

July 24, 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,**  
**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        Tom Mayes  
Prayer              Frank Norvell  
Lord's Table       Don Salisbury  
Assist               Rich Book  
                         Steve Wright  
                         Larry Paul  
Sermon:             Marc Curfman  
Closing Prayer:    Frank Glover  
Song Leader Evening: Bruce Curfman

**Attendance**

|                | Last Week | Week Before |
|----------------|-----------|-------------|
| Sun. Bible     | 79        | 34          |
| Morn. Assembly | 96        | 55          |
| Sun Eve.       | 61        | 21          |
| Wed. Study     | **        | **          |
| Contribution   | \$1189.00 | \$1301.00   |

***"What are you seeking?"***

The low rumble of a high performance engine caught my attention. That sleek design of the sports car turned heads. On the other hand, my first car was considered an eyesore and probably lowered property values when parked in our neighborhood. We are all attracted to beauty, whether it is a car or even the latest, fanciest coffee maker. Popular singers need more than natural talent to be successful. To be handsome or beautiful seems to matter more than the quality of their voices, at least that is what the pop culture seems to promote. Even news reporters need that "glam" more than accurate journalism.

Sometimes I fear the church has also become infected with such external values and judgments. The singing on Sunday must be perfect and professional. The lessons must be entertaining more than challenging. Messages often reflect our desires for so called better things of this world rather than the heavenly demands of God.

The life and message of our Lord stands in stark contrast to the wants of this world. In fact, Jesus began his ministry in the wilderness by rejecting all that most people value. Rather than the wealth, power and praise, Jesus sought out the poor, hurting and desperate of this world.

As far as we know and in spite of what the artist tell us, Jesus wasn't the least bit attractive. **"He has no stately form or majesty That we should look upon Him, Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him."** Isaiah 53:2. Have you ever considered that at least by the world's standards, Jesus might have been homely or even ugly? "Blasphemy!" you say? Re-read that verse above. The true blasphemy is to make Jesus what we want him to be rather than what Scripture teaches about him.

So what did attract people to Christ? Read the Gospels. See how he spent his days and with whom he sought out to bless. It was his faith, his holiness, his compassion and above all else his hope that caused crowds to flock to his side. As a soldier once said concerning Jesus; **"No one ever spoke like this man."** John

7:46.

The question Jesus asked of Andrew and John is the question he asks of you and me today; **"What are you seeking?"** John 1:38. I fear churches overflow weekly with people seeking what they desire but not what Jesus offers. Go back and read afresh the Gospels. Jesus offers life abundant (John 10:10). But such a life is found on a cross that you and I choose take up daily. The abundant life is found in our giving, our loving, our helping the helpless and living daily the hope of God in the midst of a world that has lost its way. The abundant life is to seek His kingdom and His righteousness.

***"Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow."*** James 1:16-17. In other words, if you are seeking the things of God, then look up to God and not look out to the promises of this world. So, ask yourself honestly; ***"What are you seeking?"***

*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.

### **August Teachers**

Pre- K thru 5<sup>th</sup> Jessica Mayes

Youth & Tom Mayes

Sunday Morning Adult classes:  
Marc Curfman

Wed. Eve. Don Salisbury



**August Teacher:**  
Karen Smith



**Building & Communion**  
**Month of August**  
Salisbury 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.

**THANK YOU:** *To all those that helped with food/clean-up/support during our vbs with the Dalraida group.*

### **Sermon notes: The Kingdom of God**

Every generation seems to have its own view of what the Gospel is. Interpretations are so many and varied that the skeptic exclaims that no one can really know the truth. The idea of a "relative, fluid truth" seems the most embraced view of our world. Yet Jesus declared one truth. Paul tells us there is but one faith.

We are to enter the narrow gate. (Matt. 7:13-14). But how does that apply? Is it possible that even with our understanding of basic doctrines, we could still not find God's truth?

The challenge lies in our values compared to God's demands. In fact, God finds man's values detestable (Luke 16:14-17) And God is not moving the line of faith for our comfort.

In Jesus' day, those who didn't preach according to the will of the crowd were often banish, beaten or killed. Today, nothing so drastic in most churches but we do often dismiss, ignore or ridicule that which differs from our own set of values. Is it possible that we have done so with some of the greatest truths taught by Jesus?

When looking at the teachings of "The kingdom of Heaven" or "The Kingdom of God," we may discover those greatest obstacles to our fellowship with God Almighty as Jesus reveals a way of life so radically and diametrically opposed to common values, that it demands a new birth.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is not a radically different teaching from that of the Law of Moses but it is radically different from the values of the people of Israel. We may find that they are also radically different from our world's way of life also. Jesus is neither a liberal nor a conservative. He is God in the flesh and his kingdom demands change. (Mat. 5:17-20)

Kingdom passages are not for the elite of faith but for anyone of faith. Salvation is not a casual philosophy with salvation at the end for those who acknowledge Jesus as God's Son. Salvation is a radical change in all that we are and all we do and all our hearts desire. (Matt. 5:38-44)

***"Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; <sup>29</sup>for our God is a consuming fire."*** Heb. 12:28-29

### **July Birthdays**

7/25 Elmer Wilkey

7/26 Carl Beard

7/27 Nancy Cassinelli

7/31 Ray Curfman

### **August Birthdays**

8/12 Brian Wright

8/23 Alex Watkins

### **August Anniversaries**

8/3 Bob/Mary Parker

8/9 Frank/Joyce Norvell

8/28 Rich/Jenni Book

**Prayers:** The Lord's church and our community.

**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."*