



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: Lowell Smith
 Song Leader: Bruce Curfman
 Prayer: Frank Glover
 Lord's Table: Don Salisbury
 Bowen Stivers
 Harley Carrothers
 Caleb Watkins
 Sermon: Marc Curfman
 Closing Prayer: Jeremy Schunk
 PM Song Leader: Alex Watkins

Attendance

	Last Week	Week Before
Sun. Bible	47	38
Morn. Assembly	70	68
Sun Eve.	29	27
Wed. Study	22	18
Contribution	\$1721.00	\$1938.00

No Room for Addicts

It seems that addictions are in the news on a daily basis. More and more people seem to be completely losing control of their lives and life's direction to some worthless, even obvious destructive element. The ones that make the news are often things like alcohol or drug addiction. Yet that which robs us of life is not limited to such "news worthy alerts." It seems that we have a society that is vulnerable to addictions in every area of life imaginable. There are sex addicts, workaholics, video game addicts, and of course those people who can't seem to go for 5 minutes without checking that cell phone for a text or the latest posting on the Internet. Some things seem to be so obviously destructive, yet others that on the surface may seem innocuous are just as life robbing as a cancer.

The list of addictions goes on and on. The loss of life's direction seems to be the greatest casualty for all of the above maladies. Not being a psychologist, I don't know if I am capable of giving definitive reasons as to why people fall prey to these and other behaviors but the most obvious reason seems to be the lack of real purpose in one's life. Scripture doesn't speak of addictions in the way we do today but there are several references that would easily fit. Various passages in both the Old and New Testament speak of those who are given to alcohol addiction (Prov. 23, Rom. 13:13, Eph. 5:18...). And yet there are so many who refuse to admit the problem and continue destroying both their own lives and the lives of others.

An often confusing parable of Jesus speaks of a man who after being released from a demon, only to later finds his life possessed not only by that demon but also seven others. ***"When the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and not finding any, it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' 'And when it comes, it finds it swept and put in order. 'Then it goes and takes along seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first.'"*** Luke 16:24-26.

The focus is a life that was empty, as empty as a vacant house. This man lived an existence with no real meaning. Life is to be lived for God's glory and only then do we find a meaningful purpose. Anything less is an open invitation to a life robbed of purpose. So destructive to our God given design, Jesus compares it to a poor soul suffering the horrors of demon possession.

Think about your life. It may be busy. It may be calm. It may be difficult or it may seem pleasant. But is there any real meaning to your life? Yes, we have to earn a living, take care of bills, and so many other things. But in the end, is it a life of purpose and meaning? Jesus cried out; ***"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."*** John 10:10. The walk of faith seeks to love God and love others. Rather than be robbed of life, Jesus and his path gives us the abundant life. It is more than attending church once a week or a prayer at breakfast. The abundant life finds meaning, purpose and hope in every day. We shine as light in darkness. We bless and do not curse. We live as children of God, showing his heart, his concern and his aide wherever we go. Such lives have no room for addictions of any sort and no desire for them.

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.

Ft. Hill work day - June 3rd. Sign up sheet on the bulletin board.

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

Sermon Notes: Romans 2:1-16 No Excuses

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery." Ex. 20:-2. Before God gave man His law, God first redeemed man.

No good work can save but only God can save. Man is not redeemed on Mt. Sinai but at Golgotha. The gospel is God's power for salvation to those who trust. Yet there is a constant friction between those with God's word and those who live outside of God's commandments. Who is better than who? Are all sins equal? Are church people superior to those on the outside?

In Romans 2 Paul focuses on those of the Law of Moses who have turned to Christ. Like those who were raised with a Christian background today, it is easy to feel superior to others as if we in and of ourselves are special, not realizing that we too deserve judgment and condemnation. As Rom. 2:1 declares; ***"...you have no excuse..."***

The blessings of God's grace should lead us to repentance rather than complacency. (2:2-4). We too are sinners. If life is based on our deeds, then both good and evil will be revealed one day. The problem is that too often, those who claim to be Christians forget to take a measure of honesty as we look in the mirror. We are much better in remembering our good deeds than our evil ones (perhaps because the list is shorter). On Judgment day the things we excuse, the actions we forgot and the deeds we have kept secret are all revealed. Then who can stand before God? It is good to reflect on many of Jesus' parable concerning judgment and note just how surprised many were that they failed to stand justified before God. Our standard is not one another or comparing ourselves toward others but the holiness and righteousness of our Lord (Rom. 2:12-16).

Paul has so much more to say about the human condition without grace. No one stands justified before God. No one deserves hope, especially not those who know God's word yet fail to live up to that standard. All of us need a Savior. No one saves him\herself by good deeds. We are called instead to surrender to the Lord of heaven and earth, to trust in Jesus and live a life of that trust and to find hope not in our abilities or deeds but in the redemption of the gospel that was found on a cross as God's own Son became our sacrifice, our hope and our salvation.

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. Alan Springer's daughter, Megan dealing with flooding. Kim Wright's daughter, Stephanie's husband has developed lung cancer.

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."