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Conclusion

maneuver out of, or procrastinate with respect to that which needs to be done in the kingdom of the Lord. It seems impossible to move some "Christians" into action. The fire and enthusiasm of the first century church is missing from their lives. They may have restored the truth, but they seem to have forgotten the spirit.

**Ephesians 6:6** counsels us to be, "doing the will of God from the heart." May none of us drag our feet but instead give ourselves enthusiastically to doing the work of the Lord. Such a life of service will grant us the best life here and in the hereafter. *Credit: www.padfield.com* ♦

**Do You Just Belong?**

- Are you an active member?
- The kind that would be missed?
- Or are you just contented that your name is on the list?
- Do you attend the meeting and mingle with the flock?
- Or do you stay away to criticize and knock?
- Do you take an active part to help the work along?
- Or are you satisfied to only just belong?
- Think this over, my dear friends:
- I know you won't go wrong.
- Are you an active member, or do you just belong? ♦

**GOD HAS A RIGHT**

Author unknown

- 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.

**About the Hillcrest church of Christ**

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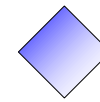


**Schedule of Assembly**

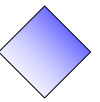
**Bible Study:** Sunday, 9:00am  
**Worship Service:** Sunday, 10:00am  
**Bible Study:** Wednesday, 7:00pm\*

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

**www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com**



# The Voice of Truth



September 4, 2011

**Serving God**  
By Jimmy Pettigrew

How are we to serve God? We are to serve God "with a perfect heart and with a willing mind" (1 Chronicles 28:9); God deserves our service. Think of all He has done for us: He gives every good and every perfect gift (James 1:17); He gave us Christ and the cross and eternal life (John 3:16-17); He gave us a plan of salvation; All spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3); God is worthy of your service.

How are YOU serving God??? We are to serve with a perfect heart, a loyal heart! This means you are to serve Him with a heart that is attuned to His will. "Let your heart therefore be perfect with the Lord our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day" (1 Kings 8:61). We are not to give half-hearted service; it makes my Lord sick (Revelation 3:15-16). I have seen so many so-called Christians try to hold on to God

with one hand and the world with the other. Esau could not have the pottage and the birthright; we cannot have both heaven and the pleasure of sin. I want us to give God whole-hearted service, with no turning back.

Also, we are to serve Him with a willing mind. This means our service is to be voluntary, with a mind that desires only that which will please God (Acts 20:19). This service involves every area and all particulars of life, job, the home and vacation. It involves every human relationship. God comes before family (Luke 14:26). He comes before sports and entertainment.

Are you serving God right now? Are you serving Him with a perfect heart and willing mind? ♦

**"Single-Mindedness"**

By Jarrod Jacobs

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this **one thing I do**, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:13-14). With these words, the apostle Paul declares that there was not anything that would keep him from obeying God's will. The third chapter of Philippians details Paul's coming from the tribe of Benjamin, his zealousness in the Jews' religion, and how he came out of that to live for Christ (counting his former labors as "loss" and "dung," Phil. 3:8). At this point, he does not count himself as to have "apprehended" (he does not possess it, yet), but he forgot the past and is doing only "ONE THING" now, and that is, pressing forward "for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." This godly man is intent on reaching Heaven regardless of the consequences. This was first and foremost on his mind!

single-minded as he? Is reaching Heaven first and foremost on our minds? Do we think about Heaven very often? Do we think about Heaven daily? Weekly? Ever? Notice that with the apostle, this was the "one thing" on his mind. It was not one among many things! This was the ONLY THING! His highest goal, and greatest thought was reaching Heaven. Is it the same for us?

In II Timothy 2:4, Timothy is told, "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." As soldiers of the Lord, it is necessary for us to make sure that we are not so involved in the affairs of this life that we forget about our goal of Heaven! Yet, many are like this, aren't they? People get involved in work, school activities with the children, sports, TV, friends, etc. With so many things vying for our attention, it can be easy to forget our purpose for being upon this earth (Ecc. 12:13-14)! I believe that this is what Jesus was talking about when He

When we consider and examine ourselves, are we as

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said, *"He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful"* (**Matt. 13:22**). If we are not single-minded in our pursuit of Heaven, it becomes very easy to allow this world to *"choke out"* the word of life until we do not care about Heaven, and the life to come. Understand, God wants man to enjoy things in this world, but they MUST be placed in perspective. Heavenly matters must always come first (**Matt. 6:33; II Tim. 2:4**).

Jesus said, *"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon"* (**Matt. 6:24**). Friends, here is another reason for being "single-minded" in serving the Lord and "pressing" toward Heaven. This is because we cannot have it both ways! We cannot be a friend of the world and a friend of God at the same time. In fact, James says, *"the friendship of the world is enmity with God"* (**Jas. 4:4**). Which will it be, friend? Will I be the one who is more concerned about worldly, physical things than spiritual, Heavenly things? Many are like this, never realizing that, *"The world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that*

## "WHOSOEVER CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED"

By David J. Riggs

The above expression from the Word of God is found in **Acts 2:21** and **Rom. 10:13** and is a quotation out of the Old Testament from **Joel 2:32**. It is one of today's much abused passages. It is often quoted over the radio and television, at funerals and religious gatherings and so forth, and is used in the sense that one only needs to ask the Lord to save him and that is all that is necessary. However, is that the only things involved in being saved—just saying in one's heart, "Lord save me," or "Lord, I accept you as my personal Savior"? **Rom. 6:16-17** says, *"But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness."* Thus, obedience from the heart is necessary to be set free from sin.

