

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 23rd @ 7:00pm

Elders/Deacons Meeting

February 5th @ 5:00pm

Saturday Discipleship Class

January 21st @ 9:00am

Women's Thursday Bible Study

March 15th @ 7:00pm

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

April 12th-15th, 2012

2012 Vacation Bible School – Theme: TBA

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

2012 Summer Lectureship – Remaining Faithful & Enabled For The Ministry

August 1st-5th, 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 * Carlos Vargas * Bruce McDonald

Prayer Request (Traveling)

Beth Anderson * Emma Jean Barfield * Nnaji Nkechi * Tina Tatum

Prayer Requests

- Tina Tatum's mother, Josephine Tatum, passed away on 1/10/2012.

Additional Announcements

- 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.
- Paul Byas' Group Meeting – 1/20/2012 – 7pm – Home of Sheila Barfield

Contribution & Attendance Figures

January 8 th	\$4,638-Contribution	146-Attendance
January 1 st	\$4,954-Contribution	126-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 15, 2012

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

The Concept Of Discipleship

What is Biblical Discipleship? What is the concept of this Biblical Discipleship? What is Biblical Discipleship comprised of? These are all questions that will be answered.

Now we know what a disciple is. A disciple is "an individual who, by their commitment, says, I am not satisfied to be part of the family of God/the church of Christ, but I desire something more & am willing to pay the price for it." Discipleship is simply the process by which this is accomplished. However, let me begin with a more academic, yet practical definition of the word "Biblical Discipleship." Biblical Discipleship is that developmental process centered in the local church that seeks to bring believers from spiritual infancy to spiritual maturity, known as Christlikeness, in such a way that they are able to repeat the process with someone else. This definition reminds us of what scripture in the New Testament? How about **Matthew 28:19-20**, where the Bible reads, "**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.**" In this definition & in the words of Jesus Christ Himself, we find the concept of discipleship.

What is meant by the word, "concept"? Concept is defined as "a general idea especially an abstract one; a summary or condensed version." Hence, before we deal with discipleship in a deeper, more complex sense, let us deal with this important & crucial subject in a more general light.

If we learn nothing else, we must grasp this concept of discipleship. Discipleship involves identifying with the person, persecutions, & purposes of Christ. The Bible teaches us that Christ relates to us as humans. In **Hebrews 4:15**, the Bible reads, "**For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.**" This is what makes us want to become Christians. The idea of God coming in human form to live among man in order to die & redeem man from his sins is convincing to the soul who may have had a concern as to whether Jesus loves them or if He can relate to His creation. Well, discipleship requires that we now learn to relate & identify with the person of Christ. If we can understand who He is, why He does what He does, & why He responds the way He responds, then we are well on our way to being the disciples Christ would have us to be in His kingdom, as well as in this geographical location.

Discipleship includes identifying with the persecutions of Christ. Too often, many Christians have the notion to believe that the only proof to show the world they are followers of Jesus Christ is by the physical manifestations of the blessings of

God. In other words, you are able to tell whether a person follows Christ or not by the possessions they have. Well, this is an inaccurate assumption of discipleship. Yes, Jesus is crystal clear in that it is His responsibility to provide the things for those who seek first His kingdom & His righteousness (**Matthew 6:33**), but the true disciple of Jesus Christ know this is not the sign of discipleship ONLY. I recall Jesus saying in **Matthew 5:43-45**, "**You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor & hate your enemy. But I say to you, Love your enemies & pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil & on the good, & sends rain on the just & on the unjust.**" Just because an individual may be outside of Christ, does not mean this person will always suffer bad things & just because an individual may be in Christ, does not mean this person will always enjoy good things. God is no respecter of persons (**Romans 2:11**), but He does have a purpose in the things He allows. Listen to your Bible! In **Romans 2:4**, the Bible reads, "**Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness & forbearance & patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?**" God's goodness is designed to lead men to repentance. The Christian must break the shackles of fearing persecution & simply embrace & rejoice in the fact that discipleship demands I suffer with Christ (**1 Peter 4:16**). What better way to relate to our Savior by suffering for the same cause He suffered for; the cause of saving those who persecute us. Hence, identifying with the persecutions of Christ is to understand what He went through for us, why He went through it, & how He overcame it, for our success as disciples of Christ swings on the hinges of us being able to understand why we must suffer, why we must endure it, & how to overcome it.

Discipleship comprises of identifying with the purposes of Christ. In order for us to be the disciples Jesus would have us to be, we must be able to see, understand, & carryout His purpose for the world, His church, & our lives. What is purpose? Purpose is the object toward which one strives or for which something exists; an aim or a goal. Our purpose must be His purpose & we must be in pursuit of it daily. Dr. Myles Munroe had this to say in his book, "*In Pursuit Of Purpose*," "*Remember, purpose is the only source of individual & corporate fulfillment.*" In other words, if the church, both universal & local, is ever going to fulfill the will of God before He comes again, it must understand its purpose for being called out by God & set out to accomplish Christ's vision for the church. If we, as individual saints, are ever going to achieve the declaration of our Lord before He comes again, we must apprehend His purpose for our lives & aim for it. It is through our ability to relate to the person, persecutions, & purposes of Christ that will make us better followers of His. The more we understand Christ, the more faithful we will become in serving Him. The more we follow His footsteps, the more we will begin to imitate & look like Him. This is the concept of discipleship!

- **Antoine N. Holloway**