

October 15, 2017

HIGHWAY 32 MESSENGER



Highway 32 Church of Christ
1688 Tri-County Highway
P.O. Box 642
Williamsburg, OH, 45176
www.highway32coc.com

Elders
Frank Norvell
Lowell Smith
Minister
Marc Curfman
(513) 553-3703

Sunday Bible Class 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Assembly 11:00AM
Sunday Evening Assembly 6:00PM
Wednesday Bible Study 7:30PM

Privileged to Serve

Announcements: Rich Book
Song Leader: Tom Mayes
Prayer: Ashton Hutchinson
Lord's Table: Don Salisbury
Larry Paul
Les Smith
Jeremy Schunk
Sermon: Marc Curfman
Closing Prayer: Bob Parker
PM Song Leader: Lowell Smith

Attendance

	Last Week	Week Before
Sun. Bible	40	39
Morn. Assembly	62	62
Sun Eve.	31	28
Wed. Study	13	13
Contribution	\$1366.00	\$1547.00

Surely Not Those Sheep?

I grew up seeing some artist's rendition of the meek, gentle lamb around the neck of our Lord as He left the 99 and rescued the one. It is a beautiful and comforting image. Yet later in life, I actually worked with sheep on a West Texas farm. My experience was anything but the image of those paintings. Yes, the newborns are nice but the ones that wander off, the ones that won't cooperate and ones that constantly seemed to get themselves in predicaments just didn't fit the image of that painting.

There is a reason why sheep are either fenced in pastures or guarded by shepherds. Sheep just don't do what is best for sheep when left to their own devices. Especially those you might call "free spirits."

I don't offer myself as an expert. I am sure the average shepherd would have found my methods of shepherding entertaining or even frightening. My point is that the so-called "lost sheep" was anything but easy to deal with.

In Luke 15, Jesus is chastised for eating and drinking with tax collectors and sinners. **"This man receives sinners and eats with them."** Luke 15:1. It is that event that gave birth to the parable of the lost sheep. In Jesus' day, those sweet paintings had not yet been conceived. Instead, people knew what it was like to shepherd sheep and how much trouble that lost one could be. Yet to the shepherd, every last sheep was of great value and could not be forgotten.

As Jesus teaches throughout this entire chapter, he tells one story after another of the worth of each one of us, especially those that are most difficult. The most shocking parable is that of the prodigal son. Of all people not worthy of saving, he is the one. Yet to the father, this rebellious son has the father's heart and love. Too often we read these stories and think about how much God loves us. Great lessons but not the one Jesus was teaching. Instead, each of these parables is not about God's love for you but about your love for that rebellious soul, that wicked sinner and those who have turned their back on God to live life as they see fit. Do you and I have that same love, that same concern and that same tenacity that God has in order to bring them back to safety and salvation? Do we search out the lost? Do we desperately search for that lost "coin?" Do we stand at the road, desperate to catch even a glimpse of that rebellious soul that seeks hope?

Rescuing the lost is not a comforting painting we place on the wall. It is hard work. It can be very frustrating and even exasperating. It takes a commitment to that which may or may not find success. Just like those sheep, they don't always want to be rescued. And just like that rebel son, they don't deserve to be rescued (repeat that as you look in the mirror). But to God, each one is precious and whatever effort needed to bring them to faith and repentance is worth the cost. As Paul said; **"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all."** 1 Tim. 1:15.

If you are reading this and have not come to Jesus and obeyed his call, know that our Lord longs for each one of us to believe and repent. Repent is not a bad word but merely God's way of saying you can change, you don't have to be what you were but what you can be in God's grace. Yet if you call Jesus Lord, if you are one of God's children, you and I must see the value of even those who are the most difficult to love. You and I need to embrace that same scandalous reputation that our Lord embraced. When was the last time someone looked at you, shook their head in disgust and said; **"That guy (gal) keeps the worst company you could imagine. I've even saw him drinking coffee with..."** God's people possess God's heart and we especially seek even "those kind of sheep."

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.

October Teachers

Pre-K thru 3rd Myrna Smith
4th- 6th Ann Shanklin
Sunday Morning Adult classes:
Lowell Smith
Young people's class: Tom
Mayes

Wed. Eve. Don Salisbury



October Teacher:
Sue Curfman



Building & Communion
Lynn Prickett

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

October 28 cancer walk. See Lowell & Karen for details.

Ladies Class & Breakfast - Saturday 10/28/17 starting at 9:30 am.

Luncheon - Next Sunday 10/22/17 after morning services, bring your favorite dish.

Game Time today after services for all youth who would like to stay.

Sermon Notes: Romans 12:9-21 Honest Love

We live in a world where emotions and feelings are told to rule the day. No one should ever be unhappy, uncomfortable or unfulfilled. As such, love is defined by the latest ballad. But as soon as the emotions fade, the love disappears and we rush off looking for the next emotional rush or hope to fill some perceived void in those emotions.

God's love stands in stark contrast to man's love. God's love is eternal. God's love guides, blesses, builds up and God's eternal love is costly. God's eternal love is seen from creation to the cross to heaven.

Romans 12 calls earthly people to heavenly commitment, one that surpasses mere whims of emotions.

"Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good." Rom. 12:9.

The prophet Jeremiah warns about man's heart Jer. 17:9-10. Our first step in understanding love is to know good from evil and choose good.

James speaks of the temptation to selfish love Jas. 1:2-4. Our motives are often corrupt, seeking what is best for self and not others. The foundation of love must always be God's word and God's will. Gen. 39:9.

"cling to what is good." Not a natural choice but a tenacious resolve when all influences pull you away from right.

Rom. 12:1-21. With all this in mind, Paul shows love in real time; we do what is best for others, love for others is service to God (living sacrifice 12:1).

Love in God's house is placing self last as we honor others, hold firm in the midst of hurt, pray and give when needed, even our own homes.

12:14-21 We bless when cursed. Such blessings are not just a prayer at night but taking care of the needs of even our enemies. A love for an enemy that cannot be seen, felt or heard is a false illusion.

We don't play by Satan's rules. We overcome evil with good.

None of this sounds reasonable or logical. Love is never supposed to be reasonable or even rational. Love is the way of our Lord who went to a cross when all logic, reason or rationality said; "no!"

Before Paul brought this path of love to the Romans, he reminded them and us today that faith in Christ is surrender. **"...present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship..."** Rom. 12:1-2.

The gospel message is the death burial and resurrection of Christ 1 Cor. 15:1-2. The gospel life is living that message. **"The righteous will live by faith."** Rom. 1:17.

Love is found in that faith.

October Birthdays

10/1 Mary Parker
10/2 Bob Parker
10/8 Lynn Prickett
10/10 Carol Basham
10/18 Donna Beard

October Anniversaries

10/3 Elmer/Jean Wilkey

*We are in need a Bible Hour Teacher for December

Prayers: Karen Smith/Donna Beard/Toni Layman's treatment with cancer. Kim Fender's Son in-law, Robert Hall is battling with cancer.

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."