



"Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." (Matt 9:38)

PLANO CHURCH OF CHRIST

406 Lew Street Plano, IL 60545

www.planochurchofchrist.com

SUNDAY

Bible Study 10:00 am
Worship - 10:50 am
Worship - 4:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study - 7:00 pm
Evangelist & Editor:
Bryan Bickford

The Plano Harvest

April 16 2017

Vol. 4 No. 26

HOW ARE YOU USING TIME?

How many times have you said, "Time is just slipping away?" Sometimes we fill up all our time and then some, doing things all the time. Many times we need to be better managers of our time, I know I do. Solomon wrote, *"There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven."* (*Ecclesiastes 3:1*). We have become so busy spending our time on so many things, that we sometimes fail to get anything done. What can we learn about time from the Bible?

- **Time will eventually end (2 Peter 3:8-13).** There is a day when we will all face eternal judgment (*Hebrews 9:27*).
- **We all have limited time.** Jesus recognized this when He said, *"I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work."* (*John 9:4*).
- **We do not know how much time we have left.** *"Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away."* (*James 4:14*).
- **We must use what time we have, wisely.** *Ephesians 5:15-16 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, 16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil.*
- **Now is the time to obey God!** *"For he says, 'In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you. I tell you, now is the time of God's favor; now is the day of salvation.'* (*2 Corinthians 6:2*).

We would love to study with you about being ready for the Lord's return. All of us need to be prepared for eternity ... while there is still time.

Bryan Bickford

DO YOU LOVE JESUS?

I did not ask, "Does Jesus love you?" He most certainly does love you. Jesus left Heaven and died on the cross to save you (*John 3:16*). My question is do YOU love Jesus?

Going to church every Sunday does not necessarily prove that you love Jesus (*Matthew 15:13*). Praising Him with your lips does not prove it either (*Matthew 7:21-23; 15:8*). Reading your Bible every day and praying to God is not undeniable evidence you love Him. Telling others about Him does not guarantee your love either.

Then what is proof that you love Jesus? Jesus Himself answers, *"If you love Me, keep My commandments"* (*John 14:15*). *"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word... He who does not love Me does not keep My words"* (*John 14:23-24*). If we really love Jesus, then we will gladly keep His word, His commandments. Here are just a few of His commandments to illustrate our point.

"I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish" (*Luke 13:3*). Jesus commands all men to repent (*Acts 17:30*). Repentance means to stop sinning and to practice righteousness. Some that claim to love Jesus continue to lie, curse, become drunk, fornicate and commit adultery, and yes, failing to attend worship services regularly (*1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Revelations 21:8; Hebrews 10:24-27*). *"He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned"* (*Mark 16:16*). Many who claim to love Jesus refuse to obey His command to be baptized for the forgiveness of their sins (*Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21*).

If we love Jesus, we will obey Jesus. Such love is

unselfish, sacrificial, and totally committed (*Matthew 22:37; Luke 14:25-33*). So, do you love Jesus?

BB Adapted from article by Jessie Flowers

Crucifixion Prophecies

Prophecy	Jesus' Betrayal	Fulfillment
<i>Psalm 41:9</i>	Betrayed by a close friend	<i>John 13:18-26</i>
<i>Zechariah 11:12-13</i>	Thirty pieces of silver Money thrown into the temple Used to buy a potter's field	<i>Matthew 26:15 Matthew 27:5 Matthew 27:7</i>
<i>Zechariah 13:7</i>	Disciples desert Him	<i>Mark 14:27,50</i>

Prophecy	Jesus' Trials	Fulfillment
<i>Psalm 22:7</i>	Mocked	<i>Matthew 27:31</i>
<i>Psalm 109:2</i>	Accused by false witnesses	<i>Matthew 26:59-60</i>
<i>Isaiah 50:6</i>	Abused, beaten, and spit upon	<i>Matthew 26:67 Matthew 27:30</i>
<i>Isaiah 53:3</i>	Rejected by His own people	<i>Matthew 27:22-25</i>
<i>Psalm 118:22</i>		
<i>Isaiah 53:7</i>	Remained silent	<i>Matthew 27:14</i>

