



**“I shall always be ready to remind you of these things...” 2 Peter 1:21**

## The Importance of Christian Service

By Alex Hale

An edition of *Psychology Today* dealt with discovering true happiness. According to the author, research showed that people have a very poor ability to predict what will bring them satisfaction. Many times, what people are so sure will fulfill them does no such thing.

It seems to me that psychologists are discovering what the Bible has always taught (Prov. 14:12; Eccl. 2:10-11; Mt. 16:25). True happiness comes, not when we seek it, but rather when we forsake it for a higher call. Yet isn't it interesting that in the church – the very place where we remember Christ's sacrifice, witness baptisms which signify death to self, and hear lessons about self-denial – we find ourselves so “me-centered”?

We have been trained by our culture to be “professional consumers” and we have a hard time keeping that attitude out of the church. Many people approach church like they go to the movies, giving a two-thumbs up or two-thumbs down critique. We sit in worship like we sit in a restaurant, wondering what's on the menu for me. No wonder, after being “in church” for years, so many are not fulfilled. Church doesn't make them happy anymore.

Rather than being concerned about our own personal preferences, God expects us as His children to find our place to serve others. We are needed! As Jesus said, “...*the laborers are few*” (Mt. 9:37). What does a true servant look like?

***The heart of a servant.*** A true servant is motivated to serve by God's mercy. A true servant remembers that he or she is undeserving of God's grace (1 Tim. 1:12-13). They in turn seek to bless others in similar ways. A true servant's

heart is motivated to serve for God's glory, not their own.

***The mind of a servant.*** We are not to think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think, but we are to possess a humble spirit (Rom. 12:3; Phil 2:5-8). We should not serve based upon an ulterior motive. We should not serve to be seen of men. Even if no one notices, the true servant still goes about his or her business the way God desires.

***The hands of a servant.*** Scripture talks about each individual having a role in the body of Christ (Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12). Nobody can do everything. Not everyone does the same thing well. But each of us can do something.

- ***What are your gifts?*** What comes naturally to you? This is your starting place to begin using what God has given you for the benefit of others.
- ***What are your abilities?*** What have you learned to do? If you are not able to do something, you will not be held accountable for it (Mt. 10:42). However, if we neglect to nurture what we have the ability to do, we will be punished (see Mt. 25:14-30).
- ***What are your passions?*** What do you enjoy doing? The psalmist writes, “*Serve the LORD with gladness...*” (Psa. 100:2). Doing God's work should bring us the most joy.
- ***What needs to be done?*** Scripture says that Jesus “*did not come to be served, but to serve...*” (Mk. 10:45). Is this our attitude? Do we look for chances to serve? Do we wait for others to serve us? Look for a need – and then figure out how you can meet it! “*Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest*” (Jn. 4:35)!

### CABOT WESTSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

1017 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. (Old Hwy. 367)  
Cabot, AR 72023  
cabotwestsidechurchofchrist.com

#### When We Meet

##### Sunday

Bible Classes – 9:00 am

Worship – 10:00 am, 5:00 pm

##### Wednesday

Bible Classes – 7:00 pm

#### Our Elders

R.D. Hopper

Norman Kemper

#### Our Preacher

Alex Hale

