

October 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
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: Lowell Smith
Song Leader: Ron Smith
Prayer: Frank Glover
Lord's Table: Tom Mayes
 Harley Carrothers
 Alan Springer
 Bruce Curfman
Sermon: Marc Curfman
Closing Prayer: Don Salisbury
PM Song Leader: Alex Watkins

Attendance

	Last Week	Week Before
Sun. Bible	39	30
Morn. Assembly	62	51
Sun Eve.	28	21
Wed. Study	13	18
Contribution	\$1547.00	\$1150.00

Be Salty

It has been a very distracting week this week. Let me correct that. Life is overwhelmingly filled with distractions. Great catastrophes have taken place all over the world. Dire needs can also be found in my own neighborhood. There have been devastating events across the globe of floods, storms, even earthquakes and fires. There have been children abandoned by parents, mothers struggling to stand firm as they face trials alone. Cancer wards are filled with fear. Elderly tremble alone in the night. That list can go on and on. Yet such news barely touches our hearts. The popular news, the perceived threat or crisis usually surrounds the latest tweet as both sides line up for a battle over who kneeled and who didn't, who marched for their demands and who fears losing their rights. It isn't that these things are completely irrelevant but where would our Lord spend his hours? Where would Christ be found?

In Luke 14 we find Jesus eating a Sabbath meal with the legal experts of his day when a man with dropsy stands before Christ. Will he join in the debate over the Sabbath or will he heal one who suffers? Obviously, we know the answer. Compassion always guides our Messiah. As the children's song says; God first, others second. But then the remainder of Luke 14 deals with misguided priorities. Nothing should ever matter more than the great feast of salvation. Yet in one example after another, Jesus shows how people have their own priorities and goals and though there is nothing wrong with those goals in and of themselves, when they take us away from God's purpose, we lose. In Jesus' parable it was real estate acquisition, farming and family planning that took first place. Today it is so much more, from wealth, building, entertainment, to politics and to whatever else places me and my people first and God and His will second. Jesus then shockingly rejects all of our values and priorities and declares that they must be completely pushed aside if our choice is to follow Christ. Family, friends, even my own life are cast aside in order to follow Christ. The vivid demand places God's will, and God's purpose for life as the undisputed champion and uncontested ruler of our lives. Nothing less will do. Yet week after week, people who claim to be God's children and disciples of our Lord assemble together and discuss and debate their own wants, desires, opinions and values as if they were actually God's will. Meanwhile, the man with "dropsy" of Luke 14 stands before us. You may not have even noticed him. No, it isn't likely to be dropsy. It might be hunger, alcoholism, addiction, loneliness, cancer, or just simple hopelessness. If it were not for the latest tweet, internet story that "went viral" or social debate, you and I might have noticed the real needs.

Luke ends the chapter with a statement Jesus made time and again; ***"Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned? It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out."*** Luke 14:34-35.

Surely, you understand that proverb! Salt has a purpose but when it loses its purpose, what good is it? You and I are created in the image of God and have been given God's purpose to fulfill here in our short time in this world. Yet when we are distracted from God's purpose, when we can ignore the struggles of our fellow man, be it physical or spiritual, are we not exactly like that legal team at the start of our story? Have we not lost our "saltiness," our God given purpose? If so, what good are we.

No miracle is required to reach out to your fellow man or woman. Just reach out in whatever way you can. Leave the tweets and internet posting and protest marches to someone else, someone who doesn't have Jesus as Lord. Instead, we are those who quietly roll up our sleeves and serve and love and seek God's purpose in life. You are salt. Try being a little salty this week.

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.

Sermon Notes: Romans 12:1-2 Therefore...

For eleven chapters Paul has explained, diagramed and proclaimed God's hope for man. In a world bent on destruction, God gave His Son to redeem our souls, to restore that lost fellowship and to show us the path of hope. All of man's hopes are found in faith in that message of the cross and faith in Jesus. More than just words, it is a radical change as we turn away from the world and follow Jesus.

Now that Paul has laid out God's hope for us, all that God has done, how we are not saved by our own efforts but by faith in the gospel, Paul now turns to each believer and says; "Therefore..."

If I truly believe, what difference will such a faith make in my life?

"Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. ²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." Rom. 12:1-2.

Paul defines worship not as what we do for an hour once a week but worship is how we live daily for God. Not my will but God's will. We are not those who in John 6 followed merely for what they could get from Christ. We are those who follow for what we can give to our Lord.

For the next three chapters in Romans, Paul is going to give practical ways that we become living sacrifices. Paul will discuss how we treat one another as the church, how we serve outsiders, how we call others to the faith and even how we live as citizens in a world that may not honor our faith at all. It all starts with self-sacrifice as daily we choose God's will and we choose to serve others with our words and actions.

Before Paul ventures into these topics, he reminds us that we are not the ones who get to decide what is right or wrong. We do what is acceptable to God. And it is never the world of darkness that defines what is light. Our lives will **"prove what the will of God is..."**

We follow our Lord's example. That Messiah who on the night of his betrayal laid aside his garments and washed feet. (John 13:3-5)

We are living sacrifices. Each day we decide to live lives of worship.

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

Prayers: Karen Smith/Donna Beard/Toni Layman's treatment with cancer. Kim Fender's Son in-law, Robert Hall is battling with cancer. Betty Sutton's husband Ted is having cataract 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."