

FINISH MY COURSE WITH JOY

In my study for the Bible class Sunday morning, I came across a statement by Paul that caught my interest. He stated in Acts 20:24, *“But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.”* The apostle Paul was in a conversation with the elders of the church at Ephesus. He was on his way to Jerusalem to deliver needed relief for the poor in Judea. Paul knew that bonds and afflictions were awaiting him in every city. Even though he knew he was going to have to face difficulty, he was not troubled about those things. Paul was not so concerned about his life that it was going to cause him to cease doing the will of God. Whatever he faced in the future, he was going to finish his course with joy. Albert Barnes said this in his commentary on Acts 20:24, *“It is a glorious privilege to finish life with joy. It is most sad when the last hours are embittered with the reflection that life has been wasted. The only way in which life may be finished with joy is by meeting faithfully every duty, and encountering, as Paul did, every trial, with a constant desire to glorify God.”* Notice some of the last words recorded concerning the Apostle Paul, *“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course. I have kept the faith.”* (II Timothy 4:8). L. Cole

WHOM SHALL WE PLEASE?

Here is an old fable that has been passed down for generations. An elderly man was traveling with a boy and a donkey. As they walked through a village, the man was leading the donkey and the boy was walking behind them. The town folk said the old man was foolish for not riding. So, to please them, he climbed on the animal's back. When they came to the next village, the people said the old man was cruel to let the child walk, while he enjoyed the ride. So, to please them, he got off and set the boy on the animal's back, continuing on his way.

In the third village, people accused the child of being lazy for making the old man walk. They suggested that both the old man and child ride. So, the man climbed on the donkey with the boy and they set off again. In the fourth village, the town folk were indignant at the cruelty to the donkey. After all, he was being made to carry two people! The frustrated man was last seen carrying the donkey down the road.

The story is amusing, but its point is important. We can't please everyone, and if we try, we end up carrying a heavy burden. Others may offer us well-meaning advice, and some of it is valuable. However, if we try to do everything others suggest, we can easily become frustrated and confused. Jesus Himself said, *“Woe to you when all men speak*

well of you” (Luke 6:26). To please everyone means we will have to compromise ourselves and our principles somewhere along the way.

The one we must please above all others is Christ. We do that by obeying God’s Word. Paul encourages us to “walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God” (Colossians 1:10). This was a principle Paul himself practiced, and he knew the implications of it. “For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ” (Galatians 1:10).

To put God first and to seek His will for our lives enables us to have clear priorities. To please Christ by obeying His will allows us to know who we are and how we should live. Judge all advice by God’s will and determine to practice it above all else. This may not please everyone, but it will please our Lord, and in the end, this is what matters most.

Robert Johnson, Gospel Gazette, 11/17

JESUS ASKS, “WHY?”

On several occasions, Jesus challenged His hearers by asking, “Why?” Here are some of His questions.

WHY WORRY? So **why** do you worry about clothing. Take time to read Matthew 6:28-30. Even though their life is short, God gives great beauty to the flowers. Will God give less help to His children.

WHY JUDGE? Take time to read Matt 7:1-5. Why do we look beyond our own large faults to search for faults in the lives of other people? Jesus teaches us to examine and correct our own lives first.

WHY OBEY MEN’S TEACHINGS about serving God? Read Matthew 15:3. the Bible is God’s complete message to mankind. In the New Testament portion of the Bible, God reveals all of His instructions for us today regarding how to worship and serve Him. If we obey the traditions and teachings of men in matters of religion, God will not accept our worship. Matthew 15:9, *“But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”*

WHY CALL HIM LORD without obeying Him completely? *“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46).* Our **lips** may be calling Him “Lord,” while our **life** is rejecting Him. We must obey the will of Christ in all things. (Matt 7:21) *“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.”*

R. Frederick, International Gospel Teacher, 4/88

THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

WORSHIP—SUNDAY AM

Dec 03, 2017

Coordinator Mitchell Brooks
Announcements Jacky Carver Sr.
Scripture Reading. Eph. 4:11,12 John Leonard
Song Leader Glen Reece
Opening Prayer. Steve Anderson
Lord’s Supper-Preside: Robert Hackett
Serve: George Clay, Austin Clay,
Kaleb Bush, Gavin Spurlin

Closing Prayer.....Brian Smith
Greeter— Ted & Vicki Russell
Greeter— Dianna Dillehay & Susanne
Count Offering. Dallas Eddie
. Kaleb Bush
AM Sermon— The Church, It’s Work
PM Sermon— The Books of God

WORSHIP---SUNDAY---6:00 PM

Announcements Jacky Carver Sr.
Song Leader. Glen Reece
Scripture Reading, .Luke 10:19-20 John Leonard
Opening Prayer George Clay
Lord’s Supper Mitchell Brooks
. Dallas Eddie
Closing Prayer Justin Draper

BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAY---7:00 PM

Announcements Jacky Carver Sr.
Song Leader Glen Reece
First Prayer. Roger Draper
Opening Prayer George Clay
Closing Prayer Dallas Eddie

Prepare Communion for **DEC**
Vicki R & Dianna D.

MONTROSE BULLETIN BOARD

NURSING HOME:

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Pearl Anderson—Knollwood Manor,
Kasel Dillehay—Overton Co. Nursing Home

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W. A. Gibbs, Gladys Bowling,
Carolyn Clay, Jimmie Faye Cole,
Sawyer Cole, Ramelle Cole,
Carolyn Lankford, Ronnie Anderson,
Jere Andrews, Shirley Hailey,

OUR RECORD OF LOVE FOR CHRIST

11/26/17

Wednesday.	35
Worship Sunday AM	77
Bible Study Sunday AM	66
Daily Bible Readers	32
Worship Sunday PM	42

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Dec. 3rd.** Men’s Business Meeting
- Dec. 3rd.** Open House at Coles
- Dec. 13th.** Prepare Christmas Bags
- Dec. 21st.** Budget Meeting

READING SCHEDULE FOR DEC

01 Gal. 6; Eph. 1,2	11 Titus 1-3; Phil. 1	21 I John. 4-5; II John 1
02 Eph. 3-6	12 Heb. 1-3	22 III Jn. 1; Jude 1
03 Phil. 1-4	13 Heb. 4-6	23 Rev. 1-3
04 Col. 1-4	14 Heb. 7-9	24 Rev. 4-6
05 I Thess. 1-2	15 Heb. 10-13	25 Rev. 7-9
06 I Thess. 3-5	16 Jam. 1-5	26 Rev. 10-12
07 II Thess. 1-3	17 I Pet 1-2	27 Rev. 13-15
08 I Tim. 1-3	18 I Pet. 3-5	28 Rev. 16-18
09 I Tim. 4-6	19 II Pet. 1-3	29 Rev. 19-21
10 II Tim. 1-4	20 I John1-3	30 Rev. 22
		31 Pray