

April 30, 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 4:30 PM
(This week only!)
Wednesday Bible Study 7:30PM

Privileged to Serve

Announcements: Frank Norvell
Song Leader: Tom Mayes
Prayer: Lowell Smith
Lord's Table: Ron Smith
 Jeremy Schunk
 Larry Paul
 Alan Springer
Sermon: Marc Curfman
Closing Prayer: Harley Carrothers
PM Song Leader: Area Wide Singing

Attendance

	Last Week	Week Before
Sun. Bible	38	45
Morn. Assembly	68	75
Sun Eve.	27	29
Wed. Study	18	17
Contribution	\$1938.00	\$2528.00
Ft Hill Special	\$440.00	

Pearls and Pigs

At Jesus' trial, Pontus Pilate ask our Lord several questions, none of which did he seem to listen to the answers. His final question I don't even believe was a question at all but a mocking declaration; **"What is truth?"** With that statement, he walked away. Often times, people ask questions, not really seeking the answer. It is said that when answering questions, the intent of the question is more important than the content. What is the person's reason for asking the question. Is it to trap? Is it to belittle? Or are they truly truth seekers, hungry for answers.

As disciples of Christ, our goal is to share the message with all we encounter, to persuade the lost to believe in the gospel. It is a world with billions who do not know the hope of salvation. If we truly believe that people are saved by grace through faith and that faith comes from hearing God's word, then the task before us is daunting. The time is short. The problem is that far too often when we speak and when we are silent has more to do with our own personalities and egos than the commission of the truth. We find friendly faces and not that of threat. Some look for debates more than teaching opportunities. We seem to think that if we are busy in a debate or argument, then we are actively serving God.

The truth is that what we often are most comfortable in doing could be defined as "casting your pearls before swine." Although it is difficult if not impossible to judge who is willing and who is not willing to listen, sometimes we seem more attracted to an argument than a journey toward hope. The reasons may be many. One may be that we fear not having the right answer for many questions. When it comes to baptism, repentance or grace, we come armed with a stack of verses. But when it comes to philosophical questions or claims of science or questions of suffering, many of us have no reply.

It is good to remember that the core of the Gospel is not doctrinal issues or religious positions. The core of the Gospel is hope for a hopeless world, meaning for those who have lost their way. If we cannot answer those questions, then what is it that convinces us to believe?

The Apostles were told to share the message of the Kingdom of God. They went to the religious and irreligious and showed them a path more blessed than any religion. Those who did not accept, they merely brushed the dust off and went on. Why? Because there are so many to reach. We do not waste time casting pearls before pigs.

Remember, Jesus' greatest success was not with Pharisees or Sadducees or Priests. His greatest success was with the lame, the blind, the sinners and the rejected of this world. But what made the work so successful was that Jesus had hope for the hopeless, purpose in life for those who lost their way and love for those deemed unlovable.

I don't want us to ever shut the door on anyone. But there are times that we need to learn to walk away, knowing that we will never share the Gospel with the entire world. So we keep on seeking those who listen. It may be that woman at the well, the Jailer at midnight, or the governor with a sick child. It may be that man or woman in the hospital bed next to your bed. It may be that frustrated single mother with 3 or 4 over active children. It may be the prisoner, the elderly disappointed with the past or the youth seeking to understand their future. If the Gospel has changed your life, given you hope and purpose, then you have what is needed to share with anyone who will listen. So let us try not to cast our pearls before pigs but first and foremost, let us make sure that what we possess truly are the pearls of life. Doctrine is good. Hope is precious, more precious than perils.

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.

May Teachers

Pre-K thru 3rd

4th- 6th Sue Curfman

Sunday Morning Adult classes:

Lowell Smith

Wed. Eve. Don Salisbury



May Teacher:
Kacie Smith



Building & Communion
May
Frank Glover Family

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.

Area wide sing today a 3:00 snacks afterward and then our evening study at 4:30.

Ft. Hill work day - June 3rd.

Ladies Class/Breakfast - Saturday, 5/29/17 - 9:30am.

Sermon Notes: Romans 1 – God gave them over...

Although the gospel reveals God's goodness and right path for life, many have refused both God and his way. In fact today's society is filled with God haters who actively fight against any truth that doesn't conform with their own will and wants. If God is dead, then man rules according to whatever his heart desires. We see it in mass media, education, music and in our own neighborhoods. Morals have been replaced by "alternative life styles" or "live choices." Adultery, homosexuality, fornication are now called, "affairs, gay and hooking up to take away any judgment. Then there is God's word. Has it any relevance in the 21st century or is this an ancient document meant for antiquated times? Don't we know better today?

Paul wrote Romans to God's people living in a society and culture even more depraved than ours today, or at least equally troubled. Although Jews had their standards of right and wrong, what Paul describes in Romans 1 is something familiar to everyone. From their leaders in Roman society on down, any immoral behavior was common practice and for some even a part of their religion. While living among such people from Rome to Corinth to Philippi, Paul writes; ***"I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes,... in it the righteousness of God is revealed..."*** Rom. 1:16-17.

So Paul explains what we see in our world today. ***"For the wrath of God is revealed... against all ungodliness..."*** 1:18-25

In Paul's day temples were built for the worship of any creature and man. In our day, nothing takes higher place than man and nature. God is eliminated from the consciousness and truth is actively suppressed if it does not agree with the humanist, post-modernist agenda. Man worships himself.

So how is God's wrath revealed? Paul tells us ***"God gave them over..."*** In other words, for those who fight against God, he has allowed them to experience the consequences of their acts. That too we see as we witness a world of hurt, loneliness, and empty souls destroying and being destroyed in all manners.

The real topic here is not the woes of the world but the choice of God's people. Do we follow? Do we embrace this new way of life or as the early church do we stand against the tide? And how? Rather than protest and rally against evil, the early church chose to reject this world's path and live godly choices in morals, in charity, in kindness, mercy and love. Such reflects ***"the righteous shall live by faith."***

May Birthdays

5/2 Daniel Beard

5/7 Kelsey Book

5/9 Ron Glover

5/22 Kacie Smith

5/25 Judy Shaw

5/25 Kevin Little Jr.

May Anniversaries

5/30 Ron/Myrna Smith

Prayers: Karen Smith /Donna Beard/Toni Layman's treatment with cancer. Megan Chapman continues to receive chemo-therapy for leukemia. The Nash Family in the passing of Robb Nash. Edna Bradshaw is recovering at home from neck surgery/draining of a blood clot in the leg.

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."