

June 18, 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 6:00PM
Wednesday Bible Study 7:30PM

Privileged to Serve

Announcements: Frank Norvell
Song Leader: Lowell Smith
Prayer: Les Smith
Lord's Table: Frank Glover
 Caleb Watkins
 Bowen Stivers
 Alex Watkins
Sermon: Marc Curfman
Closing Prayer: Alan Springer
PM Song Leader: Ron Smith

Attendance

	Last Week	Week Before
Sun. Bible	37	36
Morn. Assembly	69	63
Sun Eve.	24	18
Wed. Study	16	18
Contribution	\$1554.00	\$1456.00

Humbly Bragging

I read of a preacher who decided to write down his prayer of thanksgiving. He recorded his thanksgiving for everything that came to his mind from the sunshine to his health to the blanket on his bed to the children he could hear playing on the playground. His list of thanks went on and on as each moment caused him to notice just one more blessing. It was a wonderful reminder of just how well God has blessed our lives. Yes, there are those aches and pains, times of sorrow and fears. I am sure there are those reading this who at times find the darkness overwhelming. Still, regardless of who you are and what life has brought to your door, it is good to remind ourselves that there is the God of love who enters our lives and calls us to life with Him. Even in the dark times, we reach out to the Father.

I have also noticed another attitude among some of God's people. There seems to be a guilty feeling because life for them is good. Comparing what the world offers to what they possess, they seem to have a habit of what I call "humbly bragging." This happens when they "humbly" tell you of all they have given up for God or humbly tell you what they could have done had it not been for their commitment to God. As they tell you of their good and godly choices they make, there seems to be a hint of envy for the world. Rather than be the rejoicing believer they want to be seen more as the suffering saint.

Over the centuries and even today in some parts of the world there are those who truly suffer for their faith. Some have lost families, homes, employment and in severe cases are imprisoned or executed for their commitment to the gospel. Yet others, living in relative comfort, seem to feel a guilt that they are not overtly and violently persecuted. So they speak of how they give up time to attend church on Sunday rather than fish at the lake. They speak of spending less on things so they can give at church. They mourn what they may have missed out on in life because of their commitment to Christ. They humbly brag about their sacrifices.

I do not wish for persecution but if it happens, may I stand firm in my faith. Yet the life I live in Christ is not one of what I lack but what I have gained. Like that pearl of great price, the value of the gospel is worth more than any personal cost. Jesus said; what profits a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? So let me remind us of one of my favorite verses that truly describes life with Christ; ***"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."*** John 10:10. If we are to humbly brag about anything, let us brag about that abundant life. Let us count all of God's blessings but above and beyond all other blessings, let us rejoice in the fellowship we have with God and the fact that our names are written in heaven.

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.

June Teachers

Pre-K thru 3rd

4th- 6th

Sue Curfman

Sunday Morning Adult classes:

Ron Smith

Wed. Eve.

Don Salisbury



June Teacher:

Ann Shanklin



Building & Communion

June

Tom & Jessica Mayes

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. See Myrna Smith for signing up to help feed the youth.

THIS SATURDAY - Ladies

Class/Breakfast - June 24th 9:30am -

Teacher: Ann Shanklin -

Worshipping God with our Lives

Sermon Notes: Rom. 6:1-6.

One of the greatest struggles of the soul is understanding life itself. Even then that is only the beginning of the journey. You then need to also live what you have learned and discovered but live it with conviction or belief that it is the right choice. Still, in the end true victory is when you actually love what you have come to believe.

Such applies to so many areas of life; Marriage or the single life, family, career, and our personal ambitions. More vital than all is the struggle for the soul for life itself. Why am I here? What is my purpose? The gospel message reveals life's ultimate purpose in Jesus Christ, the very Son of God. The message of the cross delivers us from darkness to light and from death to life eternal with God.

Rom. 6 has arrived to the point that Paul hopes that we understand that salvation is through faith and the power of God, grace from the death of Jesus who offered himself as our sacrifice. Yet the carnal, worldly mind has its way of wandering away from God. Some might say; "well, if saved by grace, then I don't have to worry about sin. I can live as I please." So Paul writes of how such an anti-faith claim would be. **"...How shall we who died to sin still live in it?... we have been buried with Him through baptism into death... walk in a newness of life."** Rom. 6:1-4.

In first century Christianity, there was no such person as an "unbaptized believer." Paul calls us to reflect on the meaning of that immersion with Christ. We died to sin and were raised to a newness of life. How could you choose to go backward?

What far too many so-called believers seem to miss today is that faith is not a system of religion but a heart melded to God's heart and a life joined to the life of Christ. One group wants salvation by the rule book. Another wants to find loopholes in that rule book. Faith is in love with God and only wants to please God, to make the walk closer, and the relationship stronger. Sin destroys what this believer values more than anything.

Paul has much more to say about sin, temptation, weakness and stumbling and especially about love. But here Paul wants you to reaffirm your love for God before taking another step. **"our old self was crucified with Him... so that we would no longer be slaves to sin..."** Rom. 6:5-7. Or as Paul started; **"...the righteous man shall live by faith."** Rom. 1:16-17.

June Birthdays

6/1 Savana Beard

6/4 Bruce Curfman

6/8 Jaylee Little

June Anniversaries

6/3 Frank/Yvonne Glover

6/22 Joe/Sandra Sena

6/24 Carl/Donna Beard

6/25 Lowell/Karen Smith



Prayers: Karen Smith/Donna Beard/Toni Layman's treatment with cancer. Megan Chapman continues to receive chemo-therapy for leukemia. Annie Norvell is at home recovery from a broken foot. She will be in a cast for 2 more weeks.

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."