

The purpose of this class is NOT to make preachers, teachers or elders out of all who attend. We would encourage each one be attentive to developing and improve themselves in each area that we will study. Even though you may not have a desire to preach, teach or serve as an elder today, by learning more about those positions you can assist those men who serve to achieve greater result, giving God the glory. As time, circumstances and maturity comes your way many things you can learn here in this class may become very important in your growth as a Christian. The Lord expects His people to conduct their worship services with a degree of refinement and respect. Proverbs 9:9 NKJV 9 Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.

***Always prepare mentally, physically & spiritually for every service!***

### ***DRESS AND ACT REVERENTLY***

1 Peter 1:13 WEB 13 Therefore, **prepare your minds for action**, be sober and set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ--

### **Goals for this class**

1. To help each person to learn to serve the Lord and to serve this congregation, more effectively by have a fuller understanding of working together to reduce the distractions that can occur without good coordination as we go through the worship service.
2. To help each of us to improve the way we serve but also have a better understanding of why we are doing the things we do and giving us a higher level of confidence in our abilities to serve.
3. To help each of us to be prepared to recognize opportunities to work and serve. To be “ready onto every good work” [Titus 3:1]
4. To help each of us be convinced that we are neither too young nor too old to develop into a more useful servant in the kingdom.
5. To help each of us to overcome the fear of failure this is nearly always the greatest hindrance to try new opportunities. Many people do not realize that the greatest failure is not trying at all. When we give God our best effort we will never fail. By making an effort to serve we succeed, and with each opportunity grow a little stronger and the less we fail. Instead of suffering from embarrassment when a mistake is made, we will soon find ourselves accepting each error as a challenge to do better next time with great effort, practice & determination.

### The essentials to Christian service

1. **Christian character**—As we prepare for **greater** service to the Lord, it is well to consider some of the things that are essential to serving in the worship services. As a member of the body of Christ earnestly endeavoring to live a Christian life, publicly serving the congregation is a form of leadership. Our lives must reflect the teachings of Paul, 1 Timothy 4:16 NKJV 16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you. Without pure godly lives we will become a stumbling block in our service and detract from the worship service to God. Acts 20:28 NKJV 28 "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. In both references emphasis is placed on personal living. The proper place to begin an effort to develop as a servant of Christ is with Christian living. Every act of service will carry greater weight when those in the audience have confidence in you because of your demonstration of love, zeal and devotion to God. Remember NO distractions!
2. **Knowledge of the truth.** Each of us started as “babies in Christ”, having an understanding of the “elementary principles” [Heb. 5: 11-14] in need of milk, not solid food. Part of this class will be to advance each of us into more solid food, becoming more mature by practice and training our senses for greater service to the Lord. Unless we continue to grow every day [2 Peter 3:18 NKJV 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.], we are drifting back toward the need for milk, not meat. With the instructions in this class, encouragement from each other we can improve our skills which will lead to more successful experience in the application of what is learned in the worship services.
3. **Dedicated service.** There are 456 verses in the bible that refer to the term “servant”, many of those refer to being a “servant of the Lord”, Joshua 1:13 refers to Moses as the servant of the Lord, Numbers 14:24 to Caleb, 1 Sam 3:10 the boy, Samuel said “speak Lord your servant hears”, 1Kings 11:32 refers to David. In the New Testament Christ set the tone in. Luke 16:33—no man can serve 2 masters, but we must servants of Christ in all that we do. Paul, Peter, James, John, Jude and Phoebe were all called servants in the kingdom, but more importantly Christ is called a servant [Acts 3:13] setting the example for us to follow.

4. **Christ's Slave**- We were brought with a price-Romans 6:22 NKJV 22 But now having been set free from sin, and having become **slaves of God**, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

A slave is had no opportunity to choice his way of life, but was totally under the control of the master. It would follow that a **slave of Christ** would also be totally under the control of his master Jesus Christ.

1Pet. 1:17-19 having said in the previous verse “be holy for I am Holy”, the writer proceeds to explain in the rest of the chapter why this is important. Because of the impending judgment before an impartial judge, on our own works, **conduct** yourselves in fear while you live on earth. We were not redeemed with earthly [material] things, but with the very blood of Christ, the unblemished, spotless sacrifice of the Son of God. With verse 22 Peter directs this thought to us----- 1 Peter 1:22-23 NKJV 22 Since you have **purified** your souls in **obeying the truth** through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, 23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, let's look at where we are in our life, because of Christ's sacrifice, our souls have been purified, because of obedience to the truth, Peter now instructs us love one another fervently. Just as Jesus instructed in Matt. 22:38-39, the success of this class will depend on how well we demonstrate the *kind of love* for one another that Jesus spoke of in this passage, coupled with dedication and commitment to serving the living God.

1. What does it mean to be more effective in our service to God?
2. What is required to be ready for “every good work”?
3. What is the greatest fear that most have when trying something new? Why?
4. Describe Character? Christian Character?
5. What is Paul's emphasis in 1 Tim. 4:16?
6. How do we move from a milk diet to Meat?
7. Can we drift back to a milk diet? Luke 16:13
8. Where did the idea of redeeming with physical things come from?
9. How do we purify our souls?
10. What should the end result of our purification be while here on earth?