

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

May 26th @ 9:00am

Saturday Discipleship Class

May 19th @ 9:00am

Elders/Deacons Meeting

May 6th @ 5:00pm

Women's Thursday Bible Study

May 17th @ 7:00pm

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

2012 Fall Gospel Meeting w/ Philip Mullins of Ashburn, Virginia

October 11th-14th, 2012

Prayer Requests (Health Problems & Sick Presently)

Beth Anderson * Thelma Findley * Norene Klemm * Andrew & Adrian
Madison * Bruce McDonald * Janet Ostroff * Isaac Parker * Lewis & Anne
Wise

Prayer Request (Unable To Attend Services Here)

Anne Harrison * Angelita Dillon * Carlos Vargas * Bruce McDonald

Prayer Request (Traveling)

Kimani Davis * Candace McCrea * The Mitchell Family

Additional Announcements

- State Of The Congregation Address TODAY
- Dulles COC Gospel Meeting – May 11th-13th with Antoine Holloway
- Gettysburg COC Bible Forum – May 24th-27th with Buddy Payne

Contribution & Attendance Figures

April 29 th	\$4,785-Contribution	122-Attendance
April 22 nd	\$2,809-Contribution	172-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: *May 6, 2012*

Wildercroft
CHURCH OF CHRIST



**6330 Auburn Avenue
Riverdale, Maryland 20737**

(301) 474-7460

www.wildercroftcoc.org

Call BIBLE MOMENTS

(301) 345-1240

Updated This Week By Calvin Mitchell

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

The Rewards Of Discipleship

Let us conclude this series on discipleship by talking about its rewards. This subject may seem inconsistent with the truth we learned earlier that being a disciple means denying ourselves, taking up our cross, & following Jesus (**Mark 8:34**). However, there is no inconsistency. The great thing is that when we deny ourselves, God does not have to deny us, for God only denies us when we deny Him (**Matthew 10:33**). In **Hebrews 11:6**, the Bible reads, "**And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists & that he rewards those who seek him.**" So, we will be rewarded if we diligently seek after the Lord. God wants us to know there are great rewards in bringing our lives under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Let us view just a few of the many benefits that come to those who respond to Christ's call to be His disciples.

The Reward Of Inner Peace

One of the rewards of discipleship is a sense of inner peace that is not dependent on external circumstances. Jesus issued this invitation in **Matthew 11:28-29**, "**Come to me, all who labor & are heavy laden, & I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, & learn from me, for I am gentle & lowly in heart, & you will find rest for your souls.**" Notice the difference in the two parts of this invitation. Jesus says He will give us rest, which means it is a gift & cannot be earned. This is the rest that comes at salvation, when we give up trying to run from God & accept the gift of His Son. When we put our faith in Christ, rest replaces the turmoil inside. But there is also an invitation to go further with the Lord. Notice we are to take Jesus' yoke. This is not something He gives us. When we do this, we "learn" from Him, which is a form of the word for disciple. In other words, this is a call to become Jesus' disciple, to accept His yoke & learn the discipline of discipleship.

Jesus chose His image carefully. In His day, a young ox was often yoked with an older ox in order to learn how to pull in a team. A yoke implies submission to the master who puts it on the oxen, getting work done, & walking alongside another in harmony & cooperation. That's what Jesus wants to accomplish in us by yoking us to Himself. The idea of working in a yoke may not sound very restful, but look at the promise Jesus attached to His invitation to discipleship. We will "**find rest.**" Now that's different than the rest in **Matthew 11:28**, which was a gift. This rest is the tranquility & peace of heart that comes when we yoke up with Jesus & learn from Him as

disciples. If we want to know how great a reward this is, just look around at all the people whose lives are bound in turmoil & fear.

The Reward Of Being An Overcomer

Jesus also promises us as His disciples we will have power to overcome our problems. At the Last Supper, Jesus said in **John 16:33**, "**I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.**" Jesus knew His disciples were already becoming nervous & fearful as He spoke about leaving them & about one of them betraying Him. He also knew within a few hours, their world would fall apart as He was arrested by a mob in the Garden of Gethsemane while they ran for their lives & hid in fear. Notice that Jesus did not offer His followers flowery platitudes or fluffy promises about their skies always being blue. He told them the truth about the suffering that lay ahead for Him & the persecution they would encounter as His disciples.

Jesus' message concerning the cost of being His disciple is the same for us today. He even assures us that following Him in a hostile world is going to bring us trouble at some point. But He also promises us something far better than a simple escape hatch from trouble. He promises us the same overcoming power He exhibited when He conquered death, sin, & Satan & rose triumphantly on the 3rd day. Talking about overcoming trials reminds us of the risen Christ's message to the 7 churches of **Revelation 2-3**. There is a specific promise in each case to the one who overcomes, that is, who remains faithful to Christ in spite of any threats or suffering (**Revelation 2:10**).

