

# ONWORD

A weekly publication of the Enterprise Church of Christ

## Sunday Series:

During Sunday morning worship services in August: "Un-Defeated: The Life of Gideon" (Judges 6 - 8).

On Sunday evenings: "The Church at Antioch: The First Christians," based on Acts 11:19-30; and chapters 13 & 15.

## Fifth Sunday Fun Nite:

We will have "Back to School" food and fun in the fellowship hall after services on Sunday night, August 31.

## Join us:

### Sundays

Bible class, 9 am

Morning worship, 10 am

Evening worship, 5:30 pm

### Wednesdays

Midweek Bible study, 7 pm

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## Hands to the Plow

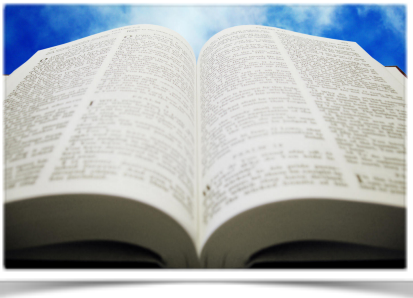
By Jay Tidwell

In the Sunday School text for August 10 (**Luke 9:51-62**), Jesus explained that His disciples must be dedicated to His service, like a farmer is to his fieldwork: "And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (**Luke 9:62**).

The passage describes three encounters as Jesus traveled to Jerusalem, which address the level of intensity the Lord expects in His followers:

### *Jesus is firm about His decision to sacrifice Himself.*

If you've ever been lost in thought as you traveled, and couldn't remember passing a familiar place along the way, you can identify with what Luke said about Jesus. He is headed to Jerusalem "to be received up" (verse 51), which is referring to His crucifixion. As He passed through a village in Samaria, the inhabitants did not receive Him "because His face was set for the journey to



## Question of the Week: Do Christians worship on the Sabbath day?

No. Under prior religious systems, God's people observed the seventh day of the week (Saturday) as a day of holy rest. The word "sabbath" means "rest." There were other "sabbath" days under the Law of Moses which were tied to religious festivals. Jesus instituted a new covenant for God's people. The prior religious systems were "nailed to His cross" (**Col. 2:14**), and His "New Testament" took effect after His death (**Heb. 9:15-17**). The Ten Commandments and the rest of the Law of Moses was fulfilled in Christ (**Matt. 5:17; Rom. 7:4, 7**). In the New Testament, Jesus' followers gathered on "the first day of the week" for worship (**Acts 20:7**). They assembled to pray and study Scripture (**Acts 2:42-47**); sing (**Eph. 5:19**); observe the Lord's Supper (**Acts 20:7**); and take up a financial collection for church work (**I Cor. 16:1-2**). The first day of the week was referred to as "the Lord's day" (**Rev. 1:10**).

-Jay Tidwell

Jerusalem" (verse 53). Jesus had the rare burden of knowing ahead of time where and when He was going to die, yet He is going there anyway. The trip was not easy.

*Jesus is firm about how His followers should treat those who insult Him.*

James and John were irritated by the inhospitable treatment by the Samaritans, and asked Jesus if they should pray for "fire to come down from heaven and consume them" (verse 54). Jesus sternly corrected them, and explains that He "did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them" (verse 56). The truth should always be presented with love (**Eph. 4:15**),

*Jesus is firm about the type of dedication required to be His disciple.*

As the journey continued, Jesus encountered three who claimed they wanted to be His followers, but their resolve was shallow. One didn't understand how difficult it would be (verses 57-58). Another said he needed to attend a funeral first (verses 59-60). A third said he needed to tell his family goodbye (verses 61-62). Jesus perceived that none of them were truly ready to follow Him. None of those things, in themselves, were sinful, but in the context of what Jesus was facing, they were less pressing.

When we turn our lives over to the Lord, serving Him becomes a blessing rather than a burden.