According to the prophet Joel the blessing of calling on the name of the Lord and being saved was to be afforded in the last days (See **Joel 2:28-32**). Peter quoted Joel's words in Acts 2 and from his application we learn what is involved in calling on the name of the Lord. The apostles had received the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit and some accused them of being full of new wine. Peter said they

*doeth the will of God abideth for ever"* (**I Jn. 2:17**).

When Jesus was in the house of Mary and Martha, it was clear that Mary was interested in Heavenly matters, while Martha was concerned over many other things. When Martha complained to the Lord to tell Mary to help her, He said, *"Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her"* (**Lk. 10:41-42**). Notice that Martha was worried about *"many things"* when in fact, Jesus said she needed to be worried about only *"one thing."* That one thing was God's word, the *"good part."* Mary was interested in what to do to get to Heaven, so she let other things go for a time to learn all she could. Is this YOUR attitude? Or, are you going in so many directions that you cannot be "single-minded"?

We need to think seriously about this subject. Let us not get distracted by this world and all its glitter that soon passes away (**I Jn. 2:17**). If we are not "single-minded" in our pursuit of Heaven, making sure that the things we do are things conducive to our going to Heaven, then how can we be sure we will go at all?? Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com ♦

were not drunk as some supposed, but this was that which was spoken by the prophet Joel (**Acts 2:14-16**). He then quoted Joel's words from **Joel 2:28-32** ending it with the expression, *"Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."* (See **Acts 2:17-21**).

Peter continued by showing that the Jews present were guilty of crucifying the Savior (**Acts 2:22-23**). He then proclaimed that God had raised Jesus from the dead and made Him both Lord and Christ (**Verses 25-37**). They were convicted in their hearts and said, *"Men and brethren, what shall we do?"* Peter answered, *"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."* (**Verses 37-38**). They obeyed Peter words (**verse 41**) and "the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved" (**verse 47**).

Therefore, in the last days men would have opportunity to call on the name of the Lord and be saved as was prophesied by the prophet Joel. Peter showed that those days began on the day of Pentecost. On that day men

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called on the name of the Lord by obeying the Lord and He added them to His church.

Saul of Tarsus called on the name of the Lord in his obedience to the Lord. When he saw the vision on the road to Damascus, he said, *"Lord, what do You want me to do?"* The Lord said, *"Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."* (**Acts 9:6**). Ananias was sent to Saul and he said to him, *"And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord."* (**Acts 22:16**). Thus, in his obedience in baptism he was calling on the name of the Lord. **1 Pet. 3:21** says, *"And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you (not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience) through the resur-*

*rection of Jesus Christ."* (NASV). Consequently, in baptism one appeals to God (calls on His name) for a good conscience.

What's involved, therefore, in the expression, "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved"? Obedience to the commands of the Lord! One of those commands is baptism as is shown by those who first had opportunity to call and be saved, by Saul of Tarsus, and by other passages in the New Testament. A person hasn't truly called on the name of the Lord until he has obeyed the Lord. Jesus said, *"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?"* (**Luke 6:46**).

Credit: <http://oakridgechurch.com/riggs> ♦

## "Fervent in Spirit"

By Gene Taylor

As Christians we have work to do. We were created in Christ for good works (**Eph. 2:10**) and to be zealous for them (**Tit. 2:14**). Albert Barnes said, "An idle man and a Christian are names which do not harmonize."

The above text points out two basic attitudes the Christian can have in relation to the work of the Lord. One can be either "lagging in diligence" or "fervent in spirit." Of course, if one is going to please the Lord the latter is preferred.

### "Lagging in Diligence"

The King James Version translates this phrase as "slothful in business." To be slothful is to be lazy or indolent. William Barclay stated, "There is a certain intensity in the Christian life. There is no room for lethargy in it" (The Daily Study Bible Series, Romans, p. 178).

God's people in the Old Testament were warned against having such an attitude. **Amos 6:1** pronounced woe upon those who were "at ease in Zion." **Jeremiah 48:10** says, "A curse on him who is lax in doing the Lord's work!" (NIV).

Diligence is required of Christians—God's people today. They are to give diligence to grow in Christ (**2 Pet. 1:5**); to abound in diligence (**2 Cor. 8:7**); and to be diligent, never becoming sluggish (**Heb. 6:9-12**).

Diligence is a product of commitment. The Corinthians' commitment to the Lord was demonstrated by doing what needed to be done in reference to the sinner they had in

their midst (**I Cor. 5:9-13**). **2 Corinthians 7:11** says, *"For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter."*

### "Fervent in Spirit"

The word translated "fervent in spirit" means to boil with heat, be hot. It is used of boiling anger, love and zeal for what is good or bad. As used in our text, it means to have a burning zeal to do the will of God.

An example of this attitude is Jesus Christ. **John 2:17**, in speaking of Him, says, *"Then His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up.'"* Apollos is also an example of zeal. **Acts 18:24-25** states, *"Now a certain Jew named Apollos...came to Ephesus...and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord..."* Both Jesus and Apollos were successful in accomplishing their God-given tasks.

Fervor and enthusiasm are the keys to success in the Lord's work. The church at Laodicea was chastised because of their lukewarmness (**Rev. 3:14-16**). Barclay says, "The one man whom the Risen Christ could not stand was the man who was neither hot nor cold" (Ibid.). He added, "The Christian may burn out, but he cannot rust out."

Sadly, though, this spirit is lacking in some who claim to be God's people. There are those who put off, sidestep,

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