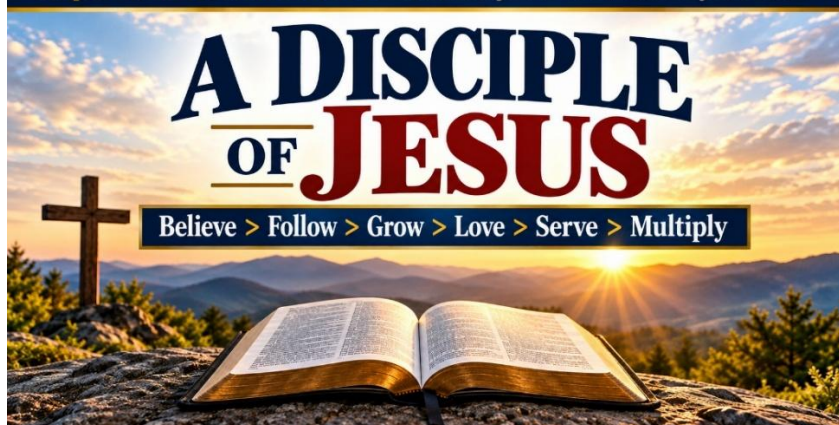


Saturday, 9/26/26 at 4:00 | Sunday, 9/27/26 at 9:00

Important Sermon Series - Saturdays at 4:00, Sundays at 9:00



Part 2 – Grow and Love

Text: NAS 2020

Introduction

Dear friends: This is part 2 of a sermon series on BEING A DISCIPLE OF JESUS.

Reminders from part 1:

- Christians and Disciples are THE SAME!
- In the NT: **Christian: 3 times**; **Disciple: over 250 times!**
- We began a **12-part definition of a disciple**, focusing on the topics of BELIEVE and FOLLOW, **parts 1-4**:
 1. A disciple believes in Jesus Christ!
 2. A disciple has been baptized into Christ!
 3. A disciple continues in Christ's word!
 4. A disciple learns from Jesus!

Today: The topics are GROW and LOVE, **parts 5-8**.



5 – A Disciple Knows and Treasures God's Word

Psalm 119:11 “Your word I have treasured [*highly valued*] in my heart, That I may not sin against You.” // Disciples treasure God’s word **more** than temporal sinful pleasures.

Colossians 3:16 “Let the word of Christ richly [*abundantly*] dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” // The word imparts wisdom, caution, advice, and encouragement, which moves us to give thanks in our hearts to God.

6 – A Disciple Denies Self and Follows Jesus

Luke 9:23 [Jesus said:] “If anyone wishes to come after Me [as My disciple], he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.” // The life of being a disciple of Jesus:

- **Deny self** – say “no” to our will.
- **Take up cross daily** – willing to bear the suffering and loss that come with faithfully following Christ, even death.
- **Follow Jesus** – say “yes” to His will as we live our daily lives.

7 – A Disciple Lives for Christ rather than Self

2 Corinthians 5:15 “[Jesus] died for all [*for everyone*], so that they who live [that is, spiritually, by grace through faith] might no longer live for themselves [*following their own desires*], but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.” // Due to sin – inherited and committed, we were spiritually dead and hell-bound **but now**, THROUGH JESUS, we are ***spiritually alive*** and ***heaven-bound***. So, as He died for us, let us live for Him.

8 – A Disciple Loves God and Neighbor

Matthew 22:37 [Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 6:5:] “**YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.**”

- **HEART** – *what I love and desire*
- **SOUL** – *who I am and how I live*
- **MIND** – *what I think and believe*

Matthew 22:39 [Jesus quoted Leviticus 19:18:] “**YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.**” // So, how do we love ourselves? We see our needs and try to satisfy them:

- **Hungry** – *we seek food*
- **Cold** – *we seek more clothes*
- **Confused** – *we seek truth*
- **Guilty** – *we seek forgiveness*

Therefore, let us pay attention to others and seek their good in body and soul—✦helping with physical needs, ✦speaking God’s truth, and ✦sharing Christ’s forgiveness and hope.

Conclusion: None of the **12 points** earn salvation. We are justified by grace through faith in Christ alone. Wherever the 12 points are true in our lives, ***let us rejoice***, and wherever we are falling short, ***let us repent!***

Let Us Pray: Dear Lord Jesus, we are so blessed to be Your disciples! Please help us, *by the Holy Spirit*, to ✦gladly know and treasure Your word, ✦deny our sinful desires, ✦follow Your holy desires, ✦live for you – ***in response to You living and dying for us***, and ✦rightly love You and all others!