

Welcome Visitors,

First, THANK YOU! We are excited to know that you are interested in worshipping God. We want you to feel very welcomed here among our group. Our goal is doing God's will. You will find that our teaching and preaching are strictly from the Bible so we encourage you to open a Bible and follow along as the lessons are presented today.

God's word is the complete guide for our life of service and worship. The all-sufficient word of God—the Bible is what we need (John 8:31-32; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). We desire to help one another in doing God's will. If you are interested in learning more please ask one of our members today.

Main Street Church of Christ Newbern, Tennessee

Schedule Of Services:

Lord's Day:	9:45 a.m.	Bible Study (All ages)
	10:20 a.m.	Morning Worship
	6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship
Wednesday:	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study

Our Elders:

Johnie Dodds
Harry Elliott
Austin Willis

Our Deacons:

Danny Carpenter
Wayne Hulme
Tommy Sawyers

Our Preacher: T. Sean Sullivan

The Gospel Plan

HEAR THE GOSPEL MESSAGE Romans 10:11-16

BELIEVE IT !!! Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:6

REPENT—CHANGE Luke 13:3; 2 Peter 3:9

OPENLY CONFESS—JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD
Romans 10:8-10; Acts 8:37

BE BAPTIZED—FOR REMISSION OF YOUR SINS
Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38-39; 1 Peter 3:21

LIVE ON FAITHFULLY Hebrews 10:35-39 I Peter 1:6-9

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The Main Street Church of Christ

Messenger

1 Thessalonians 1:6-8

Imitating Paul

Introduction:

The most powerful teaching agent is a real-life example. You see someone else accomplish good; you know that you can accomplish the same. Let's consider to consider the example of the Apostle Paul. We need to examine his overall example of service both before coming to the Lord and also as a Christian.

Many of us fail to hand Jesus the key to our life. Some are always holding back for some "just in case" scenario. We do not fully commit "just in case" this is all a joke. We do not fully commit "just in case" the Bible isn't right. Or we do not fully commit "just in case" I will miss some other part of life that may be fun. Let's consider Paul's example of service, and in turn, consider our own.

Paul Demonstrates Commitment

We have to know something about Paul in order to truly establish his case. We are first introduced to him by Luke in Acts 7:58. Paul was a witness to the death of Stephen. Paul was fully committed to his belief. In Acts 8:1-3 we are told that his desire to destroy the church in Jerusalem. Then in Acts 9:1-2 we learn that he was not satisfied with

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running the Christians out of Jerusalem; he pursued them as far as Damascus. This certainly proves his commitment, seeing that Damascus was a trip of 120 miles (North east of Jerusalem).

Paul, was absolutely committed to being an enemy to Christianity, did his utmost to root it out, by persecuting all that embraced it. He had been raised to be devoted to the Jewish faith in every way. He proclaimed himself a blasphemer and a persecutor of those who trusted in Jesus (1 Timothy 1:13). His every motive was against the name of Jesus (Acts 26:9).

In service to Christ, Paul continued to be committed. He was completely committed to the Lord. In Galatians 2:20, he declared, *"It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me"*. He brought the same determination, to his new faith, that he had always shown (Acts 20:31-32; Ephesians 1:15-23).

Paul Demonstrates Courage

Paul had gained a prominent and influential role among the Jews (Acts 22:1-5) Paul would be set for life, his training, his work, his diligence, and all would lead to success among the Jews. He would likely be wealthy and respected. He was willing to give up the status, for Christ (Philippians 3:1-7, 8-15). It was the gospel message that changed his mind and his life when he obeyed. Paul proclaim he was not ashamed of the gospel (Romans 1:16). Paul shows an attitude of assuredness. There was no hesitation, doubt or fear when Paul proclaimed the certainty of his relationship with God through Christ (Romans 8:35-39). There was no hesitation, doubt or fear, when Paul told the Galatians brethren there is no other way (Galatians 1:6-8). His faith was founded on Christ, unwavering to the end. His commitment all the way was a continual reflection of his confidence and courage. There was no hesitation doubt or fear when Paul spoke of his own reward in 2 Timothy 1:12. He was confident that his reward awaiting him and our reward is

waiting for us (2 Timothy 4:6-8).

Are You Courageously Committed?

Have you put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18). Have you prepared to stand and not give up? This commitment requires some change and determination (Romans 12:1-2; Colossians 3:1-10). Do you fully trust the Lord? Paul was willing to give up everything in his life to have the truth (Colossians 2:20). Are you willing to do the same (Matthew 13:43, 44-45). The rewards are great for those who are willing to commit to God. We must put Him first (Matthew 6:33). We must do His will (Matthew 7:21-23). We must remain faithful to Him all the way (Hebrews 10:35-39; Revelation 2:10).

Conclusion:

Paul leaves us an example of confident, fearless commitment to God. We must put away the doubt that is holding us back from committed service. Paul gave everything he had; we are expected to do the same. Work to the fullest of our ability (Matthew 13:8 some 30, 60, 100 fold). Trust God! Trust and do His is will. His rewards are yours, if you will.
