

August 20, 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: Lowell Smith

Song Leader: Bruce Curfman

Prayer: Ashton Hutchinson

Lord's Table: Ron Smith
 Frank Glover
 Les Smith
 Rich Book

Sermon: Marc Curfman

Closing Prayer: Bowen Stivers

PM Song Leader: Ashton Hutchinson

Attendance

	Last Week	Week Before
Sun. Bible	46	44
Morn. Assembly	65	76
Sun Eve.	23	27
Wed. Study	12	19

Contribution \$2349.00 \$1449.00
(\$1000 given in memory of
Jean Glass)

By What Authority?

When you are confronted by the carpenter's life, you quickly see just how far removed Jesus was from the ways, values and teachings of this world. I would like to imagine a scene where the world and worldly stood on one side and Jesus along with those of faith stand on the other side. Yet it is that definition of "those of faith" that is most troubling. We see the conflict on the pages of the gospel story and we see the same identical conflict in our current modern story today. It is not just the so-called worldly that stand opposed to the King of kings but far too common, those who actually claim Jesus as Lord are the core of offense to the heart of the Christ and His kingdom.

In Mark 11, Jesus cleared the temple of those who saw faith as a way of profit and power over men and women who just wanted to draw near to God. After overthrowing tables and chasing out money changers and the vendors from God's temple, Jesus declared; **"Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations? But you have made it a robbers' den.'**"^{Mark 11:17}. The very next day, a group of ministers and preachers (Pharisees) confronted Jesus because of this very act and asked; **"who gave you this authority to do these things?"** ^{11:28}. Surely, in their heart of hearts they knew that Jesus was standing with God and the will of God in this act and that it was they stood opposite of holiness. Yet long ago they had compromised faith for the sake of self. Religion had become a system, a comfortable way of life rather than a path for seeking the heart of God.

I fear little has changed today. Churches may preach from Scripture, sing songs of praise to God, yet we pick and choose what parts to follow and what parts to ignore. We choose what is comforting rather than confronting to our own beings. In essence, we have become our own self-appointed authority of faith. In the days of Jesus' ministry, the religious claimed God as their Father but failed to live with the heart of God. Today, so many claim Jesus as Lord yet just like those Pharisees, fail to seek the heart of Jesus.

We know all too well how to confront the enemy or condemn those who oppose us. Do we also see that most religions, most churches do not stand for the heart of God but for comfortable traditions and protection of what we want rather than what God yearns for us to be?

It was not just the Pharisees and Sadducees of Jesus' day that had this flaw of faith. We even see it in the Twelve Apostles who during the ministry of Christ could never comprehend a Messiah and a cross. A cross meant defeat, not victory. Yet that is where the heart of faith is found. We also must pick up our own cross, choose selfless living so extreme, that we can say along with Paul; **"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."** ^{Gal. 2:20}. In other words, not my authority that matters in the great challenges of life nor even the smallest choices of the day.

As Jesus returned to the Father, his last words to the disciples were what we call the "Great Commission." Yet it is his opening words that should cause us to change our own personal path; **"All authority on heaven and on earth is given to Me..."** So as you take on whatever role or task before you today, ask yourself "by what authority?" Parents, sons, daughters, neighbors, workers, soldiers, politician or preacher; whatever may be your life, by what authority do you act? By whose heart are you controlled?

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.

August Teachers

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

Sunday Morning Adult classes:
Ron Smith

Young people's class: Marc
Curfman

Wed. Eve. Don Salisbury



August Teacher:
Sue Curfman



Building & Communion
Don Salisbury

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

Ladies Class & Breakfast will be Saturday 8/26/17 at 9:30am. Teacher: Myrna Smith

Former Members Mary Crist passed away in June and her husband Richard Crist has terminal cancer. Two years after Highway 32 was established Mary and Richard became members. If you would like to send him a card; 2310 Kingston Pike Circleville, OH 43113

Sermon Notes: Romans 9 "Its not fair!"

The beauty of the gospel is hope for all mankind. If that is so, then why did Paul say **"For I am not ashamed of the gospel"**? Rom. 1:26. After all, all you need to do is "believe." Yet in Paul's day the confusion was that those most dedicated to serving God were also those most likely to fail to find hope. The vast majority of Israel rejected the Messiah of God. The hope or lack of hope of Israel is a topic that is obscured or ignored in today's so-called Christian environment. Yet the challenge of the Jews in the days of Paul has its equal cousin today.

Today we also have so many groups of people who just like those of Paul's day also seek to worship God and find hope and salvation in God. If all it takes is to be religious, then would not most of the world be saved? And if all you need is to believe in God, isn't that almost everyone?

Yet God's plan, the gospel not only tells us that Christ died for our sins but also that those who by faith obey are those who will be saved.

The cry from so many as they read the commands of God is; "It's not fair!"

"Behold, I lay in Zion a stone of stumbling..." Rom. 9:33. That stone is Jesus, his life, his teachings and his commandments. When we decide that we are the ones who decide what can or cannot be, what is or is not, or what is right or what is wrong, we stumble over the Son of God.

Those who claim to believe in God/Jesus need to also surrender to God's ways and will. **"I will have mercy on whom I have mercy..."** Rom. 9:15. The words from Hab. 2:20 need to be on our hearts today; **"the Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him."** In other words, we listen to God and not speak over him.

God calls us back to him but according to his path. It is what Jesus reminded people of in John 12:47-48. **"...the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day."**

It does no good to give false hope. Instead, know the truth, live the truth and share God's truth. Rather than demand your own way and demand that God acquiesce, we by faith follow and obey. To **"walk by faith, not by sight"** 2 Cor.5:7. Is to do things God's way, not man's reason, logic or opinion. Faith keeps his word and not my own wants.

August Birthdays

8/6 Mark Book
8/23 Alex Watkins

August Anniversaries

8/3 Bob & Mary Parker
8/9 Frank & Joyce Norvell
8/28 Rich & Jenni Book

*Fort Hill is needing to raise money to fix the pool. The amount needed is \$80,000. Donations need to be in by next Wednesday to present to the board meeting on Friday. Contacts: Tom Mayes/Frank/Lowell.

Prayers: Karen Smith/Donna Beard/Toni Layman's treatment with cancer. Sandra Sena is recovering from surgery on her wrist. Bob Parker's neighbor, Alex Welch has been very sick.

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."