

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:

Men's Leadership Class

April 28th @ 9:00am

Saturday Discipleship Class

May 5th @ 9:00am

Elders/Deacons Meeting

May 6th @ 5:00pm

Women's Thursday Bible Study

May 17th @ 7:00pm

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

April 19th-22nd, 2012

2012 Vacation Bible School - Theme: All Aboard The Kingdom Express

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)

Beth Anderson * Thelma Findley * Andrew Madison * Bruce McDonald *
Isaac Parker * Lewis Wise

Prayer Request (Unable To Attend Services Here)

Anne Harrison * Angelita Dillon * Carlos Vargas * Bruce McDonald
John Okonkwo

- Rhiannon Moeller is asking for prayers for Mrs. Wigsmoen, who was recently diagnosed with diabetes.

Prayer Request (Traveling)

Additional Announcements

- Potluck in between services @ West Lanham Hills Recreation Center
- Bethlehem COC Gospel – April 27th-29th w/ Scott Smelser
- Annandale COC Gospel Meeting – May 4th-6th with David Thomley
- Dulles COC Gospel Meeting – May 11th-13th with Antoine Holloway
- Gettysburg COC Bible Forum – May 24th-27th with Buddy Payne

Contribution & Attendance Figures

April 15 th	\$5,874-Contribution	150-Attendance
April 8 th	\$3,059-Contribution	127-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: April 22, 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***

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE JUST CHRISTIANS

The term "Christian" is found three times in the New Testament (**Acts 11:26, Acts 26:28, & 1 Peter 4:16**). It means "Christ-like", "training with Christ", one identified with & follower of Christ." In each case there is much said about those to whom this term was applied. The context of the passages clearly shows us that these individuals are not just Christians in word but also in deeds. Perhaps, in some circles it may have been used in a derogatory sense. In the New Testament, the evidence surrounding the term is very positive. For the devotion & activity of those who served God were mighty & pleasing to Him. Examining this evidence will give us a better picture of what it means to be just a Christian.

It Means You Have Obeyed The Gospel Of Christ

The purpose of God was to send Jesus to die for the sins of mankind, seeking & saving the lost (**Luke 19:10**). This opportunity was given not only to the Jews but Gentiles; God making both into one through Christ (**Ephesians 2:14**). After the resurrection of Christ, He met with His disciples on a mountain in Galilee. As the one having authority in heaven & earth, He charged them to "go make disciples." In **Mark 16:15** account, He commanded them "to preach the gospel to the whole creation." The response to this preaching began with faith leading to the person to be baptized. It was after baptism the individual was saved & made a disciple of Jesus (**Mark 16:16 & Matthew 28:19**). The discipleship process continued as people were taught to observe what Jesus commanded (**Matthew 28:20**). Thus, throughout the book of Acts, we see this being fulfilled. Both men & women were obeying the gospel as commanded by the Lord. So to be a Christian, you must believe & be baptized into Christ as taught in the Scriptures.

It Means You Teach The Word Of The Lord Wherever You Go

Being a Christian is about teaching the word of the Lord. In **Acts 8:1-4**, the Christians who were scattered due to the persecution, went everywhere preaching the Word. Because of their efforts, the good news spread to Antioch of Syria (**Acts 11:20**). This resulted in the disciples being called Christians (**Acts 11:26**). Why? Because they continued to fulfill the desires of their Lord (**Matthew 28:18-20 & Mark 16:15-16**). When the gospel is preached as commanded by the Lord, those who believe will turn to Him as seen in **Acts 11:21**. They will conform to His way thus becoming like Christ. For us to teach another gospel is to pervert the purpose & will of Christ.

Paul preached the gospel according to God's wisdom so the faith of the Corinthian's would be in the power of God (**1 Corinthians 2:1-5**). Just as Paul & the rest, the Christian will teach the gospel as revealed in the Scriptures.

It Means To Grow In The Knowledge Of God

In the second account where the term Christian is used, Paul is recounting his conversion to Christ & obedience to the vision before King Agrippa & Festus (**Acts 26:2-28**). He testified what the Prophets & Moses said would be fulfilled in this Christ. Festus said of Paul (in the negative) how his "great learning" had made him mad (**Acts 26:24**). Paul's response was that his words were of "sober truth" (**Acts 26:24-25**). Christians are urged to grow in the grace & knowledge of truth (**2 Peter 3:18**). Timothy was urged by Paul to give all effort to present himself approved of God, rightly dividing the word of truth (**2 Timothy 2:15**). Why? The way of the Lord is great learning. We learn how to live godly lives & teach these things to our children. We gain confidence as we stand before God & others. And, we can have an impact on the minds of those who hear the truth (**1 Timothy 4:16**). Even though it is hard to determine how King Agrippa meant his statement to Paul, he recognizes the teaching as the way of the Christian (**Acts 26:28**). This learning & plain explanation of truth made an impression on the King.

It Means To Glorify God In Suffering

Paul told Timothy that those who desire to live godly will suffer persecution (**2 Timothy 3:12**). You see, the way of God is different than the way of the world (**Isaiah 55:8-9**). Therefore, God's views will clash with the world's. Those who hate truth will persecute those who practice it. In spite of these clashes & persecutions, Peter instructed Christians not to be ashamed, but to glorify God (**1 Peter 4:16**). How? In the previous verses, he says by rejoicing that we are partakers of Christ suffering. He suffered for us, therefore we should be glad to do the same. Let not their suffering be because they are evildoers. Instead, understand the Spirit of God rests upon you. In other words, you are being like Christ. Being a Christian is more than words. It is being Christ-like in all manner of life. It's about obeying the gospel, remaining faithful to the truth & teaching others to do the same. There were no additives to the term. Nor were they of some denomination of men. As these people conducted themselves in the way of Christ, they were simply known as "Christians." Today, we can be just like them by simply adhering to the gospel of Christ.

- ***Albert Dickson***