

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mr. Dowling, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Donna Law, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Mrs. Siota, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.
Out of Town: Jared Law and family.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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Whose Disciple Are You?

By Derek Long

The New Testament mentions “disciples” many times. The word “disciple” means a follower or a student of someone. A disciple learns from the one he is seeking to be a disciple or follower of. A disciple when he is perfectly trained according to Jesus becomes just like his teacher (Luke 6:40). A disciple of Christ would be someone who follows His example (Matthew 16:24; Mark 8:34). A disciples of Christ will abide in His word or in other words follow Jesus' teachings (John 8:31). A disciple of Christ is someone who is willing to forsake everything in order to follow Jesus (Luke 14:33). A disciples of Christ bears fruit (John 15:8). Being a disciple yields noticeable results in the life of the individual. Disciples of Christ were given the name Christian which indicates someone who is an imitator of Christ (Acts 11:26).

John 9 tells of Jesus healing a man who was born blind. The Jewish leaders question the healed blind man about how he was healed. The second time they ask him how he was healed the formerly blind man says, “I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?” (John 9:27, NKJV). They respond to the formerly blind man by saying, “You are His disci-

ples, but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from" (John 9:28-29, NKJV). Here we find an instance where people claim to be Moses' disciples instead of being disciples of Christ. A person who truly heeded Moses' teachings would become a believer in Jesus yet these people are unwilling to believe the things Moses wrote about Jesus (John 5:45-47). The fact is demonstrated though by their statement it is possible for a person to be a disciple of someone besides Jesus.

Jesus commanded His disciples before He went back to heaven to, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen" (Matthew 28:19-20, NKJV). Jesus left His disciples to go and make other disciples. Who were these people supposed to be disciples of? Whose disciple are we?

Jesus did not teach His disciples to make people who would be their personal disciples but to make people who would be disciples of Christ. Paul wrote to the Corinthians and was appalled that people were saying, "I am of Paul" (1 Corinthians 1:10-17). In 2 Corinthians 4:5 Paul wrote, "For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake" (NKJV). Paul was not seeking to make people into disciples of himself. Paul was seeking to turn people into disciples of Christ. Such is an important principle we need to remember when we are seeking to teach others the gospel. We do not want to make people into followers of us; we want to make people into followers of Christ.

Asking ourselves the question, "Whose disciple are we?" can be a helpful exercise. Are we simply following the teaching and example of some man whom we look up to for his Bible knowledge and/or godly living? Are we simply accepting what some individual is telling us without testing it by the words of Jesus (Acts 17:11; 1 John 4:1)? Let's make sure the one we are ultimately seeking to imitate is Jesus who is our perfect example (1 Peter 2:21; 1 Corinthians 11:1). It is easy to start elevating men to a position which God has not given them. Remember those who teach you the word of God are just men like you are (Acts 10:25-26). Don't elevate them into the person you are following but always remember to be a follower of Jesus!