**Matthew**

*Helping Us Focus – Part II*

*Matthew 16:13 – 16:28*

Constantly Meditate on Who Christ Is

* NOTE: DON”T focus on not doing wrong! FOCUS ON CHRIST!

Remember That Christ is Our Foundation and the Source of All Blessing

We must obey God even if we don’t understand or agree with Him! (v 20)

* Background – What was Jesus going with the instruction not to tell anyone that He was the Christ?
  + He was only instructing the 12 apostles
  + Early on, he told others not to tell of His miracles
  + ONLY in this instance does He instruct the APOSTLES to tell no man that He was Jesus the Christ!
  + Why
* Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established. (Prov 16:3)
* 5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. (Prov 3:5-6)
* Examples (Good and Bad)
  + Noah and the Ark
  + Abraham and Isaac
  + Lot’s wife – Don’t look back!
  + Moses – Speak to the rock!
  + Joshua and the Battle of Jericho
  + Daniel, the apostles, Jesus (Not my will but thine)
  + Jonah – Go!
* Basics of Christianity
  + Bible – Feast on the Word of God
  + Prayer – Without Ceasing
    - NOTE: If we neglect the first two, we will become weary!
  + Church –
  + Great Commission – Teach the Lost and Saved
  + Steward – Time, Talent and Treasure

Embrace the Suffering (v 21 - 23)

* Of Christ!
* Of Ourselves!  
  NOTE: If we fight against the gospel, we team up with the devil (v 22)
* To complain or interfere with God ordained suffering is to impede the work of God!
  + Remember, the apostles had hardened their heart!

Commit Fully to Christ! (v 24 – 28)

* True Discipleship Requires Full Commitment (v 23 – 26)
  + Key: We must see Christ in all of His glory (v 27 - 28)