

March 26, 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 6:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Study 7:30PM

Privileged to Serve

Announcements: Lowell Smith
Song Leader: Tom Mayes
Prayer: Frank Norvell
Lord's Table: Frank Glover
 Alex Watkins
 Caleb Watkins
 Harley Carrothers
Sermon: Marc Curfman
Closing Prayer: Alan Springer
PM Song Leader: Alex Watkins

Attendance

	Last Week	Week Before
Sun. Bible	37	36
Morn. Assembly	61	54
Sun Eve.	28	22
Wed. Study	14	**
Contribution	\$1125.00	\$1698.00

What the World Wants

"That very church which the world likes best is sure to be that which God abhors." — Charles Haddon Spurgeon

"And he said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God." - Luke 16:15

The original Great Commission was to; ***"Go into the world and preach the Good News..."*** It seems we don't do a lot of "going" these days. Instead, we open our doors and hope that they will come. To encourage people to come, we have decorated our buildings, planted flowers, provided climate control and well paved parking lots. Still, they do not come, at least not in the numbers we have hoped for. So some have decided the best course is to entertain, provide beautiful music performed by the best professionals money can buy. Some provide drama, we have pageants, seminars on finances, and so forth. And for those who can afford such expenses, it seems to have attracted a crowd. One church I knew had their sermon preached in the parking lot as the preacher rode back and forth on his horse, dressed like a cowboy.

Still, in Matthew 28:18-20, the Great Commission calls us to go and to preach the Good News. In Mark's account of that same conversation, Jesus said; ***"He who believes and is baptized shall be saved. He who disbelieves shall be condemned."*** (Mark 16:15-16). It seems that Jesus warns us that even in our faithful sharing of the news of hope and salvation, not all will respond. Many will walk away from the call of life.

I see nothing wrong with doing our best and doing what is best to share the message. And personally, I enjoy the comfort of our 21st century houses of worship. Yet what we must never do is alter the message to accommodate the hearer. Do not misunderstand. I am in favor of good singing and dynamic preaching. The church should offer various ministries to serve both the family of faith and those of the community. But if we change who we are and what we say merely for the sake of greater numbers, then we have forsaken the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The call is to make disciples, not to please or entertain. And the message is not to be solely the things that please but the command is; ***"teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*** — (Matt. 18:20)

Human nature of fallen man is not naturally compatible with the authority of heaven. So we persuade, we reach out, we convict men and women of God's truth. What we do not do is compromise. Yes, to the Jew, we become Jews, to the Greek, we become Greeks and to the weak we become weak... (1 Cor. 9:20-23). Such should never disregard the message of scripture and truth. We preach the whole Gospel and not only that which pleases men. The word of God is living and active and sharper than a two edged sword (Heb. 4:12). All scripture is inspired by God and as such is useful for correction, rebuking and for training in the ways of righteousness that God's people would arrive to that state of being for which we were created (2 Tim. 3:16-17). We do not have a message that pleases the planet. We do have the only hope for each individual's soul. So let us be strong in the truth and strong in our love and faithful to the call to go and make disciples; disciples of Christ. We may not have what the world wants. We do have what the world needs.

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.

April Teachers

Pre-K thru 3rd

4th- 6th

Sue Curfman

Sunday Morning Adult classes:

Lowell Smith

Wed. Eve.

Don Salisbury



April Teacher:

Sheila Gelter



Building & Communion

April

Farryl Adkins/Donna

Beard

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

VBS Youth group will arrive July 15-21. We will be serving food to them as last year.

We had a great Ladies Class yesterday with 15 in attendance. It was recorded if you would like it see Sue. Next class will be Saturday, April 29, 2017

Sermon notes: Uncomfortable Truths: "Because I Said So!"

One major flaw in today's church is that few believers have done their "faith homework." We believe, we just don't have convincing reasons for our faith, even though God has provided the evidence in nature, in his word and in our lives is we will but seek it. Each of us should have our own story of why we believe in the God of the Bible. We won't all be experts, able to debate every issue or topic but we will be convinced of enough that we will trust God in what he says, promises and commands.

At the same time, we live in a world that doubts. When we preach God's word, they are skeptical, sometimes mocking or belittling the hope we trust. It is to this world that we bring God's word and it is in this world that we live lives that march to a different drum, walking a walk in the opposite direction of what most believe and practice. The religion of the world and the religion of Scripture are diametrically opposite.

2 Tim. 3:4 says they are; "**lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.**" People that "**...reject authority...**" Jude 8. We believe God, so we try to convince others 2 Cor. 5:11.

But this world believes in self as the only true God. Topics of morality, ethics, purpose, and pleasure are debated never looking above to God. And we often don't have satisfactory answers for them.

Our world as believers is much like Israel as they left Egypt and came to Canaan. It is a world that has its own beliefs, practices and philosophies. How did God reason with Israel, convincing them to obey? "Because I said so!" As God gave his path in all of life's debates, his reason was simple; "**I am the Lord your God.**" Lev. 18,19. "**Thus you are to keep My charge, that you do not practice any of the abominable customs which have been practiced before you, so as not to defile yourselves with them; I am the LORD your God.**" Lev. 18:30

It is the same challenge in the Gospel message. As Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount, again and again our Lord said; "**You have heard it said.. but I say to you...**" Matt. 5-7. And in the heart of this sermon, Jesus gives this imperative; "**You shall be perfect (complete) because I am perfect.**" Matt. 5:48.

We want good answers and should continually seek them for self and for responding to others. But if we truly believe the God of the Bible is our God, then we will do His will and command because we trust in Him. Because he is holy, we too must be holy.

March & April Birthdays

3/29 Graci Book

3/30 Henry Mayes

4/8 Caleb Watkins & Robb Nash

4/18 Annie Norvell & Harley Carrothers

4/19 Yvonne Glover

4/25 Karen Smith

4/29 Lindsey Smith

4/29 Jean Little

April Anniversaries

4/17 Steve/Donna Wright

Prayers: Karen Smith/Rob Nash/Donna Beard/Toni Layman's treatment with cancer. Megan Chapman continues to receive chemo-therapy for leukemia. Alan Springer's mother in-law, Mae Kirchner fell and hurt her head.

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."