

March 5, 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: Les Smith
Lord's Table: Alan Springer
Assist: Jeremy Schunk
 Bruce Curfman
 Tom Wright
Sermon: Marc Curfman
Closing Prayer: Bob Parker
PM Song Leader: Lowell Smith

Attendance

	Last Week	Week Before
Sun. Bible	49	37
Morn. Assembly	72	57
Sun Eve.	22	21
Wed. Study	**	14
Contribution	\$2024.00	\$1549.00

The Sin of Less

“Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...” Gen. 1:26. So often we look at the various commandments and definitions of sin as recorded in Scripture. Books like Deuteronomy lay out case after case and action after action, declaring God’s judgment on various aspects of life. So, many of us want to keep a list in our pocket of what to do and what not to do. In truth, all judgment on life centers upon this passage in Genesis 1. You and I were made in the image of God, according to the likeness of God. Therein lays the only standard of concern. Sin is often defined as “missing the mark” (ἁμαρτανά, *hamartano*). Although there is much more to it than that, it is a point worth considering. When we sin, when we miss the mark, we fall short of our God given nature or our God given design Rom. 3:23. You and I were designed by God to be as He is. We love because He first loved us 1 John 4:19. We are called to be imitators of God in all ways Eph. 5:1. We do good to all people Luke 6:35, and we honor our vessels; our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit 1 Cor. 3:16, then we find that God given maturity or fulfillment that reflects our design Matt. 5:48.

All sin is a matter of the sin of less. It happens when we choose a path for which we were not designed. We choose the lesser goal or an unworthy target for our lives. Read the stories, listen to the news. Surely what you will hear is rarely that for which we were designed. The quest for pleasure is really the sin of less than the glory God gave you and me. The search for self-fulfillment is the sin of less as we fail to look up to the Father of purpose in our lives. When we reject God’s will for our lives, we have chosen the sin of less. You see it as people struggle to understand their identity, their definitions of happiness or pleasure. You see the sin of less as people live lives lacking self-control, lacking concern for their brother or sister or their desire to worship that which is truly higher, better and more noble. Confusion and darkness reign as people define their sexuality, their responsibilities, their purpose or their desires. As Paul reminds us, when God is not honored, then hostility toward all men reigns. 1 Thes. 2:15.

The sin of less seems to dominate society as a whole as we seek to be our own masters and ultimate authorities in life. God’s word is ignored and we each choose to be our own gods failing to comprehend that we were designed to be just like the only true God of the universe. The sin of less is spoken of by Asaph; **“I said, “You are gods, And all of you are sons of the Most High. “Nevertheless you will die like men”** Ps. 82:6-7. Interestingly enough, Asaph doesn’t speak of what we might normally refer to as sin. But looking out in society, he shows how as we go through life, seeking our own path, we ultimately “miss the mark.” We live the sin of less all the while we seek more.

When we fail to tie our hearts to God’s heart, when we make God after our image rather than seeking to reflect His image in our lives, then we suffer the sin of less. In each aspect of our lives, God calls us to honor His design and purpose for our lives. We cannot do such a part from knowing His will as found in His word. That is why it is so imperative that God’s word overflows in our thoughts and actions. Rather than the sin of less, we seek the glory of more; more purpose, more holiness, more love and more hope. **“For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”** Rom. 8:14.

What more could we ever hope for than to be sons and daughters of God? Why would we settle for anything less?

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.

March Teachers

Pre-K thru 3rd

4th- 6th Kacie Smith

Sunday Morning Adult classes:

Lowell Smith

Wed. Eve. Don Salisbury



March Teacher:
Ann Shanklin



Building & Communion
March
Sheila/Morgan Gelter

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.

Spring Sing Retreat - Come for Weekend or a Day! March 17-19, 2017 at Fort Hill Christian Camp. Flyer on bulletin board.

Sermon notes: Uncomfortable Truths: Deceptive Destroyers

We have been conditioned to believe that all destructive choices are easy to recognize. In truth, you may see my problems better than I see them myself. Like Eve in the Garden, we never anticipate the depth of hurt caused by some choices or actions as they ignore God's will. And even with others, we don't always comprehend the deception of sin (1 Tim. 5:24). We have learned to even call evil good or good evil (Isaiah 5:20).

We also tend to worry about the wrong things. We worry about that which may harm the body but ignore those things that destroy the soul. We bear arms for protection yet allow Satan right in to the home through media and entertainment. And we sit idly by as the world gains control of our thoughts and judgments. That which shocked a decade ago, is now considered not so bad or even positive today. In Numbers 25 we read a story well set for our present day. The enemy of God's people could not over throw Israel with violence so they chose to seduce the hearts of God's people through acceptance of their way of life and moral choices. It nearly destroyed the nation.

Over the centuries, the various evils of society have found acceptance by people. Yet God's word on sexual morality, social responsibility and holiness have not changed. Because sin often has such a benign outward appearance, we fail to see the destructive nature of sin. Like a store front, beautified to the passerby, we don't see the filth or brokenness hidden from sight. Remember that Jezebel painted herself to disguise reality. Absalom was handsome and charismatic yet nearly destroyed a nation.

God's word plainly speaks of the destructive nation of sins that today are called acceptable life's choices (Rom. 1:18-32) There is but one cure; only God can rescue and redeem through His Son who died on that cross. Yet the cure is not a vaccine that taken, allows us to continue in sin (Rom. 6:1). We surrender, we obey and we walk with God's will as our guide. We press on (Phil. 3:13-14).

We must understand truth in regard to these deceptive destructions of souls (1 Cor. 6:9-11). We must understand that our actions judge us (John 12:47-48) and we must decide where we stand in a world that calls all things of God into question. As Elijah asked; **"How long will you hesitate between two opinions?"** (1 Kings 18:21) The uncomfortable truth is that sin destroys, even those sins our society deems acceptable. We trust God.

March Birthdays

3/1 Larry Paul
3/3 Judy Paul
3/4 Jean Glass
3/18 Mae Kirschner
3/21 Clayton Smith
3/29 Graci Book
3/30 Henry Mayes

March Anniversaries

3/6 Kevin/Jean Little

*Ladies Class/Breakfast-Saturday
March 25th - 9:30am

Prayers: Karen Smith/Rob Nash/Mike Shephard/Toni Layman's treatment with cancer. Megan Chapman continues to receive chemo-therapy for leukemia. The family of LaShanda Smith & Marian Blakely on the passing of Cotton Blakely.

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."