

April 2, 2017



# HIGHWAY 32 MESSENGER

**Highway 32 Church of Christ**  
1688 Tri-County Highway  
P.O. Box 642  
Williamsburg, OH, 45176  
[www.highway32coc.com](http://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: Bruce Curfman  
Prayer: Les Smith  
Lord's Table: Don Salisbury  
Jeremy Schunk  
Ashton Hutchinson  
Alan Springer  
Sermon: Marc Curfman  
Closing Prayer: Frank Glover  
PM Song Leader: Tom Mayes

**Attendance**

|                | Last Week | Week Before |
|----------------|-----------|-------------|
| Sun. Bible     | 32        | 37          |
| Morn. Assembly | 60        | 61          |
| Sun Eve.       | 23        | 28          |
| Wed. Study     | 14        | 14          |
| Contribution   | \$1411.00 | \$1125.00   |

**Wobbly Knee Faith**

Romans 7 has always been a chapter that has perplexed many serious Bible students. How could the great apostle Paul write this? He seems to be talking about a personal journey of spiritual struggles. Of course it might also be a comparison between living under the Law verses under the grace of Christ. Still, I see myself far too often in the words of Paul there.

One would hope that as a Christian, all spiritual struggles should cease. We are children of the light, of hope, and grace. Yet the sinful nature seems all too ready to return all too often. In spiritual terms I think that I "talk the talk" fairly well. But when it comes to walking the walk, my spiritual knees are often a little wobbly. As Paul said in Romans 7; ***"For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members."***  
**- Romans 7:22-23**

The stories of God's people told in Scripture are like none told by any other religion. We get to read about these "heroes" of faith with all of their flaws and weaknesses and imperfections. Not just before they turned to serve God but even while they served our God. Abraham, Moses, David and Elijah are just a few in the Old Testament. The New Testament "flawed of faith" continue even after the cross. Peter has his weaknesses, Paul and Barnabas argue and part ways. Timothy seems to be a nervous young man who can be intimidated if not careful. Philemon, Eudia and Syntyche, the list here also goes on. God has called not the perfect but the broken.

You and I do not come to Christ because of our strengths but because of our weaknesses. It is why we needed a Savior and continue to need a Savior. As ashamed as I am and should be of every misstep of faith and disobedience, I glory in the Cross of Christ that delivers me from sin and also continually calls me to live the life of the crucified one.

***"Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, - Philippians 3:12-13***

So I apologize for my wobbly spiritual knees. I repent of those stumbles, sins and that which brings shame to my mind and heart. What I will not do is quit. I will not surrender to the evil one. I will keep on keeping on. As John encourages us to remember; ***"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. - 1 John 1:7***

Did you read that closely? I didn't just write this about me. John puts you in that same struggling category of disciples who just never seem to get it right but we just refused to quit because we affirm that the blood of Jesus cleanses us. John says ***"...we have fellowship with one another."*** What a group of people we are. All together with wobbly knees but all walking in the hope and strength of Christ and on the path of the crucified one.

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**

4<sup>th</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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; God's absolutes**

Living among the world, yet living in faith, we often question what is truth, what are absolutes of life and what is not. It is a series of questions that must be taken serious if we are to find assurance and hope. As Christians, our absolutes of life are found in God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Spirit of God. We trust God's word. Yet the religious world often will follow just so far and no farther. When God's demands become uncomfortable or contrary to our own beliefs, understanding or desires, then God is rejected. John 6 describes such an event as the demands of Jesus are more than what the crowd will allow. They walk away. It is Peter who affirms "**Lord, to who shall we go? You have words of eternal life...**" John 6:68. Even so, in the next breath, Jesus reminds us that there are those who "may be on the bus but not members of the team." Judas was such a one. Outwardly, as religious as any but inwardly he had his own agenda, his own god of materialism.

For the next several weeks, we want to look at the Book of Romans and understand God's absolutes for life as described by Paul. We want the words to develop a faith that makes us more than just along for the bus ride but firmly planted on God's team, God's followers of faith. A faith not of our own creation or desires but God's absolutes. All Scripture guides us toward this end (2 Tim. 3:16-17) but Paul uses the letter of Romans to be that lynchpin of what faith truly is.

Romans teaches us God's truth about the world, about religions, about righteousness, redemption, justification and obedience and our only hope for salvation. Romans gets personal about our own walk with God. Romans will disarm all of our own objections and leave us with only God's absolutes of life. Trust and obedience to that message gives us purpose, meaning and hope.

***"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. <sup>17</sup>For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "But the righteous man shall live by faith."*** Rom. 1:16-17.

It is this gospel we choose and none others.

### **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

**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."*