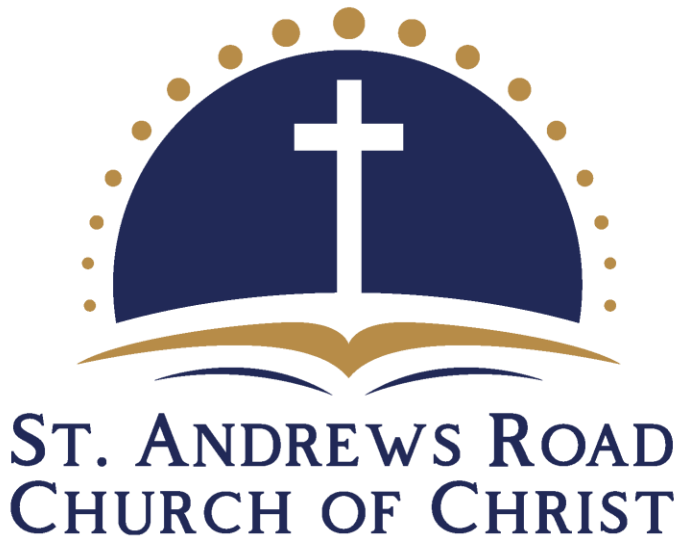


April 2, 2023

Volume 57 Issue 14



Worship Services & Bible Study

SUNDAYS	10:00 AM	Bible Class
SUNDAYS	11:00 AM	Worship
SUNDAYS	6:00 PM	Worship
WEDNESDAYS	7:00 PM	Bible Study

425 Saint Andrews Rd / Columbia, SC, 29210
803-772-0102

YouTube: Church of Christ St Andrews Rd

Time: Friend or Foe?

There are 168 hours in a week. Every person has the same amount of time in which to work, play, and sleep as anyone else. Why is it then, that some individuals seem to accomplish more than others? A person may have the same job as you, but he also takes a graduate class at night, works part-time at another job, and helps his kids with their homework. Wow, right? But you may struggle with getting your job completed, often taking the work home. Sometimes you can help with homework, but other times it seems a struggle to even get supper prepared. What is the difference between these individuals?

I do not believe there is a simple answer to this question. Or, it may be it is as simple as no two people are alike. Some can work faster than others. Some are more analytical, while others are big-picture oriented. Some have had training that has equipped them to be more effective time managers. It could be that some are more diligent than others. However, I believe most Christians desire to do a better job managing their time and it frustrates them when they fall short. The big difference between desiring and doing can also discourage us. Do you feel that time is your friend or foe?

The simple truth is that people are different. This is revealed in the parable of the talents, which is told in the context of Jesus' second coming and what his servants should be doing as they await his appearing. **For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey (Matthew 25:14-15, NKJV).** These servants were different in that each was given a portion of his master's goods based upon differing abilities. Sometimes we get discouraged because we think we ought to do as much as the man who was given five talents, when our abilities may not allow us. It may be difficult, but we should resist the temptation to compare ourselves with others, and rather focus on doing good to the best of our own ability. Notice the master rewarded the man who was given two talents, and who decided to do just that. That servant was given just as much praise as the five talent man. Of course, this is not to say we cannot grow and become a person who can handle more responsibility. That would be glory for our Master (cf. 2 Peter 3:18). But if time has been your foe lately, study on some things that you can change that better suit your abilities. **Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before unknown men (Proverbs 22:29).**

One more thing. Remember the man who was given one talent? Instead of using his abilities for his master like the others, he did nothing. He knew what his master expected, yet out of fear, he buried his master's talent. His master justifiably called him wicked, lazy, and unprofitable, and subsequently punished him (Matt. 25:18-30). We need to remember that as servants of our Lord, we must be faithful (1 Corinthians 4:1-2). Don't let your failures discourage you into quitting. Instead, use them to help identify the abilities with which the Lord has blessed you. Ask yourself, "What do I like doing, and what do I do well?" Our Lord notices everything, even things we think are small. Rest assured, our service is not a small matter with him. **And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward (Matt. 10:42).**

Brotherly,
Jamie

Repentance (part #2)

Repentance is a turning. In relation to one's spiritual condition, it is turning from sin and the pursuit of sin and turning to God and the pursuit of righteousness. It is the change of mind that causes one to forsake living in and for sin and to desire to live for God and in accordance with His will. Repentance is brought about through the hearing of the gospel (**Luke 24:44-47**). When people hear the gospel and truly believe its message, repentance, a change of life, takes place. The word causes one to come face to face with his true identity. "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does" (**Jas. 1:22-25**). Hearing the gospel brings about repentance because when the word is received into a good and honest heart, it produces godly sorrow which leads to repentance (**2 Cor. 7:10**). Godly sorrow makes one become repulsed at sin. It makes him desire to become a servant of righteousness (**Rom. 6:17-18**).

The motivation to repent, as presented in Scripture, is, at least, threefold. One motivating factor is the goodness of God. "*Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?*" (**Rom. 2:4**). The goodness of God includes such things as the gift of life (**Acts 17:28**); the gift of His Son as a sacrifice for sin (**John 3:16**); and access to His grace (**Eph. 2:8-9**).

The second motivating factor is that one must repent, or he will perish (**Luke 13:3, 5**). "*But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, 'who will render to each one according to his deeds': eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek*" (**Rom. 2:5-9**).

The third motivating factor is that repentance allows one to receive eternal blessings and honor from our God and Father: "*Eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; ...but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek*" (**Rom. 2:7, 10**).

Repentance has often been called the most difficult command in the Bible. As we have seen, though, it is not difficult to understand what it is, what brings it about and why it is necessary. So, its difficulty does not lie in those areas.

What is difficult is getting people to do it! Brother J.W. McGarvey once wrote, "*When you look through the record of the Savior's earthly ministry, you find that he induced a great many to believe in Him... But when you search for those who repented under the Lord's preaching, you will find but few ...When you go out preaching among the people of this country, you will not find it at all difficult to induce your hearers to believe the truth concerning Christ, and, when they are prepared in mind and heart for baptism, you will not find it very difficult to persuade them to submit to that... You will find no difficulty, provided they have repented and desire to obey the Lord; but how difficult it is to induce men to repent! Sinners outside the church and sinners inside the church cling to their sins, and it appears impossible in many instances to bring them to repentance*" (*Chapel Talks*, pp. 71-72). All people need to realize that the opportunity to repent is a blessing (**Acts 11:18**).

Onward Rejoicing,
John B. Daniels, Associate Minister

EGG HUNT

Ages 5th grade and under

TODAY 12:00

Lunch provided.

Senior Bible Study

Tuesday, April 11

10:00 AM



Baby Shower for Lacey Parks

Sunday, April 16, 2023

3:30 PM

Lacey is registered online (link below).
You can purchase an item online or go to
the store listed.

<https://www.babylist.com/list/baby-registry-lacey-parks>

Lads to Leaders Conference

April 6 – 9 Atlanta, GA

Our youth have been practicing all year on their singing, speeches, reading the scriptures, memorizing the scriptures, learning to become Junior Leaders, and being a Good Samaritan.

Some of our students are heading to Atlanta to practice their skills. Please take a moment to encourage them.

Jordan Capron
Myles Capron
Becca Pyle
Walker Pyle
Blythe Pyle
Baylee Williams