Prophecy	Jesus' Physical State	Fulfillment
<i>Psalm 22:14</i>	Blood and water flowing from pierced heart	<i>John 19:34</i>
<i>Psalm 22:16</i>	Hands and feet pierced	<i>John 20:25</i>
<i>Psalm 34:20</i>	No bones broken	<i>John 19:33</i>
<i>Isaiah 52:14</i>	His appearance was marred	<i>Matt 27:29-30</i>

Prophecy	Jesus' Words From the Cross	Fulfillment
<i>Psalm 22:1</i>	Forsaken by God	<i>Matthew 27:46</i>
<i>Psalm 22:15</i>	Terrible thirst	<i>John 19:28</i>
<i>Psalm 31:5</i>	Commits His spirit to God	<i>Luke 23:46</i>
<i>Isaiah 53:12</i>	"Father, forgive them..."	<i>Luke 23:34</i>

Prophecy	Others' Actions in the Shadow of the Cross	Fulfillment
<i>Psalm 22:7</i>	Hurl insults, shake their heads	<i>Matthew 27:39</i>
<i>Psalm 22:18</i>	Cast lots for clothing	<i>John 19:23-24</i>
<i>Psalm 38:11</i>	Neighbors stay far away	<i>Luke 23:49</i>
<i>Psalm 69:21</i>	Vinegar for thirst	<i>John 19:29</i>
<i>Isaiah 53:9</i>	Assigned a grave with the rich	<i>Matthew 27:57-60</i>

Prophecy	Other Crucifixion Prophecies	Fulfillment
<i>Isaiah 53:12</i>	Numbered with transgressors	<i>Matthew 27:38</i>
<i>Amos 8:9</i>	Sky goes dark	<i>Matthew 27:45</i>

Daniel's Vision of Five Kingdoms <i>Dan 2:31-45</i>		
Gold	Babylon	605-539
		
Silver	Persia	539-333
Bronze	Greece	333-31
Iron, Clay	Rome	31 BC-325 AD
	upon this bedrock I will build My Church	33 AD
Bedrock		
"In the days of these kings God will set up His Kingdom (the church)"		
<small>Don 2:44; Isa 21:4; Joel 2:28; Acts 2:1-4; Mt. 1:15; 9:1; Col 1:13; Heb 12:28; Rev 1:5-9 www.bible.ca</small>		

"I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it."
(Matt 16:18)

Heart Trouble

The false prophets in Judah like the false teachers of today dealt on the surface with their problems in society. **But Jeremiah dealt with the heart.** The word "*heart*" appears more than 60 times in the book of Jeremiah. The heart is deceitful and sick (17:9), and only God can change it (31:31-34). Judah did not return to God with all her heart, but rather in deception(3:10). He knows because "*I the LORD search the heart*" (17:10). Are we more interested in the superficial heart that says "*Peace, Peace*" (6:14, 8:11) or will you "*seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.*" (29:13)?

Bryan Bickford

Why Stop the Chariot? (*Acts 8:29-38*)

If the eunuch only needed to pray a prayer why stop the chariot? (*Mk 16:15-16*)

If the eunuch only needed faith why stop the chariot? (*James 2:24*)

If baptism is not essential for salvation why stop the chariot? (*Acts 8:38*)

The Beginning Of Wisdom

The bible says, "*The fear of the Lord is the BEGINNING of wisdom.*" - *Psalm 111:10*. Before we do much by way of getting wisdom, thoughts that are good and constructive, we must begin with fear of God...fear of His power against us if He is ignored, and reverence of Him and anything He has to say. And why should it be the basis for getting wisdom? For it endures forever, unlike wisdom originating elsewhere. Abiding, enduring wisdom starts with acknowledging God in all our pursuits. This is what will produce good understanding of all kinds of things.

Whit Sasser "Exhortations & Stuff"

- What we call life is a journey to death, and
- what we call death, is a passport to life.
- Be careful about meditating when there is anger in your heart. (Dee Bowman)
- God will forgive those who start late in life to serve Him, but He will not forgive those who quit early.



