

CHURCH OF CHRIST
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STAMP



National Road Church of Christ

"Equipping the Saints for the Work of Ministry"

VOL. LXXV

DECEMBER 23, 2018

NO. 51

WELCOME VISITOR

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our visitors and invite you to come back and join us again for worship. We ask that you fill out a visitor card in the pew in front of you so that we may have a record of your visit. After our service we would like to give you a gift bag.

God's Grace

- Ron Stullenbarger -

Grace is one of the most astounding and life-transforming aspects of God's character. From the beginning of time God has chosen to lavish grace upon us instead of wrath. Time and time again, we've turned our backs on Him. And time and time again He demonstrates the depth of His desire for us through the giving of His boundless grace. In His grace we are afforded a life not only apart from His wrath, but lived in the glory of relationship with our Creator through the redemption of Jesus.

Ephesians 1:7 says, *"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace."* Have you thought about the nature of your redemption in depth? Colossians 1:19-22 says, *"For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him."* Such is the grace of our heavenly Father that there is not a single thing between us and Him. We, who at one time stood apart from God, have been brought into the family of God, redeemed by the blood of Jesus.

Not only have we been redeemed once and for all, but we are forgiven both now and forever. Paul writes that we as believers have *"the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace."* Where in your life do you need forgiveness? What do you feel is separating you from unveiled relationship with your heavenly Father? If you are a Christian, when you confess your sins, God offers you His forgiveness for anything you have done (1 John 1:9). *"According to the riches of his grace,"* which was made perfectly evident in the death of Jesus, you are being offered forgiveness. If God would send His Son to die in order to have restored relationship with you, you better believe He will forgive any trespass that seems to stand in your way now.

God doesn't operate the way the world does. He doesn't make you pay the penalty for your own sin. Instead, He offers perfect grace. Why? Because you can't get rid of the guilt of sin any other way! In story after story in Scripture God turns the systems of the world on their head through the concept of grace. In the story of the prodigal son, the father allowed the son to dishonor him, set aside his rightful punishment, and threw a huge party for his wayward child returned home. He didn't make him wait. He didn't make him work for his redemption. He immediately offered him forgiveness freely in grace. God offers us the same today.

Live in light of God's grace. Offer your heart to God freely. Let Him work out redemption in every area of your life that you might more fully experience the wonderful relationship you have available to you with God.

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MISSIONARIES

Slava Seytchelelov.....Ukraine
 Gladwyn Kiddoe.....Jamaica

SECRETARY

Wanda Adamson...304-242-2321

SERVICES TIMES

SUNDAY
 Bible Study9:30
 AM Worship.....10:30
 PM Worship.....6:00

WEDNESDAY
 PM Bible Study7:00

CANCELLED POSTAGE STAMPS

The World Bible School is collecting cancelled postage stamps. If you would like to save these, please cut out postage stamps and cancelled postmark only, 1/8 to 1/4 inch away from stamp and include postmark. If you have any questions, ask Joyce Faber. You can give cancelled stamps to Joyce or Wanda.

NURSERY ATTENDANT SCHEDULE

Week of December 30
 Stephanie Mills and Cheryl Mills

IN SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY

Week of December 30

"OUR RECORD"

This year is nearly over; what will God remember about us in 2018? Will God remember our sins, our rebellion, or our selfishness? Or, will God remember our love, our service, and our obedience? What will God remember? You can watch *In Search of the Lord's Way* every Sunday morning at 7:30 am on WTRF-TV7.

SERVE THE CONGREGATION

DECEMBER 30, 2018

LEADER - JOHN MCCABE
SUNDAY MORNING

ANNOUNCEMENTS.....JERRY JOSEPH
 SONG LEADER.....PAT CRONIN
 PRAYER.....PAUL MOORE
 PRESIDE AT TABLE.....MOE MORGAN
 DISMISS.....STEPHEN SHAY

SERVE AND COUNT CONTRIBUTION

MATT WALKER RICK THOMAS
 JOE MILLSSAM JACKSON
 GARY BECKETT JACOB PARSONS

P.A. CONTROLSRANDY COLE
 POWERPOINT.....JIM POOLE
 USHERS.....RICK HADORN
 BRIAN HARTO.....BEN LENZ

SUNDAY EVENING

SONG LEADERPAT CRONIN
 READINGJIM CONNER
 PRAYER.....STEPHEN BOND
 PRESIDE AT TABLE.....CURT HIPPENSTEEL
 DISMISS.....JOHN MCCABE

RECