

OCTOBER 4TH, 2026



The Searcher

Published By



SOUTHAVEN
CHURCH of CHRIST

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SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES AND SEEKING THE LOST

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WHAT IS INVOLVED WITH FOLLOWING CHRIST?

Robert Jefferies

When we think about Christianity, many times we think about the blessings that comes with being "in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3). Those blessings include prayer, fellowship, forgiveness, salvation, peace, hope, reconciliation, adoption, redemption, etc. However, sometimes we may forget what is involved with following Jesus. For this study, let's consider three that are involved in being a follower of Christ.

Christianity comes with a cost. In fact, in Luke 14, Jesus talked about counting the cost when it comes to following Him and He gives a few illustrations to help us comprehend this vital point. "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:26-33). It takes time and energy to be a faithful follower of Christ. For some people they have time and energy for everything else, but have little to no time or energy for the Lord.

Denying self is a necessity. Sometimes people have a tendency to look at certain situations in life with the question, "what is in it for me?" If there is nothing in it for me, why bother is the attitude that some people. Christianity is not about what I want, it is about what God wants. "And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (Luke 9:23).

Burden bearing is involved. Consider what the Apostle Paul wrote to the churches of Galatia, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). As was noted last week, sometimes, it may mean bearing a physical burden. This may come in the form of providing a meal, offering to clean their house, or pulling out the checkbook and helping in a monetary way. Then there are times where it may be an emotional burden. It may mean we need to offer our shoulder to cry on or a listening ear.

Then there are spiritual burdens. We may need to help bring that person back to Christ. After all, the immediate context deals with this very thing. "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted" (Galatians 6:1).

JESUS THE CHRIST

Clifton Angel

The Greek word *christos*, from which we get our word *Christ*, was originally a verbal adjective. It signified that someone had been anointed with oil for a certain position. The high priest was anointed with oil. Kings of Israel were anointed with oil. Yet, once it was applied to Jesus the Messiah, it was used as a proper name or title. "He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ" (John 1:41). He is God's Anointed that Israel sought for deliverance. What does the title "Christ" teach us about Jesus?

He is Sovereign. The Messiah of Israel was not to be just another anointed priest, prophet, or king. He was to be the Supreme Ruler that could provide deliverance like no other. Jesus being the Christ indicates His supreme kingship, priesthood, and that He is The Prophet (1 Timothy 6:15; Hebrews 4:14–16; 8:4–6; Deuteronomy 18:15; Acts 3:22).

He is Separate. The name Jesus was a rather common name. It was Yeshuah or Joshua in the Hebrew, and the Joshua most common to us was commissioned with delivering Israel out of the wilderness and into the promised land (Joshua 1:1–5, et al.). In this, Joshua was a picture (or "type") of Jesus the Christ, but Joshua, the servant of Moses, was not the Christ. Furthermore, no other person who bore the name Joshua or Jesus was the Christ. Therefore, THIS Jesus was separated from other men named Jesus by his title, "Christ" (Acts 2:32; Acts 17:3). "And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ" (Acts 17:2–3).

He is the Savior. The name "Jesus" actually means "Savior." Since it was a common name, anyone with the name Jesus had that meaning behind their name. However, there was only one Jesus who would "save His people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21) — Jesus the Christ. "Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole ... Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:10, 12).

Have we submitted our lives to the SOVEREIGN Christ Jesus? Have we SEPARATED ourselves from the world by following Christ Jesus? Have we been SAVED from our sins by the blood of Christ Jesus?

THE AMARANTH FLOWER

Bryce Mayfield

The Amaranth flower is a vibrant and colorful plant. Its flower attracts viewers with its vivid shades of magenta and gold. Not only is this plant beautiful, it is also highly nutritious. For many years, this plant was grown and eaten for its grain, which has a high protein content and is gluten free. Despite its color and nutritional value, this is not what makes this plant most popular. The most fascinating part about this plant is its longevity. Unlike most plants, parts of the flower of the Amaranth do not readily wither. Florists love to use this plant in bouquets because the flower seems to last “forever.” This longevity trait is what earns this flower its name. “Amaranth” is a name stemming from the Greek word *Amarantos* which means “unfading or perennial.” With that in mind, read 1 Peter 1:3,4.

Did you catch it? As Peter describes a Christian’s inheritance, he uses three adjectives to do so. The first is “imperishable” (or incorruptible), the second is “undefiled”, and the third is the Greek word *amarantos*, translated as “will not fade away.” The word used to describe the longevity of a flower is now, more importantly, used to describe the eternal gift waiting for the child of God. Note that this gift is “reserved in heaven...” (1 Peter 1:4).

Peter highlights the eternal in direct contrast to trials ahead which are temporary (1 Peter 1:6). These trials Paul says are “light affliction” in light of the weight of eternal glory. According to Paul, the glory of the eternal is too great to compare to the temporary (2 Corinthians 4:16-18). So, the next time you want a descriptor of Heaven, think about the Amaranth flower. While its beautiful color and longevity cannot compare to eternal glory, it reminds us in light of trials that God’s eternal home for us “will never fade away.”

