfied to hear the Bible so long as we are not inconvenienced? Are we satisfied to hear the Bible so long as we don't have to spend time learning? Be honest!

Christian

The name "Christian" is used rather loosely today in society. It seems that some will throw the name "Christian" upon anything if they think it will be advantageous to them. When we read the Scripture, we find that the name "Christian" was given by God and belongs only to certain ones. The first time we read this name is in Acts 11:26, where it is written, "the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch."

Having read this, we must ask, "Who is a disciple?" Jesus answered this question in John 8:31 when He said, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed." Therefore, since a disciple is one who continues in Christ's word, and a Christian is a disciple, then we are assured that it is not mere interest that describes a Christian, but commitment!!

For further proof, consider the level of commitment that is needed when one is a Christian:

"I Corinthians 15:58 says He must be "always abounding in the work of the Lord"!

"Revelation 2:10 says we must be "faithful unto death".

"I Peter 4:4 describes how one is treated when he commits to following Christ. Yet, enduring this is minor compared to the glory and reward that is to come for being a child of God (Rom. 8:18; II Cor. 4:17).

Being a Christian changes our thinking (Phil. 4:8), words (Jas. 3), and deeds (Jas. 1:26-27) to conform to Christ! (Rom. 12:1-2; Col. 3:17) Truly, such changes demand commitment, not merely an interest! Again, which

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