

## WHAT DO YE MORE THAN OTHERS?

Christianity is a religion of action. People have it in their heads that religion is about what a “church” or “organization” can do *for them*. The idea is backwards as we should be looking for what can we do *for God*. Christianity provides the answer to that question which we *must do* if we want a home in heaven. Not only that, Christianity asks of its followers that they excel those of the world and even other false religions in many areas.

Christ, shortly after providing the commandment to love our enemies, states in Matthew 5:47 “And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?” The critical focus in this article is on that powerful question: “what do ye more than others?” At the root of this question lies the heart of Christianity. Christianity is a religion of action, not useless motion, but rather carefully calculated actions that are above the sinfulness of the world and in accordance with the will of Christ. When we challenge ourselves to do more than others, not to make ourselves appear better than them but rather to please our Lord and Master, then we begin to realize just what Christianity is all about: doing what is right above all else. This is precisely what Christ had in mind as He follows up verse 47 of Matthew 5 with this statement “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” We understand the word “perfect” does not mean we can never sin, rather the word “perfect” describes “completeness”. Thayer defines the word as “wanting nothing necessary to completeness”. It would be simple to do this above the masses as most are not right with God but that is not the challenge. The challenge is to be perfect even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. The bar has been set and it is high – high as heaven in fact. That is the task at hand and the Christian is up for it where all others will fall short. How can we accomplish this goal?

Christ provides answers for this question in the preceding verses. Notice beginning in Matthew 5:13 “Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.” The

Christian, like salt, is to be used for preservation. Preservation in the spiritual realm is the major goal as we are to, like Christ, seek and save the lost by teaching and preaching the Word of God to them. What happens when we do not go out and we do not teach? What happens when we do not follow the Word? We lose our savor. How many of you would like to have salt that has no preservation or redeeming qualities? Not a one of us and so too is the one that proclaims to be a follower of Christ and then refuses to teach. In fact the phrase “lost his savor” means to act foolishly. Christ clearly defines a fool in His illustration in Matthew 7:26 “And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand”.

People know about the Bible but that is not enough. We must follow it and teach it. Make no mistake either you teach even when your Bible is not open. Matthew 5:14-16 informs us that “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” The world is watching perhaps now more than ever. The Christian is a light reflector of the ultimate light – Jesus Christ. Christ tells us in John 3:19-20 “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.” The world is not going to stand up for the truth and furthermore will seek to snuff out our light! Let us be sure we do not let them do it and even more so that we do not do it for them! We can snuff out our own light by hiding it under a bushel – by being ashamed of being a Christian. We need never to be ashamed of the Gospel as we echo with Paul in Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”

Be sure your actions, your speech, your time expenditure and your life are being guided by Christ and not Satan. The Word of God will let you know which side you are on but in

order to know you must open it up and study. All of the Word of God is important as Christ states in verses 19-20 of Matthew 5 “Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.” We cannot pick and choose what we want to believe and be acceptable to God. We have to follow the entirety of His Word. For us that means the entire New Testament and if we break even one tenant of this Law we have sin in our lives. The scribes and the Pharisees knew all about tenants and divisions of the Law as they had done a masterful job of keeping up with the *outward* traditions. True Christianity is seated in the heart and seeks the higher things – spiritual things – whereas the Pharisees and we might as well say other denominations focus more on the physical. How do I know that? Their actions and their doctrine are oftentimes not in accordance with God’s Law. If it is not in accordance with the will of God then it does not tend to spiritual things. Paul stated in Romans 14:17-18 “For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men.” The kingdom of God – the church – is primarily focused on the spiritual side of man for these are the things which matter most. When our focus shifts away from that then we lose the purpose of Christianity.

What are we doing more than others today? If we cannot honestly answer that question with plenty of good answers then we need to get busy! If we can answer that question with plenty of good answers there is always more we can do for the Lord! Let us set our sights firmly on Jesus Christ and press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:14)

**ILL**

Kema’s sister, Tiffany Oliver, is currently in ICU due to complications with gastric bypass surgery. Clara Herndon suffered a stroke and is currently in the Good Samaritan Nursing Home in Parsons, Kansas.

**PRAYER LIST**

Louise Dodson, Vicki Harrelson, Mary Huffman, Tom Tucker, Jacob Wright, Millie’s friend, Jane. Boyd family in the passing of their oldest son, Steven, this past Thursday (7/19).

**OUT OF TOWN**

Debra Gragg is vacationing in Colorado. Ted and Julia Thrasher will be vacationing in Omaha, Nebraska beginning tomorrow (7/23) and will be returning on Wednesday (7/25).

**GOT A BIBLE QUESTION?**

Located on the table in the foyer is a blue box, forms and a pen for submitting your Bible questions! Any Biblical question is permitted and anyone can submit a question. Once enough questions have been submitted we will begin answering them on the last Sunday of every month.

**AREA EVENTS**

Chipman Road Ladies Day  
“The Bride of Christ”

Luvenia Jenkins // August 25  
Registration at 9:30 AM

A flier is posted on the bulletin board with more details

**ATTENDANCE**

Sunday AM 22; Sunday PM 13; Wednesday 19.

**Those To Serve**

July 22, 2018

**BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Kema Flowers**

**MORNING WORSHIP**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS..... George Thomas**  
**SONG LEADER..... Trent Thrasher**  
**OPENING PRAYER ..... George Thomas**  
**PRESIDE..... Dave Parish**  
**ASSIST..... John Carter**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... Trent Thrasher**

**EVENING WORSHIP**

**OPENING PRAYER ..... John Dodson**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... George Thomas**  
**LORD’S SUPPER..... Trent Thrasher**

**WEDNESDAY 25th**

**SONG LEADER..... Trent Thrasher**  
**INVITATION ..... George Thomas**

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Sunday**

Bible Study ..... 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship ..... 10:30 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

**Wednesday**

Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher  
Phone: (913) 764-2325  
E-mail: thrasher@oabs.org

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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