Sunday Sermons

What Does The Bible Say About The Holy Spirit? (AM)

What Does The Bible Say About The Holy Spirit? (PM)

Bible Passages To Consider

"And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Ephesians 6:17).

IN NEED OF PRAYER

Dale Shull is making improvements at home following a recent stay in the hospital. If you plan to visit, please go to Tommy & Peggy's door.

James Mason, father of Jennifer Christian, has had a few setbacks. A small blood clot was found in his leg and they are monitoring him.

Karen Oglesby is receiving treatment at Lakeside at this time.

Sarah Hechavarria began chemotherapy on Monday.

Joyce Valentine is on Hospice Care.

Dennis Hawkins, father of Clint & Blake Hawkins, will be having outpatient surgery on October 19 at Baptist Collierville.

David Chadwick has an abdominal aneurysm. He will have surgery to repair it at a later date.

Lannie Smart, husband of Danna Smart, continues to receive wound care.

Julia Ross, mother of Annette Prater, is gradually improving. She is taking physical therapy.

Please continue to remember the following: **Erika Stuckey**, **Jerry Baird**, **Betty Culbreath**, **Lucy Chamberlain**, **Don Sykes**, **Meredith Peek**, **Barbara Day**, **Alan & Linda Stone**, **Debbie Shull**, **Pat Pierce**, **Beverly Parnell**, **Jean Jones**, **Dorothy Butler**, & **Rannie Butler** in your prayers.

BATTLING CANCER

Please remember those who are fighting, or recovering from cancer: **Alan Stone**; **Pam Eaton**; **Charlene Farris**; **Andrew Utz**, great nephew of Peggy Shull; **Varda Cole**, sister in law of Linda Davis; **Don Cheathour**, friend of the Sykes family; **Joe Daly**, online viewer in England; **Houston Hall**, great nephew of Karen Oglesby & Beth Roney; **David Taylor**, neighbors of the Sykes; **Dan Manuel**, friend of Tommy & Peggy Shull; **Heather Butler**, daughter of Lewis Dawson; **Vickie Parker**, sister of Nick Parker; **Kim Butler**, sister in law of Lar

ry Butler; **Lily Jane Jordan**, neighbor's granddaughter of Terry & Brenda Harris; **Oakleigh Free**, great granddaughter of Alan & Linda Stone; **Mandi Singer**, friend of Erica Stuckey; **Mandy Dunbar**, friend of Erica Stuckey; **TJ Holt**, cousin of Amber Wallis; **Margarito Zuniga**, father of former member Alan Zuniga; **Becca Reynolds**, niece of Anita Sanders; **Laura Sowell**, mother of Erin Sowell, **Doreen Harris**, former member, **Glenn Jenkins**, the husband of Bonnie Reid's niece, **Carol Tierce**, sister of Peggy Shull & **Whitley Joy**, great niece of Larry & Elaine Melton.

SHUT-INS/ NURSING HOME

Lucy Chamberlain; **Debbie Shull**; **Beverly Parnell**; **Pam Eaton**; **Phyllis Smith**, The Gold-ton at Southaven Room #116.

MEN TO SERVE - October 4th, 2026

Preside: Vern Schrimsher

Serve: Joel White, Greg Wilson, Jason Griffin, Clint Hawkins, Jefferson Mendoza, Carter Gahagan, Nick Parker, Allen Roberts

AM Opening Prayer: Coleman Simpson

AM Closing Prayer: Chris Billingsley

PM Opening Prayer: Chris Tice

PM Closing Prayer: James Caldwell

Wed. Opening Prayer: Andy Young

Wed. Closing Prayer: John Stephen Stubblefield

Announcements: Con Lambert

Song Leader: David Rister

Scripture Reading: Dalton Wieneke

Security: Jack Etheridge

REMINDER:

If you are a song leader, scripture reader, or have opening prayer, you are asked to sit on the front pew when worship begins.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 8, 11AM-1PM: Ladies Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign the list in the foyer if you plan to attend. For questions see Nina Armstrong.

October 18: Bridal Shower for Jasmine Cole. She is registered at Amazon.

October 18-21: Gospel Meeting at Nesbit with Anthony Flunder. Please see the bulletin board for more information.

OCTOBER FOOD TEAM

Captain: Ann Chilton

Mina Lambert, Jeannie Woody, Veronica Rapp, Becky Harville

OUR RECORDS

Bible Study	223
A.M. Worship	301
P.M. Worship	177
P.M. Wed. Worship	165
Contribution	\$



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Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Class.....	9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....	10:00 a.m.
Sunday P.M. Worship.....	1:00 p.m.
Wednesday P.M. Service.....	7:00 p.m.

ELDERS

Gary Barch
Larry Everson
David Rister

DEACONS

Bruce Dunaway
Michael Gahagan
Aaron Gallagher
TJ Johnson
John Stubblefield
Chris Tice
Andy Young

MINISTERS

Robert Jefferies
Josh Walker