



HIGHWAY 32 MESSENGER

Highway 32 Church of Christ
 1688 Tri-County Highway
 P.O. Box 642
 Williamsburg, OH, 45176
www.highway32coc.com

Elders
Lowell Smith, Frank Norvell
Minister
Marc Curfman
 (513) 553-3703

Sunday Bible Class 10:00AM
 Sunday Morning Assembly 11:00AM
 Sunday Evening Assembly 6:00 PM
 Wednesday Bible Study 7:30PM

Privileged to Serve

Announcements: Rich Book

Song Leader: Lowell Smith

Prayer: Frank Norvell

Lord's Table: Tom Mayes
 Assist: Steve Wright
 Larry Paul
 Tom Wright

Sermon: Marc Curfman

Closing Prayer: Bob Parker

Song Leader Evening: Tom Mayes

Attendance

	Last Week	Week Before
Sun. Bible	39	36
Morn. Assembly	72	65
Sun Eve.	19	26
Wed. Study	10	10
Contribution	\$1656.00	\$1231.00

But Did You Read It?

This week in the news, a panel of four experts were being interviewed as to the pros and cons of a particular international treaty. All four panelist were passionate in giving their stanch support to upholding the treaty. In fact, they strongly condemned anyone who differed with them. At one time the interviewer (who agreed with the four) asked; "Have you read the treaty?" One by one, each reluctantly answered; "no." The implications were obvious. How can you say yes or no without really knowing all the details? Yet each seemed emotionally vested in something they really knew so little about.

God's word is constantly under scrutiny and strong opposition these days and those who reject the Bible seem to be growing in number. Still, there are many of us who strongly support and acknowledge Scripture as God's inspired word. As Paul told Timothy; **"All Scripture is inspired by God..."** ^{2 Tim. 3:16} What both sides seem to have in common is that in general, neither side has taken the time to read the Bible, let alone intensely give themselves to the study of God's word. Both the defenders and doubters of God's word are woefully ignorant of what it says.

It is not really a new phenomenon. Throughout history, people just have not invested the time to understand or read God's word. Israel's kings were required to personally hand write their own copy of God's law and keep it next to their throne ^{Deut. 17:18}. No king was to rule without an intimate knowledge of God's will. Yet over the centuries, few kings seemed to understand. In fact in the days of Josiah, the word had been lost until one day a copy of the Law accidently discovered by a priest. ^{2 Kings 22:8} In the latter days of Israel, Hosea declared; **"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."** ^{Hosea 4:6}. And Jesus warns us that judgment is based on God's word ^{John 12:48}. The Bereans were praised not just because they received the word but because they thoroughly investigated all of its claims ^{Acts 17:11}.

Today I fear that the warning of Hosea has returned for our generation. We seem to be a people who are being destroyed for lack of knowledge. We claim faith in God, we sing songs about God's message and we call others to come follow. Yet more and more churches are guided by pop culture instead of the eternal truth of God. Even in many worship assemblies, the lessons seem more based on a quick quote of some passage than an effort to dig deep and understand the word. Why?

In our rush to find growth and numbers churches seek new programs, no methods, and new ways of worship and ministry, all hoping for more success. Perhaps what is needed the most is the old way of knowledge of the word. What Paul told Timothy applies to all of us; **"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."** ^{2 Tim. 2:15}. Yes, it takes time and effort. Together as the church and as individuals let us understand God's "treaty," God's Covenant with us. Let us believe truth and boldly declare what we know to be true. Not just for our own sake but for the sake of those who doubt, for the sake of those who are searching.

"because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel ⁶which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it and understood the grace of God in truth;" ^{Col. 1:6-7}.

That success we hope for is not found in some gimmick or fad. God's success is found in God's truth. Not just for us but for all the world. It is time we took the time to read God's treaty.

marc

Welcome to Highway 32 Church,

We are a group of Christians worshipping God according to the Teaching in the New Testament. May we all worship our loving Father today with sincere hearts, open and receptive to His Spirit and His love.

December Teachers

Pre-K thru 3rd Jessica Mayes
4th- 6th Kacie Smith

Sunday Morning Adult classes:
Tom Mayes

Wed. Eve. Don Salisbury



December Teacher:
Karen Smith



Building & Communion
December
Lynn Prickett

Note: Children will go to Bible Hour during the song before the morning lesson. Children ages 2 thru the 6th grade may attend.

THANKS FOR YOUR LOVING GIFT!
Over the last 4 weeks you gave a total of \$3,065 for your elderly and poor brethren in Romania. Thank you for such hearts!

Sermon notes: Philipians 2:1-14. Christ like.

We have a Lord who led by example. Yet as Christians, we often forget that Jesus is Lord, even though we sing such hymns. As Lord, we follow, we obey. So Paul introduces himself and Timothy as **"bond-servants of Christ Jesus."** Although the Philippian church is concerned about what they may suffer for the faith, Paul merely sees his life for good or ill as a part of that obedience to his Lord.

We live in a world that sees Christianity as merely a faith that receives blessings. It is preached in pulpits throughout the land. Yet Paul saw faith as his opportunity and obligation to serve his Lord and Savior. It is more than being good or bad but it is the choice of obedience to God in each and every situation we find ourselves in.

2:1-4 **"..if there is any encouragement in Christ... make my joy complete by being of the same mind... same love... do nothing from selfishness..."**

For Paul, the gathering of Christians should be one of loving unity and devotion. "Church" is not a meeting of strangers once a week but a fellowship devoted to one another. Each one sees the other as more valuable than self. The family of faith is even a greater bond than the family you were born into (Matt. 12:46-50) Blood may be thicker than water but faith is thicker than family.

We serve one another this way because we remember who our Lord is and what he has done for us.

2:5-8. **"who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped..."**

Our Savior saved us through his humility, service, and sacrifice of all his privileges and rights as God. He even died on a cross for us. (Isaiah 53).

It is more than an event that should stir our hearts but it must change who we are and how we live and how we treat one another in the family of faith.

2:12-14. **"...work out our salvation with fear and trembling... do all things without grumbling or disputing."** Remembering our Savior's sacrifice is not enough. We must also as "bond-servants" live lives that reflect that the Savior is our Lord. Let the world of darkness know that here is love, here is fellowship and here is a place where others matter most.

December Birthdays

12/1 Libby Watkins
12/19 Cristina Pugh
12/6 Paula Craycraft
12/7 Huey Jean Jones
12/8 Donna Wright
12/9 Marian Blakley
12/10 Mary Carrothers
12/18 Jessica Mayes
12/21 Becky Wright
12/26 Teri Gilliam

December Anniversaries

12/13 Howard/Carol
Basham
12/25 Kris & Cristina Pugh
12/30 Marc/Sue Curfman

Prayers: Our upcoming year and how we can serve our Lord. Surgery on Tony Cassinelli; he had an artificial lens implant this past week.

Continue to remember: Mark Book, Joe Cassinelli, Mary Chapman, Megan Chapman, Mary Carrothers, Josh Cornett, Karen Creamer, Ray Curfman, Sara Davis, Maralah Morgan, Clayton Wagner, Laura Wilkey, Our church family.

"The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."