



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, Morris Wright
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

Song Leader Lowell Smith
 Announcements Frank Norvell
 Prayer Ashton Hutchinson
 Sermon: Marc Curfman
 Lord's Table Assist Tom Mayes
 Steve Wright
 Don Salisbury
 Harley Carrothers
 Closing Prayer: Rich Book
 Song Leader Evening: Bruce Curfman

Attendance

	Last Week	Week Before
Sun. Bible	39	28
Morn. Assembly	66	48
Sun Eve.	29	**
Wed. Study	20	17
Contribution	\$1338.00	\$840.00

World Leaders

Reading through the book of Isaiah, it is uncanny how often the writer sounds as if he were writing not about ancient events but events right from the front pages of today's headlines. No, we are not under attack from the ancient nation of Assyria as was in Isaiah's days. Isaiah isn't so much interested in reporting the troubling news of his day but the cause of such frightening events. It seems that in Isaiah's day, God's people had stopped serving God and instead were seeking gods that would serve their own wants and needs. Furthermore, evil was no longer something that shocked but something people had not only grown use to but were accommodating in their lives.

Like the days of Sodom, when Lot seems to have adjusted his live to the ways of the society around him, Christians today just don't seem bothered by the world that rejects God's authority at every turn. Remember Lot's story? The angels had to physically drag Lot out of the city. Today, we too invite the world into our homes, families and into our hearts. What would have shocked us 20 years ago, now seems normal. Behavior that would have disturbed us and caused us to blush in shame now is viewed as "cutting edge" or "a vanguard." Churches are not called to live in the past. We live in the now. Yet past or present or future, we should not embrace the darkness.

I personally believe that the distinction between darkness and light has become so muddled that it is difficult to recognize God's people by their speech, their value or their life styles. We sing the right songs on Sunday, read beautiful verses on faith and pray our prayers for righteousness and then live as if none of those words had any real meaning once we leave our assemblies. Once out the doors, who would ever suspect us of being different?

Isaiah's description for his day seems to match the challenge for our day; ***"Because this people draw near with their words And honor Me with their lip service, But they remove their hearts far from Me, And their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned by rote,"*** Is. 29:13. We speak of God's ways but in the end, we do as we please.

A hard truth for even many Christians is that faith is not about you and me and what we want nor what will please us. Faith is about God and what pleases Him. Will we find blessings in obedience? Yes, wonderful blessings. Yet true obedient faith first and foremost seeks not to please self but God. It is that faith that made the Apostle John to live with an indescribable joy. It is that same faith that caused Job to endure even the depths of despair. Both first sought to please God. Both lived in the world but were not of the world.

It is time for us as Christians to reconsider the meaning of victory and success. We have used the world's standards for far too long. It is time for us to define truth as God defines truth instead using the "truth meters" of society. Light, love, hope, joy and peace are revealed in God's word, not the latest video or song. Rather than envy the world's ways, let us show them the ways of hope.

"and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame." 1 Peter 3:16.

Christians follow Christ. As for living in this world, we are not those who follow but those who lead. We are light, we are hope. We are God's ambassadors. Wear that title proudly. The world doesn't need more followers but is in desperate need of leaders of hope and truth. It is what you were made for.

"15 For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing;" 2 Cor. 2:15

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.

March Teachers

Pre- K thru 5th Karen Smith

Youth

Sunday Morning Adult classes:

Marc Curfman

Wed. Eve. Don Salisbury



March Teacher:



Building & Communion Month of March

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

We are in need of a teacher for Bible Hour for the month of March.

Sermon Notes :Colossians; the Successful church

Looking across the globe there are churches that thrive and churches that seem to be dying. To be sure, some are not teaching the truth according to Scripture. Yet there are those that hold firm the truths of God in the message spoken, yet again some thrive and some wither. What is the reason and what if anything can we do to thrive?

The world around us is one that no longer feels the need for God or faith. Yet this is the same tone found in the culture of the Roman world of the first century. How was it that the church penetrated the world then? Colossians seems to be a church where faith thrived. Perhaps this letter holds the key for us today as we too seek to succeed.

Theme: *"We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ."* 1:28

Focus of the letter: *"Saints and faithful brethren in Christ..."* 1:1-2.

Not to the church in general, that is; all that assembled but those who lived the life of faith instead of merely claiming a title of Christian.

Saint: one set apart, one anointed by God.

Faithful: one who can be relied upon or depended on. To be faithful is a reflection not just on your belief but your ***faithful behavior.***

Such narrows the scope of this letter. Churches never thrive while relying on warm bodies or numbers. God's group is not made up of claims of faith but lives of faith and faithfulness.

Faith – Love – Hope 1:4-5.

These are not just terms but words that transform both the individuals and also touch the lives of those around them.

The successful church is one built on faith in the message of the Cross, a message that runs counter to all the world holds dear. Such a group is demonstrated in love in action. The cost is irrelevant because we live by hope.

"For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking the city which is to come." Heb. 13:14.

March Birthdays

3/1 Larry Paul
3/2 Joe Sena
3/3 Judy Paul
3/18 Mae Kirschner
3/21 Clayton Smith
3/29 Graci Book

Anniversaries

3/1 Ernie & Janice Fowler

***Please sign up today to teach or clean the building for the 2016 Year.**

Prayers: Juanita Benton is having heart rhythm issues. Carol Basham will be having knee replacement surgery on March 8th.

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."