



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: Frank Norvell
 Song Leader: Dusty Curfman
 Prayer: Jeremy Schunk

Lord's Table: Tom Mayes
 Assist: Steve Wright
 Landon Dillie
 Bruce Curfman

Sermon: Marc Curfman

Closing Prayer: Les Smith

Our Evening Services will be cancelled tonight. Enjoy your family!

Attendance

	Last Week	Week Before
Sun. Bible	39	38
Morn. Assembly	75	74
Sun Eve.	19	25
Wed. Study	18	13
Contribution	\$1528.00	\$1417.00

The Cross- Every Step, Every Minute

"For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified." - 1 Corinthians 2:2

I love the good news of Jesus and my forgiveness, my new lease on life, my hope of eternal fellowship with my God and my Lord. It is a message of purpose which I gladly share in a world that has lost its way. The Gospel guides me in my marriage, my family, my job and in all of life and even my impending death. I love those stories of faith of men like Peter and Paul, Daniel and Abraham, David... The list goes on and on. Then there are also the affirming doctrines of forgiveness, mercy, grace and justice and so forth.

Then there is the Cross of Christ. As Paul says; **"but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,"** - 1 Corinthians 1:23. We study the doctrine of the cross. We explain the necessity of the propitiation of Jesus on our behalf. We site the prophecies on the Cross and we have even adorned steeples and necklaces with the cross as a way of showing our debt to that cross.

What I personally do not do nearly as often as I should is to meditate on the horror of the cross, and all that transpired that day so long ago. It is too simple a statement to say that Jesus died for my sins. I find myself so much in love with my salvation, my forgiveness and God's mercy but like Paul, I need to constantly put aside everything and every thought except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

It isn't that we have forgotten the cross. What I fear is that we give far too little time in our hearts to reflecting on the awful cost godly love paid for my pardon, my grace and my hope of eternal oneness with my God. Go back and re-read those chapters in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Visualize step by step, minute by minute the agony, the heartbreak, the loneliness our Lord endured, knowing that each step, each minute, he chose to be there because at each step and each moment, Jesus loved, Jesus loved ... He loved me.

Now, how will I spend my day, realizing that all that fell upon him, should have fallen on me? How will I use my time knowing that he could have walked away, he could have called 10,000 angels? How is my purpose changed knowing that before the foundation of the world his path was laid out before him (Eph. 1:3-10) yet in that hour of darkness, he was true and faithful while beaten, spit upon, mocked, denied, stripped, scourged, nailed and hung on that cross.

"knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot." - 1 Peter 1:18-19.

Such a love should never be reduced to a catch phrase or an ornament that hangs from a necklace or a slogan on a T-shirt. Such a love demands a thanksgiving that consumes our every step, our every minute.

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.

Ladies Class/Breakfast - Mark your calendars for Saturday January 28th for 9:30am.

Please turn your sign-up sheets to serve to Lowell by next week.

Sermon notes: Phil. 2:5-11. Made in the likeness of Man

This year with Christmas falling on the Lord's Day, we are reminded of two of God's greatest gifts to man; the life of our Lord and His sacrifice for our sins. Although we do not know the day of Jesus' birth, the world stops for a moment and remembers. So let us remember not just the fact of His birth but why.

John 3:16 tells us that so great is God's love that he gave him to us for our hope if we will but believe. But such a gift was more costly to the Father than we could ever deserve. Even before there was a manger, there was the path to the cross. From birth to death, our Lord lived a life of sacrifice, service and poverty. Paul describes that existence in Phil. 2:5-11; *"Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. ⁸Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*

So often I believe we forget that the life of Jesus is not just one to be read and admired from a safe distance. The life of Christ is one to be followed. Although we will not walk the same roads, meet the same people, what God calls us to do is to possess His heart, and His attitude in each and every situation we encounter. We too should not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, although so many people see God as their servant. We too must empty ourselves of pride and power and take the form of a bond-servant. And regardless of how great the cost, we must humble ourselves and become obedient, even if that were to cost us our very lives.

In Phil. 2 we also learn of Epaphroditus. An otherwise unknown worker in God's kingdom who nearly died, risking his life for the message. Phil. 2:29-30.

Long before JFK's famous speech, there was a missionary named Jim Elliot. When people called him to not risk his life but use his great talents for God at home rather than abroad, he told them; *"Ask not what God can do for you but for what you can do for God."* Such a heart cost Jim Elliot his very life as those he sought to teach took his life. But such is the risk when God's word is all that matters and your heart follows that of Christ.

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.

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."