



HOW COMMITTED ARE WE?

“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.” (Luke 14:26).

At a recent Missions Conference co-hosted by World English Institute, Partners in Progress, Sunset International Bible Institute and World Bible School in Mainz, Germany, those in attendance were exhorted to “Lift Up Their Eyes” and see the potential for evangelism in Europe. One of the sessions ended having a major impact in challenging believers to get their eyes up and see what God can do. The session was led by a Christian from North Africa. Many years ago, he had come to Europe seeking a better life. Being a practicing Muslim, he had come in contact with Christians who had shown him the Way. As he was relating his story, you couldn’t help but think about the great price some people have to pay to become a follower of Christ. We hear about people who come from differing levels of hostility toward Christianity, but his story was different.

He started by quoting Luke 14:26 and illustrated with his life what that verse really means. When he had become a Christian, his family turned against him. He continued to love them and provide for them in their new home. In fact, he had saved money and helped his parents start a small business in their home country. However, a few years later, when his father was dividing the inheritance, he was not given a part. He spoke with pain about how his mother is pointed out by other people as “the mother of the Christian.”

Later, his daughter had been hit by a Muslim woman with a car, and when his family found out, they literally told him: “What did you expect? You became a Christian.” He went on to say that for many months, he could not bring himself to forgive the woman who hurt his daughter. He was still battling with it, when he was called to the police station. The officer had asked the daughter: “What this woman has done to you is very bad. We can put her in prison if you press charges”. She turned to the officer and said: “We are Christians and we forgive her, don’t we dad?” The father listened to his daughter and said: “Yes dear. We are Christians and we forgive her”.

We have spent a lot of time recently, complaining about how hard life is. It has been difficult. More difficult than anything in the last 40 years. What we have to realize, is complaining doesn’t help in anyway. In fact, it only makes it worse, because we reinforce the negativity and we give a difficult situation energy to grow. What we lose when we complain can never be regained. The man who told the story had no idea of where Christ would lead him. You have to agree, he had every reason to complain, and even quit. But he did not. As a result, his daughter could grow up knowing Christ and knowing how to follow Christ.

This man’s story illustrates commitment in the face of adversity. It is a lesson that can benefit us today. Never forget, that what you give up to follow Jesus, God gives back in ways you would never imagine. May we truly be a generation that is willing to give up complaining, in trade for commitment. When we lose our life for Christ, we will find it.

Adopted, Bledar Valca, Tirana, Albania

KEY POINTS

KEY VERSES

Sermon Summaries

Morning *The Gospel According to Jesus – Search and Rescue – Luke 19:1-10*

To some people, Jesus is a friend. He has extended kindness and mercy to us in our time of need. Not only is He close, he went the extra mile. Not only did He become like us, to know the human experience, He came to where we are. And even though we got ourselves into our collective and individual predicaments, He provided the way to get us out. To other people, Jesus is a judge. Because of our stubbornness and hardness of heart, we chose our own way and Jesus has to evaluate, compare to the truth and decide the verdict. Is Jesus your friend or your judge?

Evening *The Reign of God – A Chosen Race, a Royal Priesthood, a Holy Nation, A Light to the Gentiles – Psalm 2:1-12*

People often ask the question, “are the Church and the Kingdom of God the same thing?” The answer is complicated. The answer could be both yes and no. The answer is found in the fact that the Kingdom of God, or the Rule of God is broader than the church. In truth, God is the King over all the earth. He establishes justice and rules with authority. But, just as Israel had a special place in the plan of God, that unique relationship not belongs to the Church. May we be faithful as that distinct group of people who have been called to be a light to the nations.

