

# PARK HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

1301 E. Boynton St. • Hamilton • [www.parkheightscoc.com](http://www.parkheightscoc.com)

## *Thus Saith the Lord* **CHOOSE TO CHANGE**

By Jeff Sweeten

I cannot imagine the expression on their faces. The Pharisees and leaders of the synagogue had handed Jesus the Old Testament. He read Isaiah's prophecy of the Messiah and how He would set captive hearts free from their sin. *"Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down... (and said)... Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."* I am sure you could have heard a pin drop with that "mike drop" statement! Sad to say, it wasn't long after this very incident that these same leaders, in a fit of rebellion and with a mob mentality, crucified the Christ. They did not want to hear what He had to say, no matter how wonderful the Good News; they chose not to change. Ironically, people to this day have not changed.

Jesus offers exclusivity to an egalitarian, pluralistic culture, claiming that there is only one way and that He is that only way: *"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me'"* (John. 14:6). People refuse Him to follow Buddha, Mohammed or some glitzy "pastor" with the latest in flavor-of-the-month, feel-good message that invites the lost soul to be happy where they are, believe the lie that one is fine where they are and God will accept you as is. Jesus, in contrast, draws discernible lines of fellowship: *"He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad"* (Matthew 12:30). This defines exclusivity!

The only option Jesus gives a person is change. John the Immerser confronted the arrogance of religious leaders, inviting them to *"bear fruits worthy of repentance"* (Matthew 3:8). Peter told sinners to *"repent and be baptized"* (Acts 2:38). And, Paul told Christians, *"do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind"* (Romans 12:2). Change is the nature of godly living, that we *"may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ"* (Ephesians 4:15).

What is critical to understand, however, is that with Jesus there is no fence to ride, no neutral position, no middle ground. And, whether you like only two, simple options or not isn't really relevant. All that matters is that you choose to change.

**JOIN US ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY!**

**SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study • 10:25 a.m. Morning Worship • 1:30 p.m. Bible Study**

**WEDNESDAY: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study • Contact the minister at 254-370-4130**