

Madison Heights Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

 149 Main Street
Madison Heights, VA 24572

MADISON HEIGHTS MESSENGER

No. 11

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George B. Harris, Minister
Email: bernerdharris@yahoo.com
mhcc16@yahoo.com
Church Telephone: (434) 845-3855
Minister's Telephone: (434) 215-4846

Pam Hubbard
Music Director

Brenda Harris
Administrative Assistant

Dead Right

The focus of the Apostle Paul's theology and ministry is very much applicable to contemporary society. Paul is the ideal pastor because of his commitment to the Lord. He encourages the buildup of the Christian person. He discourages judging, gossip, and engaging in conflict. He believes in a shared ministry where the people join together for the common goal of serving the Lord. He is focused on sharing the Good News for the gospel message to grow. His overall worldview is an attitude of togetherness, acceptance, and devotion to Christ.

The Apostle Paul teaches us to be devoted to Christ. In order to be devoted like he is takes a complete change of the individual being. The Apostle Paul teaches us to surrender from the ways of the world and live our lives devoted to following Jesus. He emphasizes that this results in tremendous joy because the Holy Spirit fills you with wonderful peace and joy.

The Apostle Paul teaches us not to argue over opinions, which are a matter of individualism, what we think is right or wrong, and what we think others should or should not do. Recently I was engaged in a conversation with a member of a denomination that recently split. I told him that disagreements come from individualism. He said "I don't know about that." I didn't have time to engage in full theological discussion with him. The whole of Protestantism is splintered over opinions and individual ideas about how we are to practice our faith. We do this even though Jesus teaches togetherness. We are all to honor the Lord and keep our focus on Jesus and direct our attention to the Lord. If we cannot live our lives by the teachings of Jesus there is no reason to get distracted by other issues. Jesus is the center of our theology. Arguments, complaints, and conflict come from individualism, because it is focused on opinions, emotions, and attitudes. We are to be united together by being focused on Christ. There is one thing we all can agree on - we are to live our lives as Jesus teaches us to live, focused on and following the words and actions of Christ. All problems and division come from human differences of opinion. You may be right and you may be wrong and you may be both partially right and partially wrong.

I learned a valuable lesson from a manager several years ago. I don't remember the details or the problem but I do remember a valuable lesson. He said "George, you are dead right." Then he explained the concept of being dead right. That is when you may be right but you are not achieving anything. You may be able to win the argument but you are in a no win situation. Winning the argument is not in your best interest. It is in your best interest to not try to win the argument but instead, focus on a solution.

You will not be able to remember every specific detail of every lesson ever taught in the Bible, but you can get the big picture. What it means to be a Christian is a changed life that is focused on Jesus. The Holy Spirit fills you and directs you in life and it is a joy to live a life of devotion.

George