



OUR GOSPEL MEETING
Begins Next Sunday, Sept. 20 through 24
Hiram Kemp
 of Lakeland, FL
Sunday - 10:30 a.m.;
Monday through Thursday - 7:00 p.m.
Masks required, Social Distancing observed,
Dismissal by rows

A Christ-Centered Religion

Jesus Christ is at the center of our religion. He is the focal point, and so He must remain. Notice how central He was in the early church.

He was the message. When Christians scattered after Stephen's martyrdom, they went to Antioch, "preaching the Lord Jesus" (Acts 11:20). Paul preached Christ crucified (1 Corinthians 1:23). He preached the good news of our Lord's death, burial and resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). Likewise, Jesus must remain the content of our preaching—the main point of our Gospel proclamation.

He was the One to whom people converted. In Antioch, those who heard about the Lord Jesus believed and "turned to the Lord" (Acts 11:21). Paul remembered how the Thessalonians had turned to God (1 Thessalonians 1:9). Sometimes, one will ask another, "When did you become a member of the church?" True, we become part of the Lord's body, the church, when we become Christians (Acts 2:47). However, it might be better to ask, "When did you turn to the Lord?" When a person becomes a Christian, he establishes a relationship with Jesus. He is the One to Whom we turn.

He was the Person to whom Christians gave their allegiance. Barnabas encouraged new Christians in Antioch to remain true to the Lord (Acts 11:23). A Christian's loyalty is pledged to Christ. He is the flag around which we rally. We are only loyal to sound doctrine and to God's people because we are loyal to Christ. If we are unfaithful to the Truth or to the church, we are unfaithful to Christ.

He was the Person to whom sinners were brought. Luke penned that many residents of Antioch were brought to the Lord (Acts 11:24). "Come to me," Jesus said. We must keep the Lord Jesus Christ at the center of both our message and our religion. If a man were to take Christ out of Christianity, what would remain? To supplant Christ with a manmade creed, doctrine or denomination and to elevate the name of a man as leader of this church or that church is a vain attempt to dethrone Christ as the rightful head of the church, which He built and for which He died. A religion without Christ at the center is no religion at all!

Cliff Holmes, Decatur, AL (via *Gospel Gazette*)

Are you more like Christ today than you were yesterday?

News & Notes

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES: During our Meeting: **Sunday Worship at 10:30 a.m. and Monday through Thursday at 7:00 p.m.**

SYMPATHY: To Margie Martin at the passing of her sister-in-law, Pat Wilson.

FAREWELL GIFT: For **Marcella Martin** who will be moving back to the South **this coming Tuesday, Sept. 15th.** If you wish to contribute, give your money to Sharon Sprout.

OUR SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES: Will resume **Sept. 27th at 5:30 p.m. and we will meet at the Fellowship Building for those services.**

REMEMBER WITH PRAYERS & CARDS: **Steve Higginbotham**, 3318 October Lane, Knoxville, TN 37931. In Florida, **Yvonne Price** (mother of Tracy Clutter & Troy Postlethwait).

SICK & SHUT-IN: Keith McClung, Mary Jane Bowers, Melvin "Pete" Reed, Marlene Evans, Shirley Beagle, Russell Martin, Doris Dunham, Alex Harless. **Mercy Hospital, Canton, OH:** Jim Loy (brother of Twila Adamson) **FOX:** Tom Postlethwait. **CROSSROADS:** Sarah Miller. **VALLEY OAKS CARE CENTER:** Fred Larrimore, (Room 110). **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl, Regina King, and Benjamin Radford.

Some Things that Hinder Our Prayers

When we pray to God, there are some effective consequences! God chooses to need our prayers! When we pray, God responds to our prayers! Wow! Think about it; the God of the universe listens to us! He waits for us to pray so He will move on the earth! Yet, there are things that hinder our prayers. These things will stop our prayers from being effective! Listed below are six things that can hinder our prayers.

1. **Satan** (Daniel 10:2-14; Ephesians 6:12)
2. **Doubt** (James 1:6-7; Matthew 11:22-24)
3. **Asking "Amiss"** (James 4:3)
4. **Insincerity** (Matthew 6:5-8)
5. **Pride** (Luke 18:9-14)
6. **Sin** (1 Peter 3:7; Job 42:8)



The next time you pray, ask God to help remove these hindrances from us! God wants to respond to our prayers; may they not be hindered!

- David Conley, Liberty Church of Christ, Dennis, MS (via *Gospel Gazette*) -

Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?

- Corrie Ten Boom -