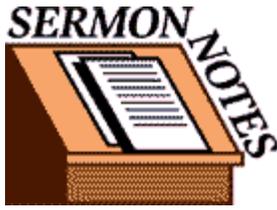


THEME: RESTORING OUR FOCUS



Focusing on Discipleship: Who Will Follow Jesus?

Monday , 9/16/13, Trenton church of Christ

The word Disciple is used 270 times. 30 times in Acts. Contrast this with the almost exclusive term "Christian" used only 3 times.

This is not surprising, Jesus commanded in Matt. 28:18 "Go and make Disciples of all nations."

Those who were baptized in Acts were identified as disciples. In 11:26 the disciples were called Christians. But they were still disciples.

In Acts 14:21 It says, "And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many Disciples..."

I. WHAT IS DISCIPLESHIP?

A. Defined: "A _____, a _____, "one who _____ one's teaching

1. John 6:45 *"It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me. (NKJ)*

2. By definition a disciple is someone who is a follower of Christ, becomes a pupil of Christ and seeks to learn from Him

B. *"The intentional training of disciples, with accountability, on the basis of loving relationships."* Bill Hull

C. Discipleship is a _____, not an _____.

Acts. 2:41-47

1. Discipleship requires _____ to the body of Christ.
Acts 2:41 "Added to them"

2. Discipleship involves _____ --Acts. 2:42 **"apostles teaching"**

3. Discipleship is based on devotion to another in Biblical _____
2:42 "Fellowship"

4. Discipleship issues itself in _____. v.42

5. Discipleship earns respect the _____ of the community" v. 47

6. Discipleship demands an _____ _____ to the lost.
v.4 Matt. 28:18

II. HOW ARE WE DISCIPLED?

A. If one of the purposes of the church is discipleship, then our task is _____ to accomplish that purpose.

1. Edification literally means to _____
 2. Command of the church: Eph. 4:11-12,16
 3. Command Individually: I Thess. 5:11 *"edify one another just as also you are doing."*
 4. Spiritual edification that builds us up in the faith comes about through the _____ Ac. 20:32
- B. You Must Accept the _____ of the Word
2 Tim 3:16-17
- C. You Must _____ Its truth
1. By _____ the Word
Receive means to welcome. Ac. 2:41
You can hear w/o listening, you can hear, but not receive it....
 2. By _____ it. Eph 3:4
 3. By _____ it. Ac. 17:11 "search" means to investigate, to scrutinize, to interrogate, determine, discern.
 4. By _____ it. PS 111:9
 5. By _____ on it. Ps. 119:15
- D. You Must _____ Its Principles Jas. 1:22

III. WHERE DOES DISCIPLESHIP LEAD?

Being a Disciple of Christ is not just a name or a title to be worn, but is descriptive of the kind of person we are to be.

- A. To _____ --Matt. 28:20
- B. To _____ in the Word--John 8:31
- C. To _____ for One Another--John 13:35
- D. To _____ --John 15:8
- E. To Being like _____ -Lk.40; -I Pet. 2:21



"This is the personalized goal of discipleship. God wants every believer to grow up to become like Christ in character. Becoming like Christ is the Biblical definition of spiritual maturity." --Rick Warren.

- F. To Spiritual _____ --Col. 1:28

—Ken Weliever

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