

June 26, 2016



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

Announcements	Ron Smith
Song Leader	Tom Mayes
Prayer	Rich Book
Lord's Table Assist	Lowell Smith Jeremy Schunk Steve Wright Harley Carrothers

Sermon: Marc Curfman

Closing Prayer: Bob Parker

Song Leader Evening Bruce Curfman

Attendance

	Last Week	Week Before
Sun. Bible	39	54
Morn. Assembly	74	65
Sun Eve.	28	23
Wed. Study	20	15
Contribution	\$1780.00	\$1428.00

Marching Against the Enemy

During the Normandy invasion in June of 1944, over 130,000 soldiers stormed the beaches. Nearly 5,000 allied soldiers died in the assault, and many more were wounded. Normandy, D-day was the most devastating battle of the European theatre. It is difficult to fathom the reality that so many soldiers faced that day as bombs and bullets came so close to so many troops as they left the boats and made their way to the shore and then on further into the threat of combat. It was a conflict of fears and determination fighting for control of their hearts.

The greatest temptation may have been to stop and not advance toward the threat before them. Instead, there must have been that constant desire to stop where you were, knowing the weapons that threatened your very existence were closer with each step you took. The commanders that day told the young soldiers that in spite of their instincts, the greatest hope of victory was found only if you kept going forward and didn't quit marching.

Our battle today seems small by comparison. Few of us will lose life or limb because of our stand for Christ. Yet the true stakes of this spiritual battle are eternal both for ourselves and for those for whom we fight. ***"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places."*** Eph. 6:12. Battles won or lost in this theatre have consequences for the souls of the world.

I fear that because we do not see the physical explosions or hear the hot lead as it nearly strikes, we view the battle for the lost with less urgency when in truth, it is of greater urgency. Still, we are chastised for our faith, we are threatened and under assault in various ways. In our country, you may be mocked for your faith. You may grow weary and at times feel that your work is in vain. In some parts of the world, you may be imprisoned or worse.

The lessons of war remain just as valid for us as believers as it for those soldiers over 70 years ago. Today, marching on toward the enemy's camp will bring forth wrath, criticism, ridicule and even physical harm. The natural response is to stop, to not advance, and to be quiet about our faith. Such is Satan's trap as sure and real as any Nazi machine gun nest. Victory requires a trust in God and a determination to never quit. ***"in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger, in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love, in the word of truth, in the power of God; by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left,"*** 2 Cor. 6:4-7.

Who are these preachers of faith that claim every step is easy? You won't find such fables among men like Paul, Peter, and Stephen. Who are those who say that when difficulties arise we should quit? Speak to Moses, Jeremiah and Elijah to see their response. We keep on going forward. We suffer whatever the ministry requires. Such is easy for me to say but so hard to live. Yet, that is the choice each of us made when we decided to pick up a cross and follow. Victory is not here. Victory is to be found by taking one more step in front of us. May God give you and I the courage, the faith and the love to never leave the battle but always take just one more step toward the enemy for the sake of our Lord and the hope of the lost.

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.

July Teachers

Pre- K thru 5th Jessica Mayes

Youth & Tom Mayes

Sunday Morning Adult classes:

Wed. Eve. Don Salisbury



July Teacher:



Building & Communion
Month of July

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

Sermon notes: Worship – do not conform (Rom. 12:1-2)

When looking up the word “worship” in Scripture, as much as said about how not to as how to worship our God (Deut. 4:19-20; Ps. 2:11, etc.) In our New Testament, worship is mentioned often but not in direct connection to our meetings or assemblies. Instead it is a life center worship that is taught.

“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. ²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Rom. 12:1-2)

Our world is filled with those who claim faith yet conform to the world, old or new. Our call is to worship, fall down before God.

The word in Roman 12 for worship: “*latreia*” means to serve in another’s house. This world belongs to God and not us.

As we discuss how to conduct our assemblies in our singing, preaching, praying and so forth, the most vital element is our falling down before God or our serving in His house. Yet so much “worship” today is about what we want or think rather than God.

Jesus warns us to not search Scripture without also searching our own hearts (John 5:38-40). More than knowing God’s word, it must possess our hearts, especially those verses that go against this world’s ways.

One of those “line drawn in the sand” moments in Jesus’ ministry is Luke 9:23-24. We must take up our cross and follow Christ.

It is time we re-read God’s word, re-read the Gospels and see what true worship of God really is. The Gospel then was for Pharisees, Sadducees, fishermen, tax collectors, zealots, prostitutes, soldiers, kings and peasants. The message today is for preachers, priests, plumbers and lawyers, right wing conservatives to liberals, to fundamentalist to homosexuals, to soldiers, presidents and the woman at the Laundromat. All of us are to present our lives to God in daily holy, God centered worship and not be conformed to this world.

So what is worship? A sound bite won’t do. Let us once again dig deep into God’s word. Let us re-read and study the Gospels seeking God’s way and not our wants. Let us understand that we died to this world at baptism and were raised to a newness of life (Rom. 6:1-4). We are not those who conform to this world. We bow down to our God.

July Birthdays

7/1	Frank Norvell	7/26	Carl Beard
7/3	Cotton Blakley	7/27	Nancy Cassinelli
7/15	Lyman Smith	7/31	Ray Curfman
7/15	Kellie Wright		
7/17	Stefanie Hahn		
7/17	Jean Wilkey		
7/17	Tyler Wright		
7/18	Don Salisbury		

July Anniversaries

7/2	Tom/Becky Wright
7/10	Lyman/Lucille Smith

Prayers: Work of our volunteers in the community with the upcoming VBS in July.

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.”