

July 31, 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,
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 Frank Norvell
Song Leader Lowell Smith
Prayer Rich Book
Lord's Table Frank Glover
Assist Caleb Watkins
 Alex Watkins
 Harley Carrothers
Sermon: Marc Curfman
Closing Prayer: Bob Parker
Song Leader Evening: Tom Mayes

Attendance

| | Last Week | Week Before |
|----------------|-----------|-------------|
| Sun. Bible | 32 | 79 |
| Morn. Assembly | 47 | 96 |
| Sun Eve. | 22 | 61 |
| Wed. Study | 13 | ** |
| Contribution | \$1105.00 | \$1189.00 |

We need to talk...

It seems today that we are surrounded by a million voices. They are voices of doubt, voices of criticism and derision, voices that oppose and voices that seduce and tempt. The one thing these voices seem to have in common is that they are voices that oppose what is good and godly. You find the voices in every place you go and everywhere you look. There are bumper stickers that promote evolution. There are casual T-shirts that proudly display profanity. Movies give us what we want more than what we need. New media tell us what we should accept and tolerate as they promote the atheistic agenda of humanism. We are bombarded with so many destructive voices, the temptation is to cover your ears and close your eyes and run for the wilderness (careful, you might trip!).

Yet we are called to be in this world, just not of this world (John 17:15). Rather than hide we are to go out among the world (Heb.13:13; Matt. 28:19). The question then arises; How are we to survive spiritually in a world so diametrically opposed to God's truth? How do we combat the deception and maintain a strong faith in our Lord and God? Yes, we pray. Yes we keep the word on our lips and in our hearts. Yet one of the greatest strengths of faith given by God to me is actually you! You are my strength and my anchor, my light and my defense against a world of darkness.

You might read that and recoil a bit in your mind at the thought. After all, isn't that God's role in our lives? Is not God my strength, my anchor, my light and my shield? Yes, and that same God gave you to me. In the book of Malachi, so many claimed faith but so few lived faith. Corruption, deception and sin was the norm of the day. Something had to change, so the prophet challenged and rebuked such godlessness among the people. But read Malachi 3:16. ***"Then those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, and the Lord gave attention and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the Lord and who esteem His name."***

Hope, strength, assurance and understanding are found when; ***"those who feared the Lord spoke to one another."*** In the New Testament, that is referred to as the church. It is why we assemble together, to encourage one another (Heb. 10:25). It is how we bear one another's burdens (Gal. 6:1). Church is a gathering of those who fear God, who have chosen a better path and are determined to be the light of this dark world. Peter goes as far as to tell you that as the church, ***"we are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation... so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."*** (1 Peter 2:9)

We to are those who care enough that we too speak to one another. Like a brother recently reminded me; ***"Iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens another."*** (Prov. 27:17) So I look forward to seeing you often. Once a week is hardly enough for me. I see nothing in Malachi that says meetings were only on the Sabbath. And today, we do not forsake our Sunday assembly but is that truly enough? Write me, call me, meet with me for coffee. We need to talk. I need your voice in my heart. We need to talk.

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 5th 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 6th grade may attend.

Sermon notes: The Kingdom of God in our hearts

The kingdom of God or of heaven is mentioned over 150 times in the New Testament. When Jesus preached the good news, it was the message of His kingdom. But now after 2,000 years, it seems that few understand what the kingdom of God is or what God's kingdom looks like in our world. It is time we return to God's word and re-read those passages through God's eyes and not man's desire. (Dan. 2:44; 7:14)

As Jesus started his ministry, he fulfilled one after another prediction of Scripture. Not so that he would merely fulfill prophecy but so that we might understand exactly what kind of a Messiah he is and what kind of a kingdom he establishes. (Mal. 3:1)

Although then and also today, many look for the physical rule as it was in the days of David and Solomon, Jesus told us that His kingdom is not of this world (Luke 17:20-21; John 18:36). Then, as today people try to force Jesus to be the king they desire rather than we be the subjects he demands.

God's kingdom is one not of legislation and decrees but one of righteousness, humility and trust (Matt. 5:20; 19:14). It is that kingdom we see lived out in the lives of the church in Acts and the letters to the churches. They lived the prayer; **"Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven."** (Matt. 6:10)

In today's political environment, it is easy to be caught up in an earth bound Gospel of victory by force. Jesus tells the individual; **"seek first his kingdom..."** (Matt. 6:33) It is a reign of God over the hearts actions and lives of those in His kingdom. The hope of Rev. 11:15 is not based on fire from heaven or tanks on the streets but in souls who one by one have turned to God in faith and obedience.

Perhaps the most sobering of all parables for the church is Matt. 13:41-42. **"...they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness.."**

It is not a judgment of the world spoken of here but judgment on the church itself as God separates those who claim faith and those who truly obey. It is time to re-read the gospel and take seriously those "kingdom of God" passages. He must reign and we must follow.

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

8/26 Leah Simpson

August Anniversaries

8/3 Bob/Mary Parker

8/9 Frank/Joyce Norvell

8/28 Rich/Jenni Book

Prayers: Joyce Warman's sister, Ruth is in Anderson Mercy hospital.

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."