Schedule of Services

Bible Class	9:30 am
Morning Worship	10:30 am
Evening Worship	6:00 pm
Wed. Ladies Class	11:00 am
(via Zoom)	
Wed. Evening Study	7:00 pm
(via Zoom)	

Minister Dennis Baker

Shepherds

Gordon Gower Morris Guest
Larry Miller

Deacons

Don Dillahunt Rick Pinney
Spencer Guest Troy Trammell

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OFFICE HOURS: M-Th 8am to noon

ATTENDANCE

Bible Class	53
AM Worship	62
PM Worship	14

FINANCES

Weekly Budget	\$3995
Weekly Contribution	\$5737

Things to Know

Manuelito Children's Home

Pantry Items Needed: Ranch & Taco seasoning, Tabasco hot sauce, salad dressings, soy & teriyaki sauce, cooking spray, saltine crackers, yeast, chocolate chips, walnuts, pecans, peanuts, powdered sugar, brown sugar, vanilla, maple syrup, plastic spoons & forks, paper plates & bowls, cleaning supplies, Kleenex, dryer sheets, Lysol spray and liquid laundry detergent.

Any of the items can be ordered online through Walmart and they will ship directly to the front door of the home. Here is the shipping address 12 Theta Street Gallup, NM 87305

"BECAUSE HE LOVES ME," SAYS THE LORD, "I WILL RESCUE HIM; I WILL PROTECT HIM, FOR HE ACKNOWLEDGES MY NAME. HE WILL CALL ON ME, AND I WILL ANSWER HIM; I WILL BE WITH HIM IN TROUBLE, I WILL DELIVER HIM AND HONOR HIM.
PSALM 91:14,15

Nutrition and Health

For those of you who watch what you eat, here's the final word on nutrition and health. It's a relief to know the truth after all those conflicting nutritional studies.

- The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
- The Mexicans eat a lot of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
- The Chinese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
- The Italians drink a lot of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
- The Germans drink a lot of beer and eat lots of sausages and fats and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.

CONCLUSION: Eat and drink what you like. Being an American is apparently what kills you.

It does get confusing sometimes to know what is best for our physical health. Thankfully that's not true with our spiritual health. The Bible tells us what to do to grow spiritually. We start out as Christians in an infant stage and like physical babies, we need milk to grow. 1 Peter 2:2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby. We should grow to the point we are able to eat solid food. 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; 3 for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?

Sometimes we do not grow as we should and have to go back to a liquid diet. Hebrews 5:12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

The purpose of our growing spiritually is so we can recognize right from wrong and choose to do that which is right in the sight of God. Hebrews 5:13-14 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. 14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Just as it is difficult to get unhealthy people to eat proper physical food for good health, it is difficult to get worldly people to see the value of spiritual food. 1 Corinthians 2:14-15 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one.

May we always strive to learn the Word of God more and more so we can grow more spiritual through our knowledge and practice of His will.

By Larry Pasley -- Jackson Street Church of Christ in Alexandria, LA

PRAYER REQUESTS

Elizabeth Marley has tested positive for COVID, her symptoms are mild. She is quarantined for 2 weeks. Please pray for her and her children.

Syble & Steve Mann terribly ill have been exposed to COVID.

Charla Morgan is very ill with COVID pneumonia, she is in the hospital in Prescott.

Brandy Aquafedda (Denise Miller's niece) has surgery scheduled for Feb 16th at St Joe's hospital. Not all test results are in, still hoping that the mass is benign.

Thomas Kendel (co-worker of Denise Miller) to improve kidney functions

Avery Adkins (Betty Hanna's great granddaughter) to tolerate chemo treatment better to fight cancer.

Michael Gregory port for treatment has been placed.

Continual Prayers Health Reasons/Treatment

~ **Jane Gifford** healing from concussion.

~ **Ruthie Jarrett (Marcia Serrano's cousin)** cancer

~ **Hallie Adams (Maxine Dillahunt's sister)** terminal condition. Comfort and peace for family.

~ **Carolyn Fields (friend of Larry Miller)** has terminal cancer.

~ **Marilyn Lara (Marcia Serrano's friend)** stage 4 breast cancer treatment.

~ **Daniel Tillman** brain tumor

~ **Allen Till (Dolores Buehler's son-in-law)** cancer has spread

~ **Rita Bowden (friend of Sally Guest)** stage 4 cancer.

Our Shut-ins

Marjorie Trammell

Betty McInnes (Syble Mann's mother)

Ravenell Young