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FOLLOWING THE MESSIAH

Beginning Sunday May 7th at 4pm for at least the next five weeks we will begin a study on the life of Christ, called "Following the Messiah." We will study from our Bible then watch a short video. Our study will begin with the birth of Jesus, His nighttime announcement and His dedication at the Temple (lesson 1). Then we will look at Jesus childhood in Nazareth, the family trip to Jerusalem, and then His baptism (lesson 2). Next we see the temptation of Jesus (lesson 3). We then will study Jesus calling of the apostles and look at the town of Jesus, Capernaum (lesson 4). And for now we will conclude this study with a look at the reaction of Simeon and Anna following Jesus birth, His rejection by His own hometown. We will see Him calm the Sea! We conclude with Jesus question, "Who do people say that I am?" He then made it personal, a question we all must answer and actually do every day, "Who do you say that I am?" (lesson 5)

So join us as we see the gospel through a different lens as two men explore the places Jesus lived during His life here on earth. Get up close to the ruins of the ancient city of Capernaum, take a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, and walk through the bone-dry wilderness of Judea. Join us on this incredible journey through the Bible lands, both old and new. Over a year in making, this is a visually stunning journey that tells the story of Jesus as told through the Bible and its lands.

We hope you will join our group as we learn together from His word. To learn more about the church that meets at 406 Lew Street Plano, IL visit our website www.planochurchofchrist.com.

GOD USES CRACKED POTS



I came across this old parable by an unknown author entitled "Cracked Pots." Those of us who are less than perfect can appreciate this piece and be encouraged by it.

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on each end of a pole which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, and while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water at the end of the long walk from the stream to the master's house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water in his master's house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect to the end for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you." "Why?" asked the bearer. "What are you ashamed of?" "I have been able, for these past two years, to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your master's house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts," the pot said.

The water bearer felt sorry for the old cracked pot,

and in his compassion he said, "As we return to the master's house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path." Indeed, as they went up the hill, the old cracked pot took notice of the sun warming the beautiful wild flowers on the side of the path, and this cheered it somewhat. But at the end of the trail, it still felt bad because it had leaked out half its load, and so again it apologized to the bearer for its failure.

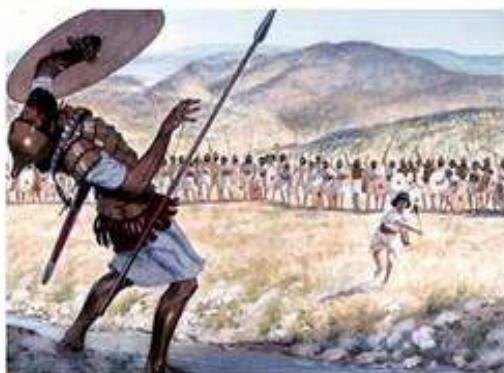
The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of your path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I took advantage of it. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back from the stream, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my master's table. Without you being just the way you are, he would not have this beauty to grace his house."

The moral to this story is obvious. We each have our own flaws, foibles and imperfections. In a sense, we're all cracked pots. Even the 5 talent man is not perfect. However, let's not allow our defects to determine our destiny. If we are faithful, regardless of our frailties, we can be fruitful. God can use us to His glory.

"For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us" (2 Cor 4:6-7).

-Ken Weliever, The Preacherman

The Size Of Your Problem Is Irrelevant When You Put Your Trust In God.



Four Things You Can't Recover

The stone...after the throw.

The word...after it's said.

The occasion...after it's missed.

The time...after it's gone.

author unknown

Was King Agrippa a Christian?

"Almost you persuaded me to be a Christian "

- King Agrippa

Did King Agrippa believe?

"I know you believe"

- The inspired Paul

Does belief alone make one a Christian?

Not according to acts 26:27-28

"King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets?

I know that thou believest. Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian."Acts 26:27-28

Prove your faith to God by combining your belief... with obedience to the gospel.

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Galatians 3:27

Respect in the Home

The book of Proverbs has much to say about the home. When children walk in wisdom, they bring joy to their parents (*Proverbs 10:1, 15:20, 17:21, 25, 19:26, 23:34-25*).

It is tragic when children do not respect their parents (*23:22, 30:17*), when they speak evil of them (*20:20*), waste their money with wrong friends (*28:7, 29:3*), and rob their parents (*28:24*).

Early discipline helps a child learn to respect parental authority and appreciate parental love (*13:24, 19:18, 22:15*).

Warren Wiersbe

The Plano church is a group of Christians who are striving together to serve Jesus Christ. We believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God, providing us with everything we need to know about life in God's kingdom.

To learn about God's will, the Christians at Plano regularly study together, pray together, and encourage one another in our walk with the Lord.