In order to be an overcomer, we have to have something to overcome. If it begins to rain & we open our umbrella to come under its protection, we have not stopped the rain. But we have overcome the rain by putting ourselves under the protection of the umbrella that is spread over us. Jesus is our "umbrella" of protection in the storm. When He said, "**I have overcome the world,**" He was saying He is bigger & more powerful than whatever we can possibly face. But the key to our protection is our relationship to Christ. So when we encounter tribulation in this world, take courage. Jesus said it would be this way. The important thing is not the trial itself, but the power Jesus can give us to rise above it.

Airplanes do not cancel the law of gravity; they just overcome the downward pull of gravity by applying the law of aerodynamics. Jesus tells us, as His disciples if our hope & commitment are in Him, He will give us power to overcome the downward pull of the world & its trials. The power to

be an overcomer is another wonderful promise available to Jesus' disciples. In Christ, we can handle anything the world throws at us (**Philippians 4:13**).

The Reward Of Gaining More Than You Lose

We are probably familiar with the story about the Rich Young Ruler. It is the account of a wealthy man who stopped Jesus on the road one day & asked, "**Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?**" (**Mark 10:17**). Jesus challenged the man on several points of his statement, but notice His answer when the man insisted he had obeyed the law. Jesus told him in **Mark 10:21**, "**You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have & give to the poor, & you will have treasure in heaven; & come, follow me.**" We recognize this as the call to discipleship. The man turned away disappointed because he was unwilling to lose his earthly treasure in order to gain heavenly treasure. But what is interesting is the conversation Jesus had with His disciples after the man left.

Let us hear Jesus' answer. In **Mark 10:29-30**, Jesus said, "**Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake & for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses & brothers & sisters & mothers & children & lands, with persecutions, & in the age to come eternal life.**" Do we realize if our total, radical commitment is to follow Jesus as His disciple, there is nothing we can give up that God will not make up, & make up many more times than the size of our loss?

In other words, when we follow Christ, we always gain more than we lose. For example, if our family rejects us for following Christ, we will find many other people to be our father & mother in the body of Christ. Before we get out our calculator, remember Jesus' promise is not a financial formula. We also need to remember Jesus' rewards are not all in this life. This is the problem with the people who teach the "health-&-wealth" gospel. According to them, we have got it all coming now, & I do not hear much talk about persecutions being part of the deal either. But do not miss the point. The rich man lost more than he gained, because he refused Jesus & eternal life in order to hold on to his wealth. But Jesus' disciples always gain more than they lose.

The Reward Of Wielding Christ's Authority

Just before His ascension, Jesus declared in **Matthew 28:18**, "**All authority in heaven & on earth has been given to me.**" He then

commissioned His disciples to go in that authority as they take the gospel to the nations (**Matthew 28:19**). The final reward I want to mention is that discipleship connects us to Christ's authority. When we go in Jesus' name & identify ourselves as His disciples with the commitment to make disciples, Jesus says we will experience His authority & enjoy His never-failing presence (**Matthew 28:20**).

When we become disciples of Christ, all of the authority & privileges He has gained as the risen Lord are transferred to us. All we have to do to experience His authority is to follow Him. Jesus Christ is calling us to a life of discipleship, with its challenges & trials as well as its rewards. He invites us to draw close to Him in an intimate relationship & follow Him in obedient, fruitful service. How will we answer when Jesus says, "Follow Me"?

- **Antoine N. Holloway**

2012 State Of The Congregation Address: Understanding The Role Of The Evangelist

For this year's State of the Congregation Address, I believe it is important to deal with the work of the Evangelist. Over the past 3 years, many articles, sermons, classes, & private studies have been spent dealing with the work & qualifications of Elders & Deacons. However, little or nothing has been said regarding the work of the Evangelist. For this reason, many are confused as to his work.

At Wildercroft, we are fortunate to have faithful saints, Elders, Deacons, & an Evangelist. Many congregations throughout this country & abroad are not as blessed to be scripturally organized. Nevertheless, being scripturally organized only fulfills God's purpose when a) Everybody knows their role in the body of Christ, b) Everybody understands each others' role, & c) Everybody carries out their role. A failure in one of these areas creates chaos. Therefore, for this article today, I am doing the following: 1) I will define his work. 2) I am limiting my points only to those responsibilities outlined in **1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, & Titus**. These 3 books were letters written by Paul the apostle to 2 evangelists. These 3 books are considered THE EVANGELIST'S HANDBOOK. If a gospel preacher would simply familiarize himself with these 3 books, then he would be clear as to the work God expects him to do. This is not to say that these 3 books are the only ones to provide instructions & examples of the work of an Evangelist, but when we see other examples throughout Scripture such as Peter, John, Paul, & Philip, they are doing nothing more than fulfilling all that we find in **1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, & Titus**. 3) I will breakdown his collective duties

to humanity (church & world) & his personal duties to God & himself. I pray that this information is helpful in understanding the role of the Evangelist & I further pray that today's message is insightful as to our responsibility to God regarding this man.

What Is An Evangelist?

