



THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD

CHRIST THE LORD PARISH

1-5 ADMIRALITY ROAD, LEKKI PHASE 1, LEKKI

THEME: DIVINE VICTORY

DIGGING DEEP

TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2025

TOPIC: CLARIFYING MISCONCEPTIONS CHRISTENDOM

TEXT: John 5:39

INTRODUCTION: John 5:39, As believers, we are admonished to ensure we search the scriptures; according to **Charles Spurgeon**; **"The devil's effective strategy is not to attack the church directly, but to infiltrate it with false teaching and corrupt practices..."**, knowing this will help us contend more for our faith. This knowledge will guide us from becoming victims of misconceptions that can derail us from the path of truth. If these misconceptions are not addressed, it has the potential of becoming the truth, which will erode the ancient landmarks and lead many away from the faith. Teaching on misconceptions can be controversial, but the true church must be consistent by standing against it. Whatever is not prohibited is permitted!

As we continue in this series, may the Spirit of Christ guide us into all truth in Jesus name, Amen.

OUTLINE 1: WE WILL GET TO HEAVEN BASED ON HOW GOOD WE ARE ON EARTH: Eph. 2:8-9, 2 Tim 1:9, 1Tim.1:1, Titus 3:5, Romans 3:23, John 14:6, Acts 4:12, James 1:17, 2:17, Matt 7:16-20, 5:48, Heb 12:14

Salvation is by grace through faith and not by works, it is the gift of God so that none can boast. Christ saved us not because of good works done by us but according to **his own** mercy. We cannot get to Heaven based on the good works we have done. The Bible makes it clear; **for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God**. Jesus is **the only way, the only truth and the only life** to heaven. There is **no salvation** in no else and **the only name under heaven** given amongst men by which we must be saved. Good works are a result of salvation and evidence of genuine faith, not a means of salvation and passport to Heaven. A transformed life bears good works, for by their fruits you shall know them. God's standard for Heaven is **Holiness without which no man can see God**

Key point: Romans 3:10, Isa 64:6b - None is righteous no not one, therefore, relying on good will fail

OUTLINE 2: SHOULD A BELIEVER ALLOW HIS OR HER RELIGIOUS PRACTICES TO IMPART ADVERSELY ON PAID EMPLOYMENT: COLLOSAINS 3:23-24, MATT 5:16, TITUS 2:9-10, Matt 6:33, Col. 3:23, Romans 12:18, Acts 5:29, 1Peter 2:12, 1 Tess.4:11-12, Phil. 4:5

The relationship between religious practices and employment can sometimes create conflict, and maintaining a balance requires tact and wisdom. The Bible provides principles to guide believers on how to resolve conflict without compromising their faith and professional responsibilities.

1. Prioritize God, be wise and respectful; your ultimate allegiance is to God, it does not mean disregarding work.
2. Work diligently as an act of worship and don't give your employer a reason to criticize your faith
3. Avoid becoming a conduit for sin in the hands of your employers and above reproach (lying, defraud)
4. Be an example of integrity in work ethics so that our faith becomes attractive to our colleagues
5. Be diligent and don't use faith as an excuse for poor performance

Key Point: James 1:5, Wisdom is profitable; however, be loyal to God, He remains faithful as a great rewarder

OUTLINE 3: VIOLENT PRAYERS ARE ALWAYS ANSWERED: MATT 11:12, LUKE 18:1-8, 1 JOHN 5:14-15, Matt 11:7-11,16-19, HEB. 11:6, PHIL 3:12-14, JUDE 1:1-3, ISA. 59:1, ROMANS 9:15-16, ECCL. 9:11, LUKE 11:1-5

What does violent prayer mean? This belief is one of the most debated practices, a very controversial and grave misconception that has eaten deep into Christendom due to the misunderstanding of Jesus' reference to and praise of John the Baptist and wrongly interpreted that **the louder you shout while praying, the faster God will answer your prayers**. There are two sources of violence concerning the kingdom of God: **from the world through persecution and from believers through Zeal** (faith, teaching and perseverance).

Christ's model of prayer is devoid of shouting but full of reference, worship and love. Our Father who hath in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come...

If shouting was required, the master would have instructed us to follow suit but admonished us not be like the Pharisees and Sadducees. The kingdom of God is not for the weak in heart but for the strong. It is **mercy** that speaks and covers the multitude of our iniquity. Shouting to God to answer us is a sign that we are far from Him. We do not shout at those we love!

Key Point: Ps 51: 17, Luke 18:10-14, A broken and a contrite heart is a gem to God

CONCLUSION: 2 Tim 2:15, Titus 3:8, Constant study of and meditation on the scriptures and obedience to instructions thereby will help us not to become victims of misconceptions.