

July 3, 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        Ron Smith  
Prayer                Harley Carrothers  
Lord's Table        Don Salisbury  
Assist                Brian Caldwell  
                             Steve Wright  
                             Frank Glover  
Sermon:               Blair Schroder  
Closing Prayer:     Bob Parker  
Song Leader Evening: Tom Mayes

**Attendance**

	Last Week	Week Before
Sun. Bible	31	39
Morn. Assembly	56	74
Sun Eve.	25	28
Wed. Study	25	20
Contribution	\$****.00	\$1780.00

**Swallowing Camels**

One of the first challenges to my desire to share the Gospel was the divisions between various groups of believers who all claim to preach the Gospel. One group emphasizes grace to the extreme of dismissing any personal responsibility or obedience. Another rejects the plain teachings of baptism as a part of man's connecting to the new life. There are those who claim the first century miraculous gifts (even though no modern reality of this claim can be verified). There are disagreements over the meaning of worship, the role of leadership, discipleship, deathbed confessions,.... The list of disagreements goes on and on.

One of the more challenging realities of all of these divisions is that each group or sect has a kernel of truth in their claims. They have good, solid passages to turn to in order to support their doctrines. The problem is not in espousing a blatant lie or overt falsehood but that people seem to latch onto one particular aspect of the Gospel at the expense of all other parts. So, rather than have the beauty of the Gospel as revealed in Scripture, they have only a small part that in and of itself has no redemptive value. As such, the Gospel of Jesus Christ is neglected as sectarian debates rage between one another.

It was Paul who declared to the Elders of Ephesus; **"For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God."** Acts 20:27. No aspect, no doctrine, no single part of the Gospel can be deemed expendable. "If you treat one part of the truth as the whole, it becomes an untruth." N.T.Wright (Pepperdine Lectureship, May 2016) I fear that even within our brotherhood, this division of truths has become all too common. One example of that is baptism that seems to be the only lesson some preachers can teach. Even then, rather than revealing the life changing choice baptism represents, we worry more about "getting it right." We could expand that list to other topics such as proper worship, biblical leadership, social involvement and so on.

So what is the solution? How can we be sure that we are declaring **"the whole purpose of God."**? I believe it starts with a new reading of Scripture each day of our lives. Rather than search for the text that supports my prejudice, pray that God's will may be revealed as I meditate on His word. Seek to understand what exactly God intended to communicate to those who first received the message before we give it our 21st Century interpretation. And above all else, allow God's word to first and foremost speak to you rather than someone else. **"Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye?"** Matt. 7:4. I fear far too many sermons deal with the speck in the eyes of those with whom we differ and far too few speak to the challenges of our own lives when confronted by the message.

The world already has enough people who know how to condemn and destroy. What the world is in desperate need of is a community of people who walk in the light as He is in the light <sup>1 John 1:7</sup>. The world needs to see people who understand and practice the whole purpose of God. No, we won't be perfect. But we will still shine as lights in the darkness as we allow all of God's word to envelop our lives. Neither am I saying that some parts of the message don't matter. It is all important, for **"not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished."** Matt. 5:18.

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## 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 5<sup>th</sup> Jessica Mayes

Youth & Tom Mayes

Sunday Morning Adult classes:

Wed. Eve. Don Salisbury



July Teacher:  
Sheila Gelter



Building & Communion  
Month of July  
Ron/Myrna Smith

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.

*Marc/Sue Curfman, Karen/Lowell & Kacie Smith will be working in Romania until 7/13.*

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Is it not possible to agree with those outside of our fellowship without sacrificing the truth? Can we not call people to a more complete understanding and practice of faith without constantly emphasizing our differences? Is it our goal to bring people to a place of hope and purpose or is it our goal to condemn, divide and destroy? Truth matters, the complete truth is vital. That truth of the Gospel first and foremost demands the surrender of your heart. Although all aspects of God's word matter, our Lord and Savior did prioritize doctrinal teaching. First and foremost is to love God. The second greatest command is actually a reflection of the first as we love our neighbor as ourselves. Matt. 28:36-40. If you were to describe what it means to be a member of the Church of Christ, is this where your description would begin or has this been lost somewhere in the closets of our teachings as we emphasize our differences? Keep all of God's truth intact but as Jesus said; ***"you...have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others."*** 24 *"You blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!"* Matt. 23:23-24. Somehow, I think we need to get out of the habit of swallowing camels.

*marc*

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(your personal notes from lesson)

### 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		
7/25	Elmer Wilkey		

### 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. Lucille Smith fell and broke her hip. She has had a hip replacement at Clermont Mercy. Tom Mayes dad, Keith Mayes is having a biopsy on a tumor found on his bladder. Mary Carrothers upcoming surgery 7/5.

**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."*