

Announcements & Prayer Requests

- Let's keep the following in our prayers:
 - Bernida Wolf: Minor knee surgery on 2-22
 - Kim Self: Cancer and stomach ulcers
 - Angie Self: Arthritis and Parkinson's
 - Joann Larkin: Advanced dementia
 - Barb Agee's son (James)
 - Rick Parks' parents: Roy has prostate cancer; Helen has dementia
 - Jimmy Woodall's sister: Cancer
 - Dorothy Macon, Sandra Perez's grandmother: Dementia
 - Frank Wineinger, Sandra Perez's uncle: Stage 4 cancer

THE GOSPEL PLAN OF SALVATION

- Hear Gospel – Rom. 10:17; Acts 8:30-31
- Believe – Heb. 11:6; Mk. 16:16
- Repent of & Turn from Sins – Acts 2:38; 17:30
- Confess our Faith – Rom. 10:10; Mt. 10:32
- Baptism – Acts 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21
- Live Faithfully – Rev. 2:10

Let us draw near with a **true heart in full assurance of faith [Believe]**, having our **hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience [Repent]** and our **bodies washed with pure water [Baptism]**. Let us **hold fast the confession [Confess]** of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to **stir up love and good works**, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but **exhorting one another**, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. – *Heb. 10:22-25*



CHURCH OF CHRIST

Invitation

'Therefore, go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' – Mt. 22:9

Address

5080 Highway 70 East
Rockwood, TN 37854

Assembly Times

Sunday Bible Study – 10:00 AM
Sunday Worship – 11:00 AM

Please text/email any announcements, questions, or concerns to Bill Fix, (865) 934-9239 or fix.bill@gmail.com

www.hwy70church.com

February 21, 2021

We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors and members. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please let one of us know.

Adult Bible Class – Legal Principles and the Bible: Judge

Sermon Topic – What Is Easier to Say?

Disciples of Christ

By Robert F. Turner (PLAIN TALK, June 1967)

A literal English translation of Mt. 28:19 reads: "Going, therefore, disciple ye all the nations..." "Make disciples of all the nations..." says the American Standard version; and in either case, we learn that to be acceptable in God's sight we must be "disciples."

This is not a proper name, a label, or banner to be flown above the party ranks. It defines the character of a people; describes them; points out what they **are**, not simply what they are called. A certain class of people, "the disciples" — "were called Christians first in Antioch." (Acts 11:26)

The word means "a learner" "scholar"; and frequently relates the student to the teacher ("disciples of John" Mk. 2:18) as those who believe in the doctrine of the teacher and follow him. It would apply to "learners" in varying stages of development, as may be seen in Jn. 6:66 where we read, "many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him". They followed, "learning" of Jesus for a time; but as His teaching demanded more and more of them, they were unwilling to pay the price. They ceased to follow and learn of Him.

Jesus elevated discipleship to an extremely high and noble level. He said, "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple" (Lk. 14:26). Jesus asks us to "count the cost" and accept the role of a disciple knowing that this means the Master must be **first** in our lives. We must love Him **more** than father, mother, or even our own life (vs. 33). Jesus conceived a disciple whose life is dominated by his teacher; whose "life is his with Christ in God" (Col. 3:3). In this sense, one is a disciple for life, "growing in grace and knowledge." Day by day, we sit at the feet of Jesus, and our lives are enriched as we become more and more like the Master.

Discipleship is a **way of life**, not some fixed peak, once climbed never departed. May one be a disciple who has not been baptized? Certainly so!! **But not for long.** In the primary sense of "learner," one may be a disciple, doing all that one knows to be the will of Christ. But in less time than it takes to tell it, the status may change to that of one who **refuses** to "follow" Christ. Jesus says, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved..." (Mk. 16:16) and, through Peter, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..." (Acts 2:38). One "walks no more with Him" who balks at these words of the

Lord. In the more full and complete sense of "disciple of Christ" we may count only one who will "deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow" Christ (Mt. 16:24).

And what is true with reference to remission of sins, and coming into covenant relationship with Christ, is also true in the Christian's journey. It is absurdly ridiculous to speak of people as "disciples of Christ" who must be begged and cajoled into worshipping Him; and who couldn't be hogtied and dragged to Bible study. The true disciple bears fruit (Jn.15:8).

Fixating on What's Important: *Pandemic Excuses*

By Bill Fix

I just saw someone say it again today: don't you know there's a global pandemic going on—how dare you <fill in the blank with some participation in an activity that involves being in public around other people>? Here we are, approaching a year since "the new normal" became all too commonplace "out of an abundance of caution..."

With all the changes COVID has brought, I'm confused by the double standards: some states lock down while others don't; some businesses are forced to close or cut back hours while others aren't; government restrictions tank some industries while others thrive; and people can shop at a Walmart or Target (while physically distancing and wearing masks), but many churches are still unable to hold services. Why have churches been treated differently? If the answer is that certain entities were deemed "essential," please tell me how strip clubs and liquor stores were considered more essential than churches, restaurants, and gyms!

I believe an end to this madness is coming, but what remains to be seen is how long lasting these effects are. How many people will continue to stay home on Sundays instead of worshipping God? Will they be more receptive to the gospel in the future, or did they discover they aren't interested in serving God? "Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him" (Jn. 9:31).

We have a duty to worship God and invite others to hear the truth. Many are struggling with issues: financial worries, depression, and separation from other people. The gospel can help. We can lift them up with encouragement and exhortation. The pandemic could be an opportunity to help others, instead of an excuse. "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Mt. 6:33).