

Elders:

Rufus Barfield * Donnie McDaniel

Deacons:

Paul Byas * Chris Gorham * Antoine Holloway
Michael Myrick * Sheldon Smith

Evangelist:

Antoine Holloway

Worship Times:

Sunday Bible Study/9:30AM Sunday Morning Worship/10:30AM
Sunday Evening Worship/6:00PM Wednesday Bible Study/7:30PM

Meetings:

Monday Sermon Recap **Saturday Discipleship Class**
May 2nd @ 7:00pm May 7th @ 9:00am

Elders/Deacons Meeting

May 1st @ 5:00pm

2011 Vacation Bible School

June 20th-24th, 2011

2011 Fall Gospel Meeting w/ Mark Russell of Valparaiso, Indiana

October 6th-9th, 2011

2012 Spring Gospel Meeting w/ Albert Dickson of Cincinnati, Ohio

April 5th-8th, 2012

Prayer Requests (Continuing Health Problems)

Rudale Blake * Myron Hutchison * Norene Klemm * Andrew Madison *
Ann Wise * Lewis Wise

Prayer Requests

- Kalandra Williams & Bethany Skadin are recovering from recent surgery.

Additional Announcements

- Susquehanna COC Gospel Meeting May 13th-15th w/ Various Speakers.
- Dulles COC Gospel Meeting May 13th-15th w/ Robert Harkrider.
- Gettysburg COC Gospel Meeting May 19th-22nd w/ Tommy Peeler.
- Next Women's Bible Study – Thursday, May 19th @ 7:00PM.
- TEACHERS TRAINING SEMINAR SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2011 FROM 9AM-1PM.

Prayer Request (Unable To Attend Services Here)

Anne Harrison * Steven Chung * Angelita Dillon * John Okonkwo

Prayer Request (Traveling)

Bruce McDonald

Contribution & Attendance Figures

April 24th \$3,173-Contribution 87-Attendance
April 17th \$3,880-Contribution 87-Attendance

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

Hear The Gospel (Acts 15:7) * Believe In Jesus (Acts 8:12) * Repent Of Our Sins (Acts 3:19) * Confess Christ To Be The Son Of God (Acts 8:37)
* Be Baptized In Water (Acts 22:16) * Remain Faithful (Acts 2:42)

TODAY'S DATE: May 1, 2011

Wildercroft
CHURCH OF CHRIST



**6330 Auburn Avenue
Riverdale, Maryland 20737**

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Call BIBLE MOMENTS

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Updated Every Monday & Thursday

A GOING CHURCH FOR A COMING LORD - ROMANS 16:16

What God “C’s” In Our Judging

Scriptural Text: Matthew 7:1-5 & Acts 28:3-6

Luke writes in **Acts 28:1-2**, “Once everyone was accounted for & we realized we had all made it, we learned that we were on the island of Malta. The natives went out of their way to be friendly to us. The day was rainy & cold & we were already soaked to the bone, but they built a huge bonfire & gathered us around it.” This is the setting of what takes place next in **Acts 28:3-6**. We see a group of individuals so friendly, yet so judgmental. When a snake came from the fire, they concluded Paul must be a murderer. When Paul did not die from the snake bite, they concluded Paul must be a god. Making unrighteous judgments are clearly not from God. They come for superstitions we have, incomplete information given to us by others, or simply lies told throughout time. No wonder Jesus demands “**judge not!**” In **Matthew 7:1-5** & many other passages of Scripture, the Bible strongly opposes the judging of one another. Judging is a dangerous practice – it defiles & destroys. Only God is qualified to judge. God wants us to love & leave the judging to Him.

Criticism Is Judging (Matthew 7:1-2)

Criticism shows a lack of Christianity. Listen to your Bible! In **James 4:12**, the Bible reads, “**There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?**” Criticism shows a lack of control. Listen to your Bible! In **1 Corinthians 9:27**, the Bible reads, “**But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.**” As Christians, when we exercise self-controlled, then we are Christ-controlled. Criticism shows a lack of consecration. As Christians, we are to be kind & forgiving. Listen to your Bible! In **Ephesians 4:32**, the Bible reads, “**And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.**” Remember: When individuals criticize us, they are really telling on themselves.

The Concern In Judging (Matthew 7:3)

We may judge because we are concerned about the sin we see in others. However, we are always commanded to examine ourselves first, in order to see clearly. Listen to your Bible! In **1 Timothy 5:22**, the apostle Paul told the young preacher Timothy, “**Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.**” We must see our own sins first, then another’s shortcomings can be adequately dealt with through caring compassion & not sharp rebuking. Again, the Bible makes it

abundantly clear, we are not qualified to judge others. Listen to your Bible! In **Romans 14:4**, the Bible reads, “**Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.**” We may judge because we are concerned about the lack of service we see in others. However, the Bible reads in **1 Corinthians 4:5**, “**Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.**” God will judge both righteously & perfectly (**1 Peter 2:23**).

The Condemnation For Judging (Matthew 7:4)

In this text, Jesus condemns those who judge because of our failure to cleanse, control, & consecrate ourselves. We avoid condemnation by cleansing ourselves daily. Listen to your Bible! In **2 Corinthians 7:1**, the Bible reads, “**Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.**” We avoid condemnation by controlling ourselves. We control ourselves by keeping our lips from evil. Listen to your Bible! In **Psalms 34:13**, the Bible reads, “**Keep thy tongue from evil, & thy lips from speaking guile.**” Control of the tongue often prevents trouble. We avoid condemnation by consecrating ourselves. Listen to your Bible! In **Psalms 139:23-24**, the Bible reads, “**Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.**” This was the Psalmist’s prayer & it needs to be ours too.

Cleansing From Judging (Matthew 7:5)

Cleansing must be personal. We must cleanse our own lives before we can help others. Our cleansing must be a purging. Listen to your Bible! In **2 Timothy 2:21**, the Bible reads, “**If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.**” Our cleansing must be planned. Listen to your Bible! In **James 4:8**, the Bible reads, “**Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.**” Before we can help others, we must be right with God. One cannot live hypocritically & be able to help others spiritually.

Too often, those of us who judge others’ misconduct are guilty of the same sin, & criticizing another is an attempt to cover up our own wrongdoing. Those of us who judge others are not living close to God, nor are we living profitable Christian lives. Again, we are to love people & let God judge them.

-Antoine N. Holloway