

**Clarksville Church of Christ**  
 407 W Lewis & Clark Pkwy  
 Clarksville, IN 47129-1649  
 (812) 944-2305  
[www.clarksvillechurchofchrist.org](http://www.clarksvillechurchofchrist.org)

**Sundays**  
 Bible Study..... 9:30 AM  
 Worship.....10:30 AM  
 Worship.....6:00 PM

**Wednesdays**  
 Bible Study.....7:30 PM

**Elders**  
 Stephen W. Nale.....812-948-9917  
 Allen L. Morris.....812-967-4536

**Deacons**  
 Jeffrey B. Hunt.....502-931-5766  
 Elbert Metcalf.....812-246-5938  
 Rondal O. Thompson Jr....812-944-8295  
 Mark Maudlin.....502-523-0479

**Editor**  
 Stephen W. Nale.....502-727-7559

Goals For 2022  
Theme  
 Be Ye Imitators of Christ  
Attendance: Sunday Bible Study: 40;  
Sunday AM: 50  
Sunday PM: 40; Wednesday Bible Study: 30

Giving: Meet Our Yearly Budget

Invitations: 130

Every Member Committed To Daily Bible Reading

Every Member Committed To Daily Prayer

Every Member Committed To Be At Every Service

Support the Work in Vincennes, Indiana  
Hold A Men's Training Class

Hold One Gospel Meeting

-Like us on Facebook-View us on YouTube at Clarksvillechurch

**Gary Henry is preaching today**

**We are now in week #1 of our Daily Bible Reading.**

**Prayer List**  
 Lynn Maudlin  
 Pam Caudill  
 Sharon Nale, Polly Ward  
 Les & Novema Dunn  
 Debby Spears (Roseann's sis)  
 Sharon Thompson, Kay Thompson  
 The Wards & Beth McFarland  
 Dale Kahl, Brooke Thomas  
 Cathie Hall, Debbie Lewellen  
 Roseanne Denison, Mark Maudlin

**About Our Father's Business:**  
 Lk 2:48, Jn 9:4, Rom. 8:6-7

**Who Have You Invited To Services This week?**

**Lord's Supper Reading**  
 Matt. 26:26-29

**Scripture Reading**  
 AM: Luke 2:41-52  
 PM: Luke 8:18

**Encouragement Tally**  
 Invites this month: 0  
 Invites last month: 62  
 Visitors YTD: 0

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Place Stamp Here



The  
**Clarksville Beacon**  
[www.Clarksvillechurchofchrist.org](http://www.Clarksvillechurchofchrist.org)

Our Theme for 2022...  
**"Being Imitators of Christ"**  
 1 Cor. 11:1  
 Clarksville Church of Christ  
 407 W. Lewis & Clark Pkwy.  
 Clarksville, IN 47129

Volume 34 Issue 1 Clarksville Church of Christ January 2, 2022

**BEING ABOUT OUR FATHER'S BUSINESS**

**Welcome!**  
 If you're visiting with us today, we want you to feel welcome and we want you to feel like our honored guest! We also want you to know that all we're interested in here at the Clarksville Church of Christ is the Truth. Jesus said, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32. The truth He's talking about is God's word. Jesus said, "Sanctify them by thy truth, Thy word is truth." John 17:17. Therefore we hope you'll appreciate that we'll give you book, chapter and verse from the Bible, the word of God, for everything that we say or do here today, so that everything that we do may bring glory unto God, I Pet. 4:11.

**Introduction**

In the matter of being about His Father's business, Jesus started very young - **Lk. 2:49.**

Being busy in the Father's work is one of many ways that we ought to be "imitators of Christ" - **1 Cor. 11:1; 1 Jn. 2:6.**  
**What Is "Our Father's Business"?**

Compare the expression "the work of the Lord" in **1 Cor. 15:58.** (This is the only work that is not "in vain.")

Our Father's business, strictly speaking, would be doing things that pertain to "the life to come" (**1 Tim. 4:7,8**).

Worship.  
 Prayer and Bible study.  
 Edification, encouragement, teaching.  
 Evangelism. If this was the Lord's main focus, it must be ours.

Anytime it is our Father's work that we are doing, *we can count on Him to supply the resources* - **2 Cor. 9:8; 1 Pt. 4:11.**  
**Why Is It Important That We Concentrate On This?**

We cannot seriously claim to be patterning our lives after the Lord's life if we don't do this.

We never hurt the Lord's work more than when we pay more attention to our own work than His - **Hag. 1:2-4.**

It is not likely that a congregation (or an individual) will be *strong* without being *busy* in the Lord's work. Keys to Improvement

Seeing it truly as our *Father's* business. Cf. **Eph. 5:1.**

Giving priority to spiritual things over temporal things - **2 Tim. 4:10.**

We must truly set our minds on the "things above" (**Col. 3:1,2**).  
 Both our treasure and our hearts must be in heaven - **Mt. 6:21.**

Seeing the urgency of the work. Our opportunity is not unlimited - **Jn. 9:4.** Cf. "It is finished" (**Jn. 19:30**).

**Conclusion**

What specific *adjustments* can we make — especially in the example we set for our children and grandchildren?

In general, L-O-V-E is spelled T-I-M-E. It is our schedule books that tell whether we are busy about our Father's business — so how many additional minutes each week are we willing to commit to the Lord's work?

How busy will the Lord find us when He returns? Cf. **Lk. 12:43.**

# Hearing the Truth

## Introduction

Text: Lk. 8:18.

If the gospel has a prerequisite, it is humility — we must be humble enough to hear what the gospel says to us. (The process can go no further if there is anything that filters the gospel out of our thinking.) Like any message, the gospel of Christ requires a fair hearing. We must be humble, open, willing to be persuaded — the gospel won't have a chance if we don't give it a chance. No amount of evidence will be enough if we are simply "unpersuadable." There are none so deaf as those who will not hear. Cf. Mt. 13:13-15; Jn. 5:40; Ac. 7:57; etc. In Jas. 3:17, one of the qualities of wisdom is that it is "easy to be entreated" (KJV) or "open to reason" (ESV).

All the people who heard Jesus heard the same words, but there were many different responses. Cf. Mt. 7:24-27. Simple "hearing" is not enough — the question is, how will we hear and what will we do about it? Cf. Hb. 4:2. We are all prone to the problems of denial and defensiveness. (Rather than "hear," we tend to "hide" - Gen. 3:8-10.) So Jesus said, "Take heed how you hear" (Lk. 8:18). Let's think first about the message that must be heard.

## The Gospel Story

The gospel is the message of the cross — it's about "Jesus Christ and Him crucified" (1 Cor. 2:2). The gospel is the story of God saving us from the eternal consequences of our rebellion against Him. When mankind rebelled against God, God was not willing to leave us in our lost condition. He sent His Son into the world to live a perfect human life, and then die, taking our punishment upon Himself. Raised from the dead after His crucifixion, Jesus now reigns at the right hand of God and offers forgiveness and salvation to all who will obey His gospel. When the time is right, He is going to come back, destroy this world, and take His forgiven people to heaven to be with Him forever.

Four passages that point to the heart of the gospel.: Mt. 20:17-19. Jn. 3:16-18. Lk. 24:46-49. 1 Cor. 15:1-8.

The gospel story has an invitation attached to it — but it is a two-fold invitation. Accept forgiveness — "Repent . . . be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (Ac. 2:38). Become disciples — "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me" (Mt. 11:28-30). Hearing this message requires being open to all the truth we need to hear.

## Life's Most Important Issue

The gospel challenges us to deal seriously with whether there really is a God. Truth . . . Is the gospel of Jesus Christ true? (Honesty — truth is not always what we want it to be.) Response . . . What am I going to do about it? (Courage — truth is not always easy to respond to.) There is no in-between, no safe middle ground: if the gospel is true, we should devote our lives to it — but if it is not true, such a lie needs to be eradicated from the earth. Well might Jesus have said, "Take heed how you hear" (Lk. 8:18).

The gospel confronts us with two truths.

# Hearing the Truth...cont.

## Two Truths, Both Hard to Accept

The gospel confronts us with two truths. The sinful truth about ourselves (the gospel's diagnosis of our malady) — the problem. The saving truth about God (the gospel's plan for our redemption) — the solution. From the beginning, the first has always been the hardest to accept — we all struggle with defensiveness and anger. Adam and Eve - Gen. 3:8-10. Cain - Gen. 4:4-8. If we're not prepared to hear the gospel penitently, we should go back home - Mt. 3:7,8.

Consider the story of David and Nathan - 2 Sam. 12:1-14. All of us face the same decision: how will we hear what God says about our sins?

Nathan: "You are the man" (v.7).

David: "I have sinned against the Lord" (v.13).

## Conclusion

How receptive are you? Honest? Courageous?

We must not define truth in terms of what we want it to be.

Truth is what it is, regardless of our preferences. "Truth is not always what we want to hear" (Jewish Proverb).

The more painful a truth may be to accept, the more we must be willing to go wherever truth leads us.

Without honesty and courage, hearing the truth is worse than useless — it will, in fact, condemn us. Cf. Jn. 12:48.

How have you "heard" the gospel up to now? In what manner have you listened to what God has said to you?

What is your track record?

What have you done when you've had to deal with uncomfortable truth?

How have you reacted when you've been told something you didn't want to hear?

Are there any limits on how far you would go to follow Jesus?

We alone can determine what kind of hearers we are going to be — and our salvation depends on our decision.

Gary Henry — WordPoints.com + AreYouaChristian.com

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21).