

#1. "Christ Above All" - Sermon

CHRIST ABOVE ALL

June 7, 1959

Scripture Matthew 19:16-32

In preparing my sermon I thought of the tremendous heat of most summer Sundays and remembered my very limited preaching experience. With these thoughts in mind I have shortened my sermon and I only hope you can bear with me for the next 5 or 10 minutes of worship.

It is the purpose of the M.Y.F. and should be the purpose of all christians to place "Christ Above All." Everything that we do or say or think should be done--if we are Christians--in a Christ-like spirit. Our lives should not and cannot be broken down into distinct divisions so that here we live as a businessman, here we live as a father, and over here we live as a church member. It is impossible to dissect a person's daily living and to place on each compartment a type of behavior. Our lives are like the tones of a piano or organ. When they stand apart they are nothing. But when we are willing to let Christ, the mast organist, flutter his fingers accross the keyboard of our lives then, we shall live in harmonay with both man~~d~~ and God.

This past winter I worked as a salesman in and around the city of Buckhannon. While visiting in the homes of both city and rural people I became aware of a constant bickering among these two groups as to which one had true religion. The rural person pointed out that in the city church you don't have a chance to praise the Lord or to express your feelings by shouting "A-men" or "Halleluia". He said that "you couldn't serve a Lord that you didn't praise." The city individual stated that rather than shouting he spent his church time silently and seriously listening to and thinking about

the word of God. He said "that he praised his Lord by serving him."

These argument and discussions at that time interested me very little. This morning as I stand before you they interest me even less. Because I'm not worried about who has true religion. I feel both of these groups have good points and each in their own way serve and praise their Lord. However, there is something that worried me then and still worries me this morning. That something is the members of these same two groups who refuse to value "Christ Above All." The member of the rural church who praises his Lord on Sunday but the night before defiles his God with acts of drunkenness, words of hatred, or merely the picturing of shady thoughts. I'm worried about the member of the city church who half-heartedly serves his Lord. The man who attendeds church on Sunday but refuses to return that evening to worship with the youth. Today I'm speaking in a city church and I'm worried about you and you and all of you for I feel that within this groups are people who think they do, but will not place "Christ Above All."

Today's scripture reading points up the example of an individual who placed his material possessions above his faith in Christ.

I think all will agree that this church is materially wealthy. We have a new educational building--almost paid for. Our minister recieves the larest, if not the largest salary. <sup>one of</sup> Most of the members have sufficient incomes. Yet this church with all of its wealth and a membership well over 900 gave only \$40 to the African missions. Why is it that the Lubeck charge with  $\frac{1}{4}$  as many members turn in an offering 4 times the amount of ours. I know some of you are saying that the offering was taken at the end

of the conference year and there were so many other bills--but may friends, the members of the Lubeck charge were saying the same thing about their bills and yet they turned in their allotted "200.

Last December I stood before you and told you it was the God-given duty for you as Christians to pray for tomorrows Mr. and Mrs. United States. I challenged the members of this church to give the greated gift of all--a loving heart and a thoughtful <sup>prayer</sup>--to their students and future leaders. If I were to ask all those who have included the names of students within their prayers throughout the past week to stand I'm afraid the response would be quite small. There are people with<sup>i</sup>n this church that think they do, but will not give their all for Christ. I'm reminded of may childhood days----playing church. *Build up walls and then when my sister laughed at my sermon I would kick down the walls ~~up~~, hurt my toes, + go saying to Mother.*

This is exactly what has happened here at St. Pauls. Men and women because they haven't gotten their own way <sup>try</sup> ~~try~~ to tear down the walls of the church. They dislike the minister, they don't agree with the official board, they don't, they don't, they don't, and whenthey realize they are only hurting themselves they run away telling ridiculous tales about how St. Pauls is being run. "When I was a child I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things."

I'n this short period I have pointed up 3 instances where the members of this church have gone flat when the master organist pressed a key. The first was not giving to the African missions, the second was the failure to continually pray for the youth, and finally some of our members refuse to give Christ their faithful presence.

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Don't misunderstand me. I'm not condemning you--how could I condemn my own parents and loved ones, the very people whose influence resulted in my ministry. No it is not my purpose to condemn but to remind you that "Christ is not valued at all unless he is valued above all."

Prayer--Our loving and eternal Father, we thank thee for the gift of ~~the~~ Thy Son Jesus. Help us to value Him above all other things. Guide us Lord along life's pathway. Guard us from the evils of temptation and gird us onward for the bettering of Thy earthly kingdom, for we ask it in Christ's name. Amen.

# 2. # 2.  
**St. Paul's Methodist Church**

**Parkersburg, W. Va.**

**JENNINGS H. FAST, D. D., MINISTER**

**MRS. MILLARD D. HESS, ORGANIST**

**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**June 7, 1959**

**MORNING WORSHIP — TEN-FIFTY O'CLOCK**

**(ENTER THE SANCTUARY IN SILENCE AND WITH REVERENT, PRAYERFUL EXPECTANCY)**

PRELUDE	"In Summer"	Stebbins
HYMN No. 267		"Rise Up, O Men of God"
AFFIRMATION OF FAITH	"The Apostles' Creed"	Page 512
ANTHEM:	"Father Eternal"	G. F. Handel
RESPONSIVE READING	"The Law of Christ"	Page 591
GLORIA PATRI		Page 569
LESSON FROM THE HOLY SCRIPTURE		Matthew 19:16-22
ANTHEM	"Lord, While For All Mankind We Pray"	Eric Thiman
PASTORAL PRAYER		
THE LORD'S PRAYER		
OFFERTORY ANTHEM:	"Blessed Jesus"	Bodycombe
THE DOXOLOGY		No. 616
THE MESSAGE		Samuel E. Starling
HYMN No. 225		"Take My Life"
SILENT PRAYER		
BENEDICTION		
POSTLUDE	"Grand Choeur No. 1 in C"	Cesar Franck

**Candlelighters**

**Stephen B. Thompson, Jr., and Benton Edward Hess**

**Ushers**

**Harold St. Clair, Leo Epler, Clyde Fry, Wm. Jacobs, Leonard Shears, P. H. Mills,  
T. B. Stephens, Harold A. Hupp**

## CHURCH CALENDAR

### TODAY

- 9:30 Church School.  
10:45 A Church Nursery is provided for pre-school children, Mrs. Frank Savage is in charge.  
10:50 Public Worship. The speaker at worship is Samuel E. Starling, a student at West Virginia Wesleyan who is studying for the ministry and will be our director of youth activity during the summer. He is a member of the church and we are most happy to have him serving in this capacity.  
2:30 Senior MYF. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Reynolds and their daughter Sandra will be hosts to the Senior MYF for a swimming party at their home, No. 3 Parkview Drive. Members will bring their own buns and wieners.  
6:30 Intermediate Methodist Youth Fellowship.

### TUESDAY

- 8 p.m. The Naomi Circle, Mrs. James Wile chairman, will meet in the Church Parlor.  
8 p.m. Mrs. A. O. Humbertson requests that all members of the new Deborah Circle meet in the Fellowship Hall for organization.

### WEDNESDAY

- 1:30 The Miriam Circle, Mrs. W. F. Hines chairman, will meet with Mrs. J. R. Utterback, 1817 Park Avenue.  
7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal.

### THURSDAY

- 7:30 All Commissions of the church will meet for organization. Mr. W. H. Milligan, presiding.

### YOUTH ACTIVITY

The following seniors were present in church last Sunday to receive Bibles presented with the best wishes of their church: Terrie Cramer, Theda Kibler, Julia Hall, David Heatwole, Martha McCuskey.

The following officers of the Senior Methodist Youth Fellowship were installed at the morning worship last Sunday: Pres., Sandra Reynolds; Vice Pres., Becky Herdman; Secretary, Pam Lantz; Treasurer, Robert Dawson; MYF Fund Treas., Freddie Pat Sammarco. Program Area Chairmen: Faith Sally McCue; Witness, Pat Webb; Outreach, Joe Kibler; Citizenship, Rex Booher; Fellowship, Jay Fast; Publicity, Bob Epler. Miss Harriet Stalder is counsellor for the group.

Saturday, June 13th, the Senior M.Y.F. will have a "car wash". Please contact Julia Hall GA 8-1493 or Sandra Reynolds GA 8-2321 for car reservations. Price \$1.

- June 8-13 Older Youth Work Camp, Conference Training Center, Spencer, W. Va.  
June 17-20 Youth Annual Conference — West Virginia Wesleyan Buckhannon.  
June 22-27 First Senior Assembly — West Virginia Wesleyan Buckhannon.  
June 29 - July 4 Second Senior Assembly — West Virginia Wesleyan Buckhannon  
July 6-11 Officers Training Workshop, Camp Caesar (ages 15 through 23).  
July 19-24 St. Paul's Youth Activities Week.  
July 27-31 District Senior Youth Fellowship Camp, Crossroads.  
August 3- 8 District Intermediate Youth Fellowship Camp, Crossroads.  
August 24-28 National Convocation Methodist Youth, Purdue University.  
August 27-29 Conference on Church Related Vocations, West Virginia Wesleyan.

### OFFICERS — METHODIST MEN

President .....	Bryan Conner
Vice President .....	Ira McDowell
Secretary .....	J. D. Spainhour
Treasurer .....	Jack Rader
Reporter .....	A. O. Humbertson

### CONGRATULATIONS

Best wishes, Dana Lorii Worden, born May 28th, the first daughter and third child of Dr. and Mrs. Donza T. Worden, Dutch Ridge.

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL JULY 20 - 31