

**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 30<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm

**Saturday Discipleship Class**

February 4<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00am

**Elders/Deacons Meeting**

February 5<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 \* Scott  
Turney \* Lewis & Ann Wise

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

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

**Prayer Request (Traveling)**

Emma Jean Barfield

**Prayer Requests**

- Georgia Blake had surgery this past Thursday.

**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.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing Will Take Place Today @ 6pm.

**Contribution & Attendance Figures**

January 22<sup>nd</sup>      \$4,490-Contribution      136-Attendance  
January 15<sup>th</sup>      \$4,149-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 29, 2012**

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

# The Concept Of Discipleship: Identifying With The Persecutions Of Christ

What does it mean to identify with the persecutions of Christ? What goal is to be accomplished as a result of successfully identifying with the persecutions of Christ? This is another topic in discipleship that will help us further understand the concept of discipleship.

Discipleship involves identifying with the persecutions of Christ. To identify with the persecutions of Christ means to empathize with His sufferings. Listen to your Bible! In **Matthew 10:25b**, Jesus said, "**If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.**" Jesus is preparing us as disciples through this verse to be ready to go through the same suffering He went through. Why would a disciple receive bad treatment or will end up being the subject of false accusations like Jesus? It is because a disciple is one who is publicly identified with the Christ. If I talk like Jesus, walk like Jesus, sound like Jesus, & act like Jesus, then we will suffer like He suffered. This does not mean as disciples we are all going to be crucified on a cross for somebody else's hang up, but in principle, it does mean we will have to endure some of the physical, psychological, & philosophical battles He had to endure & overcome.

Understanding Jesus involves sharing in "**His sufferings.**" Listen to your Bible! In **Philippians 3:8-11**, the apostle Paul writes, "**Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things & count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ & be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith – that I may know him & the power of his resurrection, & may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.**" In other words, what the apostle is saying is, "*It was through the sufferings of Christ that I was able to identify with Him.*" Many Christians tend to remember & acknowledge what Christ went through for them, but can they identify with it? Do they really understand? It appears identifying with the persecutions of Christ is critically essential to discipleship, for we can quote Christ & inculcate His words, but these words are empty to the person who does not understand the persecutions behind the person. Maybe just maybe, it is through

suffering for Christ the disciple has a more vivid understanding of the Master's words & philosophy in handling situations & responding to people the way He did.

Jesus said in **John 15:18-19**, "**If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.**" A true disciple of Christ knows what it means to be hated. This is not to encourage Christians to be dogmatic & repulsive in their disposition in an effort to get people to hate them. However, many Christians purposely offend & viciously attack other individuals & when these undisciplined souls retaliate, then the oppressor is quick to point out how much they are hated. Therefore, they must be doing the right things. In other words, I am hated by others because I hate others, but you are not suppose to focus on the hatred I have, rather you must focus on the hatred I am receiving. It is this flawed concept of hatred & discipleship that has to be re-looked at by those claiming to be disciples of Jesus Christ. The true disciple is going to have enough problems living according to the dictates of the Lord in this preserved & crooked generation. Therefore, discipleship does not demand we create problems to prove our fellowship to Christ, but rather it commands we know how to overcome like Christ overcame similar opposition by reacting the way He would react.

It is clear the world hates Jesus, but why does the world hate Jesus? To understand why the world hated Jesus is to comprehend why the world hates us as a result of identifying with Him. The world hates Jesus because Jesus exposed their sins. Therefore, when we identify with His persecutions, it will be because we have exposed the sins of the world. Jesus always acted first & then gave an explanation second. In other words, I will live & when questioned, I will explain. It was through this the Pharisees could not stand, nor tolerate Jesus because He thought differently, He talked differently, & He acted differently. Jesus defeated Satan's grading system for righteousness when He came with His perfect righteousness. If we continue in the righteousness of Christ, then suffering is inevitable.

The apostle Paul writes, in **2 Timothy 3:12**, "**Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.**" We must understand we do not have to go looking for persecution. If we look like Jesus, the devil knows where we live & persecution will find us. Hence, discipleship comes with a price tag.

**- Antoine N. Holloway**