

March 6, 2016



# HIGHWAY 32 MESSENGER

**Highway 32 Church of Christ**  
1688 Tri-County Highway  
P.O. Box 642  
Williamsburg, OH, 45176  
[www.highway32coc.com](http://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**

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

**Attendance**

	Last Week	Week Before
Sun. Bible	41	39
Morn. Assembly	61	66
Sun Eve.	29	29
Wed. Study	**	20
Contribution	\$1074.00	\$1338.00

**The Exclusive Truth**

As I age, I am constantly confronted with the great differences in understanding life's issues. Each of us as humans have our own experiences, our own concerns and our own set of values. Often, we seem to overlap one another's thinking but with our own personal slant or view. Also, as I age, I personally no longer seek to divide but long to unite with those who differ from me. I prefer inclusive over exclusive living. But the world seems more divided, more extreme and uncompromising than ever before. We see it in politics and we see it in the rapidly changing culture.

The problem of absolutes has always concerned what can be compromised and what must remain firm and unmovable. What are the absolutes? If there are absolutes, then surely they are to be found in a realm greater than man. I believe it is why God revealed His truth to us over a period of nearly 2,000 years. Truth and absolutes are revealed by our Creator in every and any situation of life. Truth is not a relative concept but a firm path regardless of the situation, with its final revelation seen in God Almighty as He walked among us in the midst of life's tapestry of sufferings, joys, good and evil. As the Apostle John describes the event; **"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."** John 1:14.

As you follow the life of Christ, you will see the God who is very inclusive. **"for God so loved the world that He gave His only Begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."** John 3:16. God's path is for men, women, young, old, rich, poor, slave, free, Pharisees and Samaritans. **"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest."** Matt. 11:28.

Yet the message of Christ, the message of the Cross is also very exclusive; **"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."** John 14:6. What is true for one is true for all. The God of the Bible is our only sure anchor in life. His word is the plumb line and cornerstone of life. With all that seems to change so rapidly in this world, the only consistent reality is the Judge of both the living and the dead and the God of hope.

Hope is not a vague promise. Neither is hope found in one's own abilities, choices nor philosophy. **"All sin and fall short of the glory of God"** Rom. 3:23. is God's way of confronting us with our own failures as we choose our own paths, never looking to the author and creator of life. By faith, we choose God. Not because such is one of many choices but because of God's unfailing nature, His perfect wisdom and trustworthy salvation for every generation, peoples or nation.

Truth is not always an easy path. Our own hearts and thoughts often are our greatest obstacles. Life presents a myriad of challenges and questions. Yet turning to God's word, we find light, truth, and hope. This week alone, you will be confronted with challenges to your faith and challenges to God's word. Our first line of defense is to trust God's word and lean not on our own understanding. Prov. 3:5. But if you are not in God's word, you will fail more often than you ever know. Your marriages, your children, your own years of life will suffer, perhaps suffer fatally because you just did your best, tried your best but failed to win the victory because you just didn't know. It is why we study Scripture, why we come together to learn, discuss and encourage. As Jesus Himself declared; **"He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day."** John 12:48. Yes, we want all to find hope. Yes, there is only one path and that path is the word of our Lord.

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.

### **March Teachers**

Pre- K thru 5<sup>th</sup> Karen Smith

Youth

Sunday Morning Adult classes:

Lowell Smith

Wed. Eve. Don Salisbury



### **March Teacher:**

Kacie Smith



### **Building & Communion Month of March**

Sheila & Morgan Gelter

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

### **Sermon Notes: Colossians - Redemption**

The crisis for today's church is that subtle sense of entitlement. We live in a world that sees little need for change, repentance or to be rescued from the lives we have chosen. Most can quote John 3:16 without a clear understanding of its implications. Jesus knocks at our door and most are content to leave Him outside until the end, yet still feel deserving of eternal bliss.

The church in Colossae understood the need for redemption. Living in a world of hopelessness and trouble, people sought a Savior and salvation (Col. 1:13-14)

ἀπολύτρωσις apolutrōsis: a release effected by payment of ransom. To be redeemed is to understand the bondage of darkness and sin. Modern man often fails to recognize this dire condition of the soul and thus never seems to comprehend the Cross of Christ.

Salvation is more than positive thinking or an optimistic life style. Salvation requires us to recognize the hopelessness of life. We are not in charge but need a Deliverer.

***"the wages of sin is death but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*** (Rom. 6:23)

No, we are not entitled to eternal bliss but by the love of God, we have that hope.

The entitled don't believe in a cost or commitment, yet Paul calls us to; ***"fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life..."*** (1 Tim. 6:12)

Salvation is an acknowledgement of our utter dependency on God (Luke 18:16-17).

The redeemed know to cling to our Savior and never turn back (Col. 1:21-23). Christ is God's answer to man's need.

In our self-sufficient world order, we are those who recognize that there was a high cost to our redemption. We have been bought with the blood of Christ (1 Pet. 1:18-19).

Thank God that we have been redeemed. Thank God for our Good News!

### **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 8<sup>th</sup>.

**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."*