

July 23, 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: Tom Mayes
Prayer: Bryan Basham
Lord's Table: Frank Glover
 Caleb Watkins
 Alex Watkins
 Bowen Stivers
Sermon: Marc Curfman
Closing Prayer: Alan Springer
PM Song Leader: Lowell Smith

Attendance

	Last Week	Week Before
Sun. Bible	68	36
Morn. Assembly	95	67
Sun Eve.	54	20
Wed. Study	vbs	18
Contribution	\$1286.00	\$1283.00

I Look Unto The Hills

It is Sunday morning and you are running a little late. It is time to dress, get the children ready and finish that last sip of coffee and head to church. It may be a car, a bus or maybe you are close enough to walk to the meeting. You get there and there are chairs to arrange, people to greet, and children running at full gallop. The worship goes by, too quickly for some and not fast enough for others. Soon it is over and maybe you can't remember the sermon topic as you go home. You did what you ought to have done but the meaning of the morning may have been lost in the confusion of it all.

In our busy schedules (often because we choose to be so busy) worship may fail to be realized even though we did all the right things, said the right prayers and sang the right songs. It is not a new phenomenon even though we think it is. Generation after generation has had the same struggle. In God's word there are a series of psalms called Songs of Ascent that were written for that specific purpose. These are actually songs that those who are on their way to worship could sing or recite as reminders of what the time was all about. Ancient people struggled to survive week to week. Work on the farm, animals to tend to or maybe your shop with all of the struggles to earn yet another shekel could easily be your focus rather than God Almighty. Then as now, it was easier to honor God with your words, your feet but not your heart. So they would sing on their way to the tabernacle or temple or synagogue these songs of faith. God, faith and hope became the focus even before that time of gathering to worship.

We need that today. Not as a way of one more obligation on top of all of our other Christian obligations but as a way of turning our hearts to what really matters. Imagine walking to meet with God's people and singing; ***"I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth."*** - Psalm 121:1-2. Read all of that psalm and see how the focus is away from the busy week as you remind yourself that it is God and God alone that makes life full, purposeful and guiding.

Maybe on the bus, just open your bible and read one of these reminders from God (read out loud if you are not too worried about what others may think). Children turn off the tablet and strain to be unconnected from "the cloud" of the Internet but instead be connected to He who rides on the clouds. No texting, no phone calls, no making out grocery lists or worrying about next week's schedule. Instead, use God's word to turn your heart to God even before arriving at that worship meeting. Just read some of those inspiring songs.

"I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!" -

Psalm 122:1

"To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!" -

Psalm 123:1

"Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever." - Psalm 125:1

"He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him." - Psalm 126:6

"Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!" -

Psalm 133:1

Psalms 120-134 are all Songs of Ascent, all for calming the soul as we prepare to lift up God together in worship. But you go ahead and choose the scripture or psalm or song. Do what will direct your mind, heart and soul toward the heavens while the world never even pauses. I promise you that our time together will not be just a matter of going through the motions or performing some obligation. It will be not just an hour of blessing but a day of strength, directions and worship of our Lord and God.

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.

July Teachers

Pre-K thru 3rd Myrna Smith
4th- 6th Ann Shanklin

Sunday Morning Adult classes:
Ron Smith

Young people's class: Tom Mayes

Wed. Eve. Don Salisbury



July Teacher:
Kacie Smith



Building & Communion

Ron & Myrna Smith

Note: Children will go to Bible Hour during the song before the morning lesson. Children ages 2 thru the 6th grade may attend.



Thank you to all who helped with the Dalraida Youth Group while they worked here with our vbs program.

Dalraida church of Christ
3740 Atlanta Highway
Montgomery, Alabama 36109
(334) 272-2561
office@dalraida.org

Sermon Notes: Romans 8:1 "in Christ"

Paul tells us that *"therefore there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."* A powerful, yet often poorly understood declaration. With the baggage of well over a thousand years of man's slant on God's gospel, it seems that anywhere you go, you find a message preached that only slightly resembles the words of Jesus and the Apostles. Paul says that our hope lies in Christ, yet the core of most preaching today involves various forms of "a list" that brings salvation. It could be five steps of salvation or a simple sinner's prayer or a lifelong devotion to confessions, deeds and rituals. Paul says that those who are *"in Christ"* are those who have found forgiveness. In other words, those who are in a godly, faithful relationship with the Son of God. Salvation, hope, forgiveness, redemption, justification all are found not in a system of religion but in oneness with the Father, the Son and the Spirit.

There are points of truth in some of those "lists" of salvation. Yet when walking with God is secondary to our "lists" we fail to achieve the very hope for which we long. In Christ we find the *"abundant life."* John 10:10.

All of us know people whose lives contradict their beliefs or claims. Often it is because they seek to fulfill a list rather than live *"in Christ"*, that is, the relationship, or fellowship with Christ.

Reflect over the message of Romans up to this point. Man, in many fashions has tried to succeed in life, only to make it worse. Only in faithful walking with God can hope be found. We have peace with God, not a list (5:1-2). Christ died for us (5:6). It is not a matter of tossing out God's law but in the faithful walk with God, we fulfill the law (3:31)

It may seem like a simple difference of words but the difference between salvation by a list verses salvation from our relationship with God is at the core of all scripture. Yet too many prefer the list.

Furthermore, Scripture rarely focuses on a salvation that involves where you are going (heaven/hell) but whom are you going on the journey with. For those who are *"in Christ"* salvation is not something to hope to accomplish one day but the abundant life to be lived even today and yes forevermore. It is God's gift to us (John 3:16) and hope is only found in Christ (Acts 4:12). Remember, for God so loved the world, He didn't send a list. He sent Jesus.

July Anniversaries

7/2 Tom/Becky Wright
7/12 Steve/Teri Gilliam

July Birthdays

7/1 Frank Norvell	7/15 Lyman Smith	7/15 Kellie Wright
7/16 Heather Nash	7/17 Jean Wilkey	7/18 Don Salisbury
7/25 Elmer Wilkey	7/26 Carl Beard	7/27 Nancy Cassinelli
7/27 Betty Sutton	7/31 Ray Curfman	

Prayers: Jean Glass/Karen Smith/Donna Beard/Toni Layman's treatment with cancer. Jean Glass is receiving hospice care in home.

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."