

January 8, 2017



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: Bruce Curfman
Prayer: Frank Glover
Lord's Table: Lowell Smith
Assist: Les Smith
 Harley Carrothers
 Jeremy Schunk
Sermon: Marc Curfman
Closing Prayer: Bob Parker
PM Song Leader: Alex Watkins

Attendance

	Last Week	Week Before
Sun. Bible	35	48
Morn. Assembly	64	73
Sun Eve.	25	**
Wed. Study	**	13
Contribution	\$1574.00	\$1205.00

Miracles? Really?

Watching what was supposed to be a family show, a boy decided he wanted to go to church. But the boy's mother couldn't fathom her son believing in a religion she considered archaic, mythological and against all accepted reality. Throughout the show, miracles such as Jonah and the "whale" or Moses and the ten plagues were mocked. It is the mindset of the agnostic, the atheist and the humanist who demand that all of life be explained without the presence of God and divine intervention. The mockery of miracles is often so prevalent that at times believers fall to the intimidation of non believers and feel compelled to symbolically spiritualized such accounts of scripture or completely ignore them as they choose instead to focus simply on the "spiritual" teachings of Scripture. Yet if "**all scripture is inspired by God.**" (2 Tim. 3:16), then even those stories that seem so incredible to the modern day believer are also true. So why would we doubt the miracles? Is it because we have never seen one? Is it because we consider ourselves too sophisticated and logical to accept the stories? Such a topic deserves an in depth and careful study to truly understand the reason for miracles in both the Old and New Testament. I realize that today, so far removed from the "age of miracles," we may be tempted to wonder; Did the sun (or earth) really stand still or is there some astrological explanation? Did Moses really part the Red Sea or was it a cataclysmic event that just so happened to coincide with Israel's flight from Egypt? And what about that axe head that Elisha made to float?

The reality of miracles is the reality of the God who intervenes in human events. It was one way God proved His existence to a world that needed faith. Just as so many prophecies made by God's prophets centuries before the actual event, prove that God's word is true and never fails.

Today we learn great spiritual truths from reading about these interventions of God; these miracles. Yet the greatest truth is that the unseen God works in the seen world for the sake of those He loves.

To deny miracles is to deny the entire biblical narrative. To deny miracles is to deny even the resurrection of Christ. It follows that to deny the resurrection is to deny your hope, your salvation and your purpose in life.

As Paul said; "**if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.**"

... If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied." 1 Cor. 15:17-19. For Paul, it is an all or nothing proposal. You can't have it both ways. You can't claim the goodness of the Gospel message and yet deny that miracles exist.

One of my favorite topics of study is actually the inspiration of the word of God. To show that what is taught in the Bible can be trusted. It is a study of prophetic proclamations and fulfilled prophecies that took place centuries later, the foretelling of Jesus the Messiah and the Creation of this world as laid out in Scripture (as opposed to what is claimed by thousands of skeptics even though they have no science to support their claims) and it includes the reality of miracles.

I realize that believers in miracles often cause as many difficulties as those who do not believe. So many today demand a continual outpouring of the miraculous in order to maintain their faith. Such teaching is short-sighted and even denies biblical teachings. As Jesus told Thomas; "**Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.**" John 20:29. We do not manipulate our Lord and demand miracles. We follow, we trust and we obey. Yet always remember that God has and does intervene in our world. Thank God that he does. And always remember that God's greatest intervention is found in John 3:16; "**For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son...**"
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.

January Teachers

Pre-K thru 3rd

4th- 6th Kacie Smith

Sunday Morning Adult classes:

Tom Mayes

Wed. Eve. Don Salisbury



January Teacher:

Sue Curfman



Building & Communion

December

Lowell/Karen/Kacie
Smith

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

Ladies Class/Breakfast - Mark your calendars for Saturday January 28th for 9:30am.

Please turn your sign-up sheets to serve to Lowell today.

Sermon notes: Phil. 3:15-21. What you will be is who you are

We live in a world where everyone seems to want to fit in. As diverse as our society has become, it still holds true. People want to be a part of a group. As we clamor for individualism, we still tie ourselves to some group or movement for acceptance. It isn't all bad. It is how we can function as a society with similar languages, customs and beliefs. Yet when the driving factor is man's wants and not God's design, problems are sure to follow. And that is where the church needs to wake up.

How is the church to react to a society that calls people in an opposite direction? Monasteries? Go on the attack? Conformity? The popular choice of so-called believers has always been conformity, to blend in. In fact, some use "theology" as a way of defending worldliness. Doctrines seem to be driven not by scripture but popular opinion.

The Philippian church was being pressured to give up their faith and return to the world. Some were just trying to have both the world and Christ. To those in doubt, Paul sets for examples of faith; His own example and other strong leaders of faith. It isn't a matter of "perfection" but becoming what God designed (τελειώω teleioo). Rather than what we understand as perfect, Paul speaks of a maturity of faith, the purpose or true meaning of faith.

Rather than follow the crowd, Paul points to the men and women of God designed faith.

At the same time, Paul also recognizes that there are those who join themselves to the church yet in heart are joined to the world. Whether or not they attend meetings, Paul calls them; "**enemies of the cross of Christ,.. who set their minds on earthly things**". (3:18-19).

Christians are those who recognize that though we live in this world, our citizenship is in heaven. (3:20) In other words, what you will be one day determines who you are now. We do not flee this world but neither do we become a part of this world. We are light in darkness but only inasmuch as we stand firm with God's truth. It isn't where we are that determines who we are but what we hope to be one day that is seen in our daily lives.

"we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself." 3:20b-21.

January Birthdays

1/4 Les Smith
1/8 Sue Curfman
1/21 Tom Mayes
1/22 Juanita Benton
1/26 Makayla Paul
1/28 Jenni Book

January Anniversaries

1/02 Tom/Jessica Mayes

Prayers: Our upcoming year and how we can serve our Lord. Megan Chapman is still receiving chemotherapy. Rick Newsome is in Intensive Care at Betheseda North recovery from open heart surgery. Karen Smith's treatment for her breast cancer. Juanita is still recovering from her jaw surgery.

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."