An Evangelist is one who evangelizes as his occupation. He is one who announces the good news about Jesus Christ. The term "Evangelist" emphasizes his role as one who reaches out. The Bible uses the terms "Evangelist," "Preacher," & "Minister" interchangeable. These are 3 words, which describe the same position within the body of Christ. A Preacher is one who preaches as his occupation. He is one who proclaims, tells, teaches, & announces the word, which is inclusive of the good news about the kingdom of God. The term "Preacher" emphasizes his role as one who speaks publicly. A Minister is one who ministers as his occupation. He is one who serves God (through worship), his brethren (through fellowship), the world (through evangelism), & himself (through study). The terms "Evangelist," "Preacher," & "Minister" are who he is because of what he does. These are not titles the man wears as a badge of distinction between him & the rest of the brethren (**Job 32:21**).

What Is The Evangelist's Role Towards Humanity?

He must preach/teach the following to the brethren: 1) Not to teach any different doctrine (**1 Timothy 1:3, 1 Timothy 6:3-5, & 1 Timothy 1:9-10**). 2) Not to devote themselves to myths, endless genealogies, & the commands of those who have turned from the faith (**1 Timothy 1:4 & Titus 1:14**). 3) Some will depart from the faith (**1 Timothy 4:1-6, 2 Timothy 3:1-7, & 2 Timothy 4:3-4**). 4) The rewards of dying to sin & remaining faithful/The consequences of denying Christ & being faithless (**2 Timothy 2:11-14**). 5) Be submissive to rulers & authorities, be obedient, be ready for every good work, speak evil of no one, avoid quarreling, be gentle, & show perfect courtesy toward all people. 6) Be content with food & clothing (**1 Timothy 6:8**). 7) The process from sin to salvation (**Titus 3:3-8**). 8) Have nothing more to do with a person who stirs up division (**Titus 3:10-11**). 9) Devote themselves to good works (those that help cases of urgent need) (**Titus 3:14**). 10) Be fruitful in good works (**Titus 3:14**).

The Evangelist must deliver a specific word from the Lord to: 1) Elders/Deacons & the congregation regarding Elders/Deacons (**1 Timothy 3:1-13, 1 Timothy 5:17-20, & Titus 1:6-14**). 2) Older Men (**Titus 2:2**). 3) Younger Men (**Titus 2:6**). 4) Men (**1 Timothy 2:1-8**). 5) Women (**1**

Timothy 2:9-15, 1 Timothy 5:14-15, & Titus 2:3-5). 6) Widows (**1 Timothy 5:3-13 & 1 Timothy 5:16**). 7) Master/Servants (**1 Timothy 6:1-2 & Titus 2:9-10**). 8) The Rich (**1 Timothy 6:9-10 & 1 Timothy 6:17-19**).

What Are God's Personal Instructions To The Evangelist?

The Evangelist must wage the good warfare & share in suffering as a good soldier of Jesus Christ by holding faith & a good conscience (**1 Timothy 1:18-19 & 2 Timothy 2:3**). The Preacher must know how to behave himself in God's house (**1 Timothy 3:15**). The Minister must have nothing to do with irreverent & silly myths, irreverent babble & contradictions (falsely called knowledge), foolish & ignorant controversies, genealogies, dissensions, & quarrels about the law (**1 Timothy 4:7, 1 Timothy 6:20-21, 2 Timothy 2:16, 2 Timothy 2:23, & Titus 3:9**). The Evangelist must train himself for godliness & train other men to teach (**1 Timothy 4:7 & 2 Timothy 2:2**). The Preacher must be an example to the brethren in sound speech, conduct, love, faith, purity, good works, integrity, & dignity, so those who do despise him will be put to shame (**1 Timothy 4:12, 2 Timothy 4:5, Titus 2:7-8, & Titus 2:15**). The Minister must give attention to the reading of Scripture, study them, & continue in them (**1 Timothy 4:13, 1 Timothy 4:15-16, 2 Timothy 1:13, 2 Timothy 2:15, & 2 Timothy 3:14**). The Evangelist must encourage older men as fathers, treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, & honor women who are truly widows (**1 Timothy 5:1-3**). The Preacher must preach the word, when individuals want to hear it & when individuals do not want to hear it, with complete patience & doctrine (**2 Timothy 4:2 & Titus 2:1**). The Minister must not be quarrelsome, but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, & correcting his opponents with gentleness (**2 Timothy 2:24-26**). The Evangelist must reprove, rebuke, & exhort (**1 Timothy 4:13, 2 Timothy 4:2, & Titus 2:15**). The Preacher must keep himself pure by doing nothing from partiality & prejudging (**1 Timothy 5:21-22 & Titus 1:15-16**). The Minister must scripturally organize congregations (**Titus 1:5**). The Evangelist must learn to Flee, Follow, & Fight (**1 Timothy 6:9-12 & 2 Timothy 2:22**). The Preacher must remember the death, burial, & resurrection of Jesus (**2 Timothy 2:8**). The Minister must be strengthened by grace of Christ (**2 Timothy 2:1 & Titus 2:11-14**).

When it comes to the Evangelist, we must 1) understand his work, 2) put him to work, 3) hold him accountable to his work, 4) treat him as a brother, & 5) support him in his work. If we can commit to doing this, then there is no stopping point short of victory in this area. **— Antoine N. Holloway**