

The **Brantley Beacon**

"...BE YE STEADFAST, UNMOVEABLE,"
ALWAYS ABOUNDING
IN THE WORK OF THE LORD..."
I CORINTHIANS 15:58

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST MEETING IN HOBOKEN, GA

Volume 06

Issue 06

July 08, 2018

www.hobokenchurchofchrist.net

Planning Ahead

By Kevin Strickland

We so easily can plan for and attend social events and gatherings punctually.

Furthermore, we usually take advantage of modern convenience to get to the place we intend. For most of us it is rare to end up somewhere where we don't intend to be. We hardly have trouble arriving at a point we've made our goal. Because of clocks, automobiles, cell phones, airplanes, and the like, we usually hit our mark where we make our aim. Sometimes the same parallel becomes foggy, even non-existent, however, as we try to apply getting somewhere spiritually-speaking. When considering our spirit, are we going to end up where we want to be, on time, and safely? All of us in Christ desire to enter heaven, but are we planning that out and preparing for it here on earth? And are we reaching our goals to get there? God has promised us throughout His word if we prepare ourselves spiritually, we will be blessed (*Psalm 37:23/Matthew 6:33*).

Our worldly lives are planned out, perhaps many times in a day depending on how busy we are. We are warned however to not plan absentmindedly (*James 4:15*). If the Lord wills, we live. We are *urged* however to plan on certain, spiritual, and future things. For instance, we are not to stay children in Christ forever. *I Peter 2:2* explains that we ought to desire the sincere milk of the word that we all can grow by. Seeing we can and should grow, do we?

Have we planned such things as being a better godly parent or child (*Eph. 6:1-4*); what about being able to speak more boldly to the lost of the world and to speaking the truth in love to those who are blinded and lost (*Eph. 6:10-20*); or how about being capable of proclaiming the gospel of peace, for blessed are the feet of those who preach it (*Romans 10:14,15*); what about growing to

become a shepherd of the flock of God for the church you are part of (*II Timothy 3:1*)? Women, what stalls your goal of being the older woman who can train the younger women who may be there behind you in the future (*II Timothy 2:3-5*); or what routes you in having a goal of getting together with other Christians and doing all you can, as beloved Dorcas had done (*Acts 9:36*)?

We spend much time in thinking, “At fifty, I want to be retired and travel the world,” or “if God wanted me as a preacher, he would have put me in the pulpit already.” This line of thinking is about as absent-minded as a young newlywed couple foretelling that once they are able to afford children, they will have some! At times we plan based on our ability instead of how far we can reach. Remember *Luke 12:20* where the rich young fool was poor toward God, and planned on doing more worldly things? Let us be rich toward God, and heed the exhortation *He* gives us.

We ought not to give thought to the morrow, for what we shall drink or what we shall eat, the Lord will provide - is not life about more than that (*Matthew 6:25*)? Much less, we ought not to plan on the future worldly things while leaving God out of our spiritual growth. Why go long periods of time and not think to be a more diligent worker for the Lord and plan to be able to do many more spiritual things ahead, if the Lord blesses us the time?

Ultimately if our goal is fixed on the prize that is ahead (*Colossians 3:2*), and set on that which our Father has freely granted and promised, we will make time to set ourselves to spiritual goals - *for he has given us all things pertaining to life and godliness. (II Peter 1:3)*. Isn't it something that Peter tells after this point in his letter that we should add to ourselves some spiritual things. When was the last time you *planned* on adding them? These things will not happen by themselves while we set up only our earthly goals!

What is the worth of a Name?

It is a common saying that one name in religion is as good as any other, and that a “rose by any other name would smell as sweet.” In direct contradiction of that, the bible says salvation is in the name of Christ and in that name alone. “*Neither is there any other name under heaven give among men wherein we must be saved*” (*Acts 4:12*).

By no other authority of scripture or reason has this doctrine been passed around that “there is nothing in a name,

and one name in religion is just as good as another.” This ridiculous teaching runs exactly counter to all that the word of God says on the subject.

The bible says that we offer our prayers to God in the name of Christ. *“If ye ask anything in my name, that will I do.”* (John 14:14)

The enemies of Christ knew there is something in a name, so they opposed the Apostles’ speaking in the name of Christ. *“But that it is spread no further among the people, let us threaten them that they speak henceforth to no man in this name. And they called them and charged them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.”* (Acts 4:17-18).

The apostles rejoiced that they could suffer for the name of Christ. (Acts 5:41)

We are told to Glorify God on behalf of the name of Christian: or in that name; *“if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this name.”* (I Peter 4:16)

(Author unknown, Reprinted from Words of Life, Vol.4, No.8, August, 1966)

**Change Your Ways
or
Change Your Name!**

One day Alexander the Great came upon a lazy, sloven soldier in his army, and asked him his name. “Alexander, sir,” was the reply. Then said the great general, “You must either change your ways, or change your name!”

Don’t you suspect that the Lord Jesus Christ feels about the same way concerning some of us who supposedly are marching under His banner, and wearing His name?? Can’t you almost hear him saying, “Either change your ways, or drop my name?” Too often do people take His name to wear, without making any change in their lives!

(Author unknown, Reprinted from Words of Life, Vol.4, No.8, August, 1966)

Acts 2:44-47

- (44)** *And all that believed were together, and had all things common;*
- (45)** *And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.*
- (46)** *And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,*
- (47)** *Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*

**The church of Christ meeting in the
city of Hoboken, Georgia**

Our Meeting Times

Sunday Morning

Bible Study 9:30a.m.

Worship 10:30a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00p.m.

**Upcoming Spiritual Opportunities
Men's Study**

7-08-2018 - 5:00p.m.

Singing of Songs

7-15-2018 - 5:00 p.m.

**In Need of Our Prayers and
Encouragement:**

- Rex + Frankie Hadley •Bob Dross •Kay Byars
- Buddy Crosby •Thelma Harmon
- Jason & Misty Thornton & Family
- Our young Christians
- Our Lord's work in Hoboken & Brantley County
- Our President, Nation & Those in military service
- All fellow Christians in the world