

**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**

January 9<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm

**Saturday Discipleship Class**

January 14<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00am

**Elders/Deacons Meeting**

January 8<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00pm

**Women's Thursday Bible Study**

March 15<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm

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

April 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**2012 Vacation Bible School – Theme: TBA**

June 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 – Speaker: Brandon Trout of Severn, Maryland

**2012 Summer Lectureship – Remaining Faithful & Enabled For The Ministry**

August 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Prayer Requests (Continuing Health Problems)**

Andrew Madison \* Bruce McDonald \* Latrice Morrison \* Isaac Parker \* Lewis & Ann Wise

**Prayer Request (Unable To Attend Services Here)**

Anne Harrison \* Steven Chung \* Angelita Dillon \* Carlos Vargas \* Bruce McDonald

**Prayer Request (Traveling)**

**Prayer Requests**

**Additional Announcements**

- On Sunday, **January 15, 2012**, there will be a congregational report given regarding 2011 works & 2012 outlook (**Acts 14:27**).
- Please look at the directory. If your entry is incomplete (Name, Address, Birthday, Anniversary, Home Phone, Cell Phone, Email, & Photo), then please let **Antoine Holloway** know ASAP. Thanks.

**Contribution & Attendance Figures**

January 1 <sup>st</sup>	\$4,954-Contribution	126-Attendance
December 25 <sup>th</sup>	\$3,221-Contribution	131-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: January 8, 2012**

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**"A Going Church For A Coming Lord" – Romans 16:16**

# Biblical Discipleship

To those of us who study the scriptures probably recall Jesus saying in **Matthew 28:19-20**, "Go therefore & make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Although we are aware this was Jesus' commission to the apostles specifically, it is also a command to the church generically, for the apostles were commanded to teach disciples to observe all things they (the apostles) have been commanded. So, if the apostles were commanded to go, make disciples, baptize, & teach these disciples to do the same, then it is our responsibility as Christians to go, make disciples, baptize, & teach these disciples to do the same.

In **Matthew 28:19**, I notice something many Christians are mis-educated on & that is, we are disciples before we are baptized. A "disciple" in the Bible is "someone who pledges his or her allegiance." As recorded in Scripture, God makes it abundantly clear one can be a disciple & not be a Christian (who is a different type of disciple) (**Acts 19:1-3**), but one cannot be a Christian & not a disciple (**Acts 11:26**). Listen to your Bible! In **Acts 19:1-3**, the Bible reads, "And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country & came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed? And they said, No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit. And he said, Into what then were you baptized? They said, Into John's baptism." These men were disciples, but they were not disciples of Jesus Christ. In **Acts 11:26**, the Bible reads, "And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church & taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians." Here we have disciples of Christ, who for the first time have been identified as Christians in Antioch. Before an individual is baptized into Christ, one must "pledge his/her allegiance" through confession of Christ before they can be baptized, changing them from merely disciples to disciples of Christ (**Acts 8:37-39**).

What is a disciple? Disciples are individuals who, by their commitment, say, "**We are not satisfied merely to be part of the family of God (the church of Christ) only, but we want something more & are willing to pay the price for it.**" Well, the process by which this is accomplished is called Discipleship. Every child of God must ask themselves the question, "Am I looking more like Jesus this year than I did last year?" "If not, then

why not?" "What must I change about myself; my conversation (manner of life), & my spiritual & physical work ethic in order to be more & more like the Master?" Becoming more & more like Jesus is what discipleship is all about. If our goal in life is not trying to become more & more like Jesus, then we have the wrong purpose, following the wrong plan, & are at the wrong place!!!

As Christians, out of all the other disciples in the world, we have to be the best. If ungodly individuals can take an unholy, public stand for unrighteousness without humiliation or apology, how much more should the child of God be ready to take an equally, but righteous stand by the authority of the one & true God without apology? When we view the zeal of the Jews who wanted to kill Christ, they stopped at nothing until they fulfilled the will of their father, the devil. Listen to your Bible! In **John 8:44**, the Bible reads, "**You are of your father the devil, & your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, & has nothing to do with the truth. Because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar & the father of lies.**" For 3 ½ years, evil men diligently made attempts to accuse Christ by trying to use His words against Him (**Mark 12: 13**). In **Matthew 26:50**, their allegiance did not stop there because they falsely arrested Him. In **Matthew 26:59-63**, their loyalty to Satan did not stop there, for they told numerous lies by twisting the truth to accomplish their purpose during the trial of Christ. In **Matthew 27:1-2**, their adherence did not stop here, but they delivered Christ to Pilate to be put to death. After Pilate could not find any fault in Him, instead of seeing the error of their way, their dedication to the cause of Satan allowed them to deliver Jesus to Herod to be judged (**Luke 23:7-11**). Their devotion to the Devil continued, for they were willing to have a convicted murderer released unto them in order to have Christ crucified (**Luke 23:18-21**). The faithfulness of Satan's disciples continued on throughout the gospels & even until today.

In pointing this out, I want us to see the commitment of those who are not Christians & ask ourselves, "Are we to be more committed or less committed than these?" I believe Jesus wants us to be more committed to Him than those who are committed to someone else. Jesus said in **Matthew 5:20**, "**For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes & Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.**" In other words, our entrance into heaven is based upon our fidelity to Christ through discipleship. Is discipleship in Christ important? Yes it is! It is so vital that our salvation is depended upon it. Let us make a vow right now & this year to be the disciples, not what we want to be, or what others want us to be, but what Christ desires & expects us to be.

- **Antoine N. Holloway**