

# 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	Lowell Smith
Song Leader	Kirt Martin
Prayer	Frank Norvell
Lord's Table Assist	Tom Mayes Bruce Curfman Don Salisbury Ron Smith
Sermon:	Marc Curfman
Closing Prayer:	Frank Glover
Song Leader Evening:	Tom Mayes

**Attendance**

	Last Week	Week Before
Sun. Bible	36	38
Morn. Assembly	66	62
Sun Eve.	31	24
Wed. Study	15	25
Contribution	\$1480.00	\$1209.00

**Tea Bags or Armor?**

Eleanor Roosevelt once said; "*Women are like tea bags. You never know what is inside them until you put them in hot water.*" I think that can apply to all people, both men and women. It would especially apply to men and women of faith. Anyone can claim to have faith but when difficulties or conflicts arise, then you see if that said faith is nothing but mere words or the true strength of the soul. Peter spoke fearlessly before the arrest of Christ in the garden but panicked while his Lord was on trial, denying his dearest friend not once but three times. Of course, later in the book of Acts, he and the other Apostles rejoiced for having been worthy of a beating for Christ. Stephen preached a powerful sermon and stood strong in words of debate with his enemies. Yet what we remember the most about Stephen was how he looked to the heavens as he was being stoned to death and begged not for his own life but begged that his murderers would be forgiven. One of those Stephen pleaded for was a Rabbi named Saul who today is better known as Paul the Apostle.

For most of us, our faith is not challenged with whips nor stones. Often our challenge to our claim of faith is more subtle yet in terms of eternity, just as deadly. We are pressured to follow the crowd, to not confront evil, especially when such evil is deemed popular or stylish in our modern worldly culture. We are often tempted to conform to the majority's opinion. Some Christians seem to view faith not through the lens of scripture but as some call to worldly tolerance. They have bought the lie that love accepts any and all life styles.

In Ephesian 6, Paul calls upon us to "***Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.***" <sup>Eph. 6:11</sup>. Such conjures an image not of passivity or conformity but one of conflict and battle. It is a call to stand firm against Satan, to wrestle against this present darkness <sup>6:12</sup>. Such warriors need truth and righteousness (6:14), a readiness of the Gospel always firm in our minds and hearts (6:15). God's people equip themselves with faith, salvation and the word of truth (6:17). You on your own are defenseless and unprotected in the battle for hope. So we arm ourselves with all the strength God supplies. Still, you must make the choice, gather what is needed and stand protected and armed for victory.

I guess we aren't like that tea bag after all. It isn't so much what is in us. After all, we are but dust. (Ps. 103:14). What you and I choose to put on us is what makes the difference. To put on Christ is to be prepared to do battle. So I won't ask what is inside of you but what have you put on for today's challenges. Just like those ancient soldiers, each day that armor and weaponry must be taken up if we are to do the battle of faith. No soldier would dare stand on the front line of battle unprotected and unarmed. Why do we think our faith will survive any better as we daily enter the conflict between light and darkness?

I guess the only other thing we must ask ourselves is whether or not we have chosen to enter the conflict, the challenges and the cause of the cross. Do you see your purpose as that of sharing the love of Christ or are you just an observer? Jesus emphatically reminds us; "***He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me, scatters.***" <sup>Luke 11:23</sup>. So if you haven't done so already, put on that armor. It's likely to be dangerous out there today. 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.

### **May Teachers**

Pre- K thru 5<sup>th</sup> Sue Curfman

Youth: Tom Mayes

Sunday Morning Adult classes:

Lowell Smith

Wed. Eve. Don Salisbury



**May Teacher:**  
Kacie Smith



**Building & Communion**  
**Month of May**  
Frank/Yvonne Glover  
Family

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.

Visitation for Morris Wright is Monday night from 6-8 at the Maham Funeral Home in Williamsburg. The funeral will be held at Hwy 32 Church of Christ Tuesday 10:00am.

### **Sermon notes: God's word**

We are told that we are the aroma of Christ (2 Cor. 2:15-17). It is not a choice for the believer but a reality and an awesome responsibility. Yet far too many believers choose to stand off at the side, not get involved in the matters of the world, the church, and faith as if a hands off attitude absolves them of any judgment. Such is not the case. Faith is like a lit stick of dynamite that you must decide what to do with. Inaction can be more deadly than action.

Although not all are preachers, elders, deacons or evangelists, we all are that aroma of Christ. As Paul implies, none of us are adequate for these things but just the same we carry the full weight of God's will in our lives as we live each day.

***We "take pains with these things."*** (2 Tim. 4:11-16.) Knowing that others are brought closer or pushed farther from God by our words, our practices and our beliefs. Faith touches marriages, families, friends and even enemies. God's will invades our choices and teachings on anything from our worship to our work place. Topics of sex, honesty, compassion, and humility and others come under God's hand. No wonder God's enemies called Elijah "***O troubler of Israel.***" (1 Kings 18)

God demands we be diligent as examples of faith and teachers of faith. (2 Tim. 2:15-16). Christ himself tells us that no matter of faith or religion is inconsequential but all must be honored (Luke 16:16-17; Matt. 5:19-20)

We hold that dynamite of truth in our lives and must do well. Lives depend on our choices, our teachings and our actions.

It is not our goal or even duty to condemn souls but to teach truth. What are points of Salvation? How far does the grace and forgiveness of God apply? That is God's final decision. Our obligation is know, to live and to share God's truth.

One day when our lives have passed, we will have left behind a legacy. Like it or not, you and I are affecting the hearts and minds of others. Will we lead to hope or darkness? How will we have done in our lives with that dynamite of God's word and will?

### **May Birthdays**

5/7 Kelsey Book  
5/8 Amy Wright  
5/9 Ron Glover  
5/22 Kacie Smith  
5/25 Judy Shaw

### **May Anniversaries**

5/30 Ron/Myrna Smith

**Prayers:** Our beloved brother Morris Wright passed away Wednesday evening, keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time. Juanita Benton's daughter, Kathy's father in-law, Glenn Greer has had 2 strokes.

**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."*