

April 16, 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: Frank Norvell
Song Leader: Tom Mayes
Prayer: Ron Smith
Lord's Table: Lowell Smith
 Jeremy Schunk
 Ashton Hutchinson
 Don Salisbury
Sermon: Marc Curfman
Closing Prayer: Frank Glover
PM Song Leader: Lowell Smith

Attendance

	Last Week	Week Before
Sun. Bible	51	30
Morn. Assembly	82	62
Sun Eve.	24	23
Wed. Study	12	**
Contribution	\$1324.00	\$1412.00

Knowing How the Story Ends

I like to read books. I'm not one of those who would skip to the final chapter and then go back and start at the beginning. That would spoil the story. Yet at the same time, I would never buy a book that's last chapter was missing. That would cause me not to even start to read. We always want to know what is contained in the final chapter of the story.

Each of us lives a life that is different from one another. We have rich, powerful, beautiful, brave, cowardly, anxious, sickly, poor... Rarely does one word suffice in describing our lives. We are a plethora of characteristics and issues of life. But one thing that should interest each of us is knowing how the story ends. We can bravely endure almost anything as long as we see hope in that final chapter. We want to know if there truly is light at the end of the tunnel.

Of course, not everyone is interested in knowing how the story ends. Perhaps fear keeps us from wondering or asking. Like that ostrich, some prefer to bury their heads, to not know where our actions may lead us. Then there are those who are so involved in the here and now, that they don't feel they have time for such questions. When Julius Caesar was asked what kind of death he would prefer, he responded; a surprising death. I guess on the ides of March, he got his wish.

God has always revealed to man how the story ends. But it is not the same for everyone. Those who seek God will find him. Those who turn their back on him perish.

The parable of the rich man and Lazarus is all about how the story ends. The rich man seems to be completely shocked to find himself in the agony of Hades. He even asks Abraham to send back Lazarus to warn his brothers. Yet Abraham reminds the rich man that all the information needed is already there. **"They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them."** Luke 16:29.

The world seems to journey through life with no clue or concept of their final destination. We, on the other hand are constantly told in God's word of our hope, our victory and our final destination of eternal life with God. **"In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."** John 14:2-3.

It is far too common for even God's people to forget to look upward, to look toward the horizon, and remember what life is all about. We too can become caught up in the day to day. Perhaps doing what is good, what is right, maybe even dedicated to the ministry of God but forgetting to reassure ourselves of true goal of life.

Paul, after a long discussion on the resurrection then brings the discussion to the present day, saying; **"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord."** 1 Cor. 15:58. It is a good reminder to always connect how we live today with the hope we have in tomorrow, the hope of our eternity.

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.

Ladies Class/Breakfast - Saturday, April 29, 2017, 9:30am.

Directory Inserts of new members are available in the back - also directories for new members.

Sermon notes: Romans 1:16-17. The Gospel

One of Paul's most powerful proclamations is found in Rom. 1:16-17. ***"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."***

As Christians we proclaim this "gospel" each time we meet. It involves a cross, a death and an empty tomb of the very Son of God. It is why we meet on the Lord's day and proclaim Jesus' victory over death and remember that sacrifice on the cross as we partake of the holy supper each week.

Paul tells us there is ***"salvation to everyone who believes"*** and that ***"The righteous shall live by faith."*** So what is this faith? Is faith merely an intellectual acceptance of the message? Is faith some emotional feeling? Or is there more to faith?

Paul uses a word *"pistos."* More than a thought, feeling or idea. Faith implies a trusting choice of life. ***"The righteous shall live by faith."*** The Hebrew writer says faith ***"is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."*** Heb. 11:1. Such faith is life altering.

Some say ***"Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved."*** Again, what does that mean? Acts 16:31-32 shows us that such a statement was merely the launching point of an all night bible study with a Jailer and his household that ended with a pre-dawn baptism.

Paul connects faith and gospel. To understand faith, we must first understand the gospel. As central as the cross and the empty tomb are to our message, is that all there is to the gospel? Matt. 4:23 tells us that Jesus went about ***"proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom..."*** What were those sermons like? A good clue would be Matt. 5-7 in what we call the Sermon on the Mount. Life changing demands, choices and submission to the Lord of heaven and earth are found on each line of that sermon. Also read Luke 3:3-6. ***"Prepare the way of the Lord."***

1st Century Rome knew the word "gospel." It was the announcement made as a new emperor was proclaimed; "Good news, there is a new ruler..." Jesus tells us to proclaim the gospel; "Good News! The King of kings and Lord of lords reigns!" Such a gospel demands obedience to that king. Such a gospel is seen in a way of life never seen before as the hungry are fed, the blind see, sinners and tax collectors receive forgiveness and those who rule wash feet.

It is this gospel that Paul is not ashamed of. It is the power of God for salvation to all who believe. The righteous shall live by faith.

April Birthdays

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

*Area Wide Singing - 4/30/17 at 3:00.

*Ft. Hill Work Day - June 3rd.

*Special Collection for Ft. Hill - 4/23/17.

Prayers: Karen Smith/Rob Nash/Donna Beard/Toni Layman's treatment with cancer. Megan Chapman continues to receive chemo-therapy for leukemia. Home of Steve/Teri Gilliam caught fire Friday while they were out of town. There has been extensive damage. They will be home soon.

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."