

September 17, 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: Les Smith
Lord's Table: Frank Glover
Bowen Stivers
Caleb Watkins
Alex Watkins
Sermon: Marc Curfman
Closing Prayer: Harley Carrothers
PM Song Leader: Lowell Smith

Attendance

	Last Week	Week Before
Sun. Bible	34	37
Morn. Assembly	70	77
Sun Eve.	36	29
Wed. Study	8	12
Contribution	\$1387.00	\$1388.00

Are You Ready Yet?

Mark chapter 6 gives us a glimpse into the life of Jesus and all that was going on both good and bad as Jesus started his ministry and traveled sharing the news of the Kingdom of God. So often you hear the debate of what matters most; acts of charity, such as physical or material needs or the sharing of the message. It is clear not only in Mark 6 but also throughout the New Testament that the message of good news of the Kingdom takes priority, as God's word has the power to change lives both here and for eternity. Yet never is the teaching independent from acts of charity and kindness. God's people must respond to the desperate needs of this world. As James says, faith without works is dead and what good is it to see a brother in need and merely say; "be warm and filled" yet to actually do nothing to clothe or feed?

The unfortunate reality of today's community of so-called faith is that often many just seem to be involved in the debate over teaching or charity. Far too many neither share the message of hope nor touch the needs of the needy among us. We just seem to enjoy discussing the issue. We suppose that such ministries are supposed to be the duties of others who are more experienced, more qualified and more knowledgeable than the rest of us. We say that we would work for Jesus' sake but first we need more time, more training and more information.

That brings me to something else I noticed in Mark 6. Jesus appointed the 12 as Apostles, messengers of the gospel and immediately sent them out to share the message and minister to people's needs. How much knowledge did they have? How much experience? How much training? Actually, very little at all. It seemed to be what we might today call "on the job training." In fact at the end of the chapter, the apostles panic, seeing Jesus walking on the water. These are the heralds of the gospel message, yet they lacked understanding.

Mark tells us that they had seen the miracle of the 5 loaves and 2 fish, and they had witnessed so many other miracles. How could they not understand? Mark tells us "**for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.**" (Mark 6:52). Hard hearts? The Apostles? It seems that the Apostles were like so many of us in our infancy of faith. We get it wrong more times than we should. Yet in spite of their ignorance and even in spite of their hard hearts, Jesus had already been sending these 12 men out to share the message of repentance and to reach out and touch the lives of those they met.

God always starts with us where we are. But never will it be God's will be to let us stay there, stagnant and unchanged. His solution to our lack of knowledge, ability or talent is to get out there in the world and serve. Ministry, sharing God's word, and rescuing the lost both spiritually and physically is the response of faith in Jesus Christ. If you just now obeyed the gospel, then that ministry started yesterday. If you have been waiting for the time to be right to do God's work, the day is today.

We are called to act upon our faith or else faith is really not faith at all but merely a discussion. Even the demon possessed man was immediately given a task. One day he was in rags living among the tombs. The next he was sent to evangelize 10 cities. So what are we waiting for? Are you ready to speak a word, give a cup of water or whatever else you can find to do for our Lord? When Jesus calls us to be disciples, Jesus calls us to action. He calls us to service for the sake of the gospel here and now. Will you make mistakes? Of course you will. Will you have all the answers? No, not now or ever. But we start, we speak, we act and we share our faith. Like Moses, Gideon, or even the twelve Apostles, when God calls us to faith, God calls us to action and to serve. Are you ready yet? Well, God says you are.

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.

September 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



September Teacher:
Sheila Gelter



Building & Communion
Les/Lashanda Smith

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
9/23/17 at 9:30am. Teacher: Ann Shanklin

New Member: Linda Qualters
qualtelc@aol.com

October 7th the Wright family will again have a team to walk to end Alzheimers in Memory of Morris. If anybody would like to join or donate see Tom.

Sermon Notes: Romans 10:1-4 Having the Heart of God

The core and purpose of Romans is to show the path of hope not based on a rule book but on the very heart of God. **"The righteous shall live by faith"** is more than a mental acceptance of truths but a heart that walks with the heart of our Lord and our God. Yet one looming question for so many in Rome is; "what about those Jews who are not obeying?"

The answer to that is the focus of Romans 9,10, & 11. Paul aches over his lost countrymen, yet reveals that their stumbling block is the Christ, Jesus the Son of God and the source of our salvation.

Although correct doctrine has been the focus of this letter, all of this is to point not to a religious system but the heart and life of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is the end to all righteousness, the final chapter and the consuming fellowship of our souls.

Rom 10:1-4 speaks of religion with zeal and dedication but not knowledge (ἐπίγνωσις epignōsis), a knowledge that requires not just information but intimacy. Not knowing God's righteousness, not understanding the very heart and purpose of God, they tried to establish their own system of righteousness. Man's best substitution is always a miserable failure. What the Jews failed to grasp is what so many "so-called" believers today fail to understand. The end of the law of righteousness is Christ (10:4).

Today's Bible thumping world often makes the same fatal error. We have doctrines, truths, teachings and even deep emotions. What often is ignored is Jesus Christ. Although people may pray in the name of Jesus, baptized in the name of Jesus, and gather to worship in the name of Jesus, the heart of the Savior is unknown and rejected by the daily lives of those who call Jesus Lord.

The righteousness of God is found in Jesus' deity, his death on the cross and his resurrection from the grave. But the righteousness of God is also found in the life of this Messiah and the heart of Jesus. It is too easy to have a religion but fail to have the heart of the Savior.

It is time for those who claim the name of Jesus to seek the heart of Jesus. Salvation is not found in a ritual or system of religion or by taking the right stand on a particular debate of doctrine. Truth is vital but no greater truth exist than that of the need for the heart of Christ in one's own heart. The righteousness of God is Jesus. **"He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day."** John 12:48. It is time to go beyond religion alone and time to get to know Jesus.

September Birthdays

9/4 Steve Wright
9/23 Sheila Gelter
9/30 Madi Book & Lowell Smith

September Anniversaries

9/19 Harley/Mary Carrothers
9/24 LaShanda Smith
9/27 Lorelei Mayes

Prayers: Karen Smith/Donna Beard/Toni Layman's treatment with cancer. Kim Wright's Son in-law, Robert Hall is battling with cancer. Donna Beard will be having surgery Tuesday @ 11:00. Cards are welcome but calls & visiting will be after she is feeling better. Myrna Smith is recovering from shingles.

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."