

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:

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

#### *Our Elders:*

**Johnie Dodds  
Harry Elliott  
Austin Willis**

#### *Our Deacons:*

**Danny Carpenter  
Wayne Hulme  
Tommy Savyers**

*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**

**mainstreetcofc.com**

The Main Street Church of Christ

# Messenger

1 Thessalonians 1:6-8

## Discovering Selflessness

### Introduction:

The determining factor in our successful bonding as a family will come down to our willingness as individuals to look beyond self. Paul, in his discussion of brotherly love, in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, tells us in verse 5, that one who practices brotherly love does not seek their own. This is the character of selflessness.

It is important to have a sense of purpose and fulfillment in this life. In Christ we have both purpose to accomplish and fulfillment through the accomplishment of our given purpose. So we are set out on a search for greater commitment. We must be committed to doing God's will; committed to becoming a better servant; and committed to discovering the blessings of selflessness.

Please read on and consider in more details some examples of selflessness so that we might determine how we can become selfless.

### Willing to Live the Paradox

Today's world provides plenty of motivation for not trusting others and focusing on self. This pollution must be blocked from our hearts—since it is not the way of Christ. Jesus, in Matthew 10:39, teaches this great paradox: "He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it." To find fulfillment in one's

**Vol. Six Issue Two (B) February 14, 2010**

---

self, one must deny self (Matthew 16:24)—this is the only way we find the true blessings of selflessness. We will never be benefitted as well if we resist God and focus on self.

Paul is an example of this selfless living. He willingly persevered through great punishments for the gospel cause (2 Corinthians 11:22-27). Paul faced these challenges—come what may—because he knew the greater need beyond self (Romans 8:18; 2 Timothy 1:11-12). His motivation was not glory for self; it was for God and for us as Christians that he gave of self.

The greatest example of selflessness is undeniably Jesus. We certainly understand His commitment to the Father (John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38). It is clear that even in the face of threat and harm Jesus denied self for something greater—He remained committed to God (1 Peter 2:20-23). Paul declares the extent of Christ's selflessness—even the death of the cross (Philippians 2:1-8). All of this for others not Himself (Romans 5:6-11)

### **We Must First Be Committed to God**

As we continue to dig deeper we become aware of the brethren in Macedonia as an example of selflessness (2 Corinthians 8:1-4). Paul speaks of their generosity—they were willing to give beyond their ability (v. 3). Paul provides one point of background information to explain their zeal—they *“first gave themselves to God”* (2 Corinthians 8:5). When we get our hearts right with God we will gain the proper perspective toward all of our relationships.

Paul clearly demonstrates a proper attitude toward self. We see this when we think about his expression of selflessness in Galatians 2:20. There he says, *“No longer I who live but Christ lives in me”*. Then he commends selflessness to all of us in Colossians 3:1-4 where he says that we should give up the pursuits of this life's lust and focus on *“Christ who is our life”*.

When we live with a focus on pleasing God we will have a different view of selflessness. Our new perspective enables us to fulfill our role in practicing God's will. We will more eagerly work toward meeting the needs of our brethren (Ephesians 4:13-16) and our fellow man (Mark 16:15-

---

16).

### **We Must Be Willing to Serve**

In meeting the needs of brethren and others we must know that selfless servitude is a requirement of our role. Both as Christians (Matthew 16:24) personally, and as brothers or sisters in Christ mutually (Romans 12:9-15) we need to be servants.

We have been blessed with fellow Christians who have set this example for us. Consider Epaphroditus who was such a servant (Philippians 2:25-30). He was willing to give, nearly to the extent of His life, for the furtherance of the gospel. Then also the three men whom Paul considers “sons”. Timothy was a servant to the church; a willing minister of God's word (2 Timothy 4:1-5). Titus diligently served the Lord and the brethren—building them up and ensuring their complete scriptural organization—(Titus 1:4-5). Onesimus diligently served Paul while in prison (Philemon 10-13). Service is the way of selflessness—it is not easy but it is essential (1 Peter 5:6).

### **Conclusion:**

The determining factor in our successful bonding as a family will come down to our willingness as individuals to look beyond self. Paul in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 tells us that one who practices brotherly love does not seek their own—this is the character of selflessness.

With hearts determined to take on selflessness. We will have a greater commitment to God's will. We will become a better servant. We will discover greater blessings.

To become a Christian is an act of selflessness. We must admit our need and look to some One greater to supply and we must humbly accept His supply. Are you ready to find the true fulfillment of a greater purpose in life? The secret of success is selflessness. ~tss

---