

Northside Church of Christ

“God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”
John 4:24



The “Risk” Of Being A Disciple Of Christ

By Mike Riley

On Saturday morning, February 1, 2003, as most of us were awakening, President George W. Bush spoke seven saddening words to the nation: “The Columbia’s lost. There are no survivors.” When an fiery accident destroyed NASA’s oldest space shuttle moments before the scheduled end of its twenty-eighth voyage, seven people — five men, two women — lost their lives. As one observer noted, “They were just fifteen minutes from home.”

A “Risky” Business

Being an astronaut is a risky profession. Everyone who enters the space program knows and understands this fact. Astronauts recall the Apollo 1 test module fire that took the lives of three astronauts in January 1967, and the explosion of space shuttle Challenger in January 1986 that claimed its seven-member crew. Astronauts know the risks and they willingly accept them.

Virgil “Gus” Grissom, the second American in space and one of the three men killed in the Apollo fire, said, “If we die, we want people to accept it. We’re in a risky business, and we hope that if anything happens to us it will not delay the program. The conquest of space is worth the risk of life.”

Everything In Life Involves Risk

It can be argued that everything in life involves risk. In terms of the danger to physical safety, some courses of action are riskier than others. Strapping oneself to a fuel tank containing one-half million gallons of liquid hydrogen and oxygen definitely qualifies. However, there are different kinds of risk. For example, becoming a Christian carries incredible risk!

“Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword” (Acts 12:1-2).

Continued on next page...

SUNDAY MORNING

Triple E
Edify, Exhort,
Evangelize
8:30 AM

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Thru the Bible in
52 Weeks - Colossians
9:30 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship Service
10:30 AM

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Study of the Book of Acts
7:00 PM

Northside Church of Christ
4217 Highway 39 N
Meridian, MS 39301

Place
Stamp
Here



Please visit our
website
nscocmeridian.com

- Information about our congregation
- Sermon Audio Archives
- Previous Bulletins
- Member Pages



Like our Facebook Page



“Study to shew thyself
approved unto God, a
workman that needeth
not to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word
of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15

There’s Still Time To Obey The Lord

By Mike Riley

Marcus Tullius Cicero, an orator and statesman of ancient Rome once said, “While there’s life, there’s hope.” As Christians, we have the promise and hope of eternal life, because the risen Christ lives (1 Corinthians 15:19-22; 1 John 2:25; 1 Peter 1:3). There are some things in this life, however, that are irreversible, and any hope for change is forever gone. A person may destroy his health by drinking, drugs and immoral living. He may contact a deadly disease such as AIDS so that it becomes too late to live a productive, healthy life because irreparable damage has been done. By immoral living, a person may hurt others so much, that affection and trust are hopelessly destroyed. We see that Paul clearly argues for a time when the hardness of heart will prohibit truth’s effective pricking (2 Thessalonians 2:8-12).

In 1 Timothy 4:2, Paul employs a figure of a hot iron that destroys nerve sensitivity. The conscience can become so seared, that the heart cannot be touched. There are times when we as Christians must make some judgment about the receptiveness of a man’s heart based on his speech and conduct, lest we waste precious time on those who have no interest in God’s truth (cf. John 17:17; Mark 7:21-23; Matthew 10:12-15). However, we should always be ready for every opportunity to teach God’s word (1 Peter 3:15); Colossians 4:6; 2 Timothy 2:25). From man’s perspective, “While there’s life, there’s hope.”

As long as there is life, there is hope, because as long as the world continues, we can correctly interpret existence, as God’s longsuffering (1 Peter 3:20; Genesis 6:3). Our benevolent Creator does not want any man to be lost (2 Peter 3:9) and gives him every conceivable opportunity to respond to His mercy and grace. And, if we look at life from God’s perspective, we will appreciate and use opportunities to obey. However, one should never operate on the assumption that tomorrow will come (James 4:13-14; Job 7:7). Which of us knows when the thief will come? (Matthew 24:42-44). Which of us knows when we shall meet death’s appointment? (Hebrews 9:27).

If we view our lost condition as hopeless, because we think that our sins are so terrible that God will not forgive, then we have missed the point about God’s mercy and grace (Luke 18:13; Hebrews 4:16).

If God could forgive Paul, as a murderer and blasphemer (Acts 7:58; Acts 8:1; Acts 22:1-16; 1 Timothy 1:12-16), He can forgive any man (1 John 1:7; 1 John 1:9). Are you a murderer or a blasphemer? As long as your heart can be “pricked” (Acts 2:37 KJV), you can have remission of and be cleansed from your sins (Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16).

The scenes that touch our hearts the most are those where people, hardened by life, break down and weep uncontrollably before a loving, forgiving Savior. See the immoral woman, who had many sins, weeping and washing Jesus’ feet with her tears and drying them with her hair. The Pharisee seemed to think that there was no hope for such a sinful woman, but Jesus observed that the sinner who has the most to be forgiven, is the transgressor who is the most grateful (Luke 7:36-50).

Dear reader, consider this. While you are alive on this earth, there’s hope, because there is still time to obey the will of the Lord (Matthew 7:21; Ephesians 5:15-17).

But the clock is ticking.

If you haven’t already, won’t you please consider God’s gift of time to you, and obey His truth today? (cf. Acts 8:26-39; Acts 22:1-16). And, like the Ethiopian eunuch, you can go on your way “rejoicing” (Acts 8:39).

The apostle Simon Peter knew this. Jesus told him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish” (John 21:18). With these words, Christ foretold the death Peter would be called upon to die. A Christian preacher named Stephen learned the risk. When he delivered a sermon that angered enemies of the faith, Stephen was beaten to death with stones (Acts 7:57-60). James, the son of Zebedee, learned about risk:

Certainly the apostle Paul knew the risks: beatings, imprisonments, stoning, scourging, shipwreck, and more (2 Corinthians 11:22-26). No one better appreciated the risks of obeying God than the Son of God Himself, who “did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28; Mark 10:45; cf. 1 Timothy 2:6).

Conclusion:

What “risks” might you face as a Christian? No one can say for certain. Jesus acknowledged that some would lose family relationships as a cost of being His disciples (Matthew 10:34-37). Would you accept that risk? Would you accept the risks that Peter, James, Stephen, Paul and countless others (Hebrews 11:35-38) accepted?

Do you believe what Jesus offers is worth the price? Before you answer, know this. As great as the risk of following Jesus is, the risk of not following Him is infinitely greater — “everlasting punishment” (Matthew 25:46). Now ask yourself – are you willing to “risk” that?

Prayer Requests This Week

- Pray for all those with ongoing health ailments (Maxine Powell)
- All those affected by COVID-19
- Greg Powell (recovering knee surgery)
- Ann Lowe (Keren Thrash mom, stroke)
- Caroline Wells (friend of Rowell’s, car wreck)
-
-

Communion Preparation

- Sign up sheet for 2021 is in foyer
- April - Juliano
- May -
- June -

Announcements

- Ladies’ Baby Shower honoring Kylie Joiner, Sunday April 11 immediately following worship service

April Birthdays & Anniversary’s

- None

Sermon Notes



Men to Serve

Announcements/Opening Prayer - Don Potts
 Scripture Reading - Colossians 3:12 - 15
 Lead Singing - Chuck Rowell
 Head of Lord’s Table - Larry Montgomery
 Assist on Lord’s Table - James Johnson
 Scripture Reading - 1 Corinthians 11:23 - 29
 Closing Prayer - Shay Cooper

Every Sunday Morning

@ 8:00 AM

on WTOK-TV



Comcast Cable	6
Comcast Cable	431
Comcast Cable	1011
DirecTV	11
DirecTV	396
Dish Network	11
Over-the-air	11.3