

**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**

March 12<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm

**Saturday Discipleship Class**

March 10<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00am

**Elders/Deacons Meeting**

March 4<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 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</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)**

Beth Anderson \* Andrew Madison \* Bruce McDonald \* Isaac Parker

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

Anne Harrison \* Steven Chung \* Angelita Dillon \* Carlos Vargas \* Bruce McDonald \* John Okonkwo \* Tyrone Williams

**Prayer Request (Traveling)**

The Holloway Family \* The Mitchell Family

**Additional Announcements**

- Carlos Vargas is currently in Key West, FL awaiting orders to Bhuran.
- Southwest COC Gospel Meeting – March 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> with **Buddy Payne**
- Centreville COC Gospel Meeting – April 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> with **Wilson Adams & David Lanphear** (A special women's study on the morning of April 14<sup>th</sup> with **Julie Adams & Debbie Lanphear**) – No meeting on Saturday Night
- 2012 DC Bible Lectures – April 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> with Various Speakers
- Exton COC Bible Study – April 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> with Various Speakers
- Annandale COC Gospel Meeting – May 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> with **David Thomley**
- Dulles COC Gospel Meeting – May 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> with **Antoine Holloway**

**Contribution & Attendance Figures**

February 26 <sup>th</sup>	\$3,286-Contribution	138-Attendance
February 19 <sup>th</sup>	\$4,817-Contribution	120-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: March 4, 2012**

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**Updated This Week By Calvin Mitchell**

***"A Going Church For A Coming Lord, Which Does  
All The Lord Authorizes" – Romans 16:16***

# The Concern Of Discipleship

What is the concern of discipleship? The concern or goal of discipleship is to produce spiritually mature people - not perfect people, but those who are grown up in Christ & are realizing their full spiritual potential. Every child of God must understand we will continue to grow & develop throughout our lives. However, there comes a point when we should mature in our thinking & our decisions.

*This reminds me of a story about a farmer who had never been to the big city before. He brought his son with him on this visit & they wandered into the bank. As he looked around, he noticed a huge vault & he saw an old bent-over woman walk in & moments later, he saw a young beautiful woman walk out. Amazed by what he just saw, the farmer turned to his son & said, "Boy, go get your mother!" I would assume the farmer soon discovered there are no instant transformations in life, even though we wish there are sometimes. Well, becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ does not happen instantaneously either, but is a process of development from spiritual infancy to spiritual maturity. The goal is spiritual maturity.*

When looking at the goal of spiritual maturity, we come to understand something else about discipleship. Discipleship is a process. It is a process that seeks to produce spiritual maturity over time. The Hebrew writer deals with the subject of spiritual maturity with the Hebrew Christians of his day. Listen to your Bible! In **Hebrews 5:12-14**, the Bible reads, "**For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.**" The

problem with these Hebrew Christians can be expressed by a rule of motion that also applies to the process of discipleship. The rule is simple: rate multiplied by time equals distance. In other words, the faster we move within the time we have, the more distance we will cover. As Christians, we must get busy being Christians. We do not know when the Lord is coming again, so we must aggressively pursue our goal of spiritual maturity in the realm of discipleship with the time God has blessed us with. The faster we move & the more time we have, the more territory we will be able to cover & the more we will be able to accomplish on this time-side of life.

Now, in looking at **Hebrews 5:12-14**, those who are living on solid food (mature Christians) are those in whom God's truth is being digested & sent throughout their systems so every area of their lives is impacted & informed by Biblical principles. Spiritual maturity involves a lot more than the passage of time or the accumulation of knowledge. Hence, a disciple is a Christian who knows how to make godly decisions that are informed by the word of God as ministered to their hearts & minds by the Spirit of God (**Jeremiah 31:33, 1 Peter 4:11, & Ephesians 6:17**).

The connection between the word of God & our spiritual maturity is vital. True disciples of Jesus Christ must make the word of God a priority in their lives because in it we find the solid food by which we grow into the fullness of Christ. Spiritual maturity occurs when what we think connects with God's thoughts as revealed in scripture & ministered to us by the Holy Spirit. Then we begin to, as the theologians like to say, think God's thoughts after Him. That is, we learn to think & respond Biblically. Spiritual maturity does not come just from studying the Bible, but it is the product of life decisions that are made in the light of God's truth until making godly decisions truly becomes a way of life. This is the concern of discipleship.

*- Antoine N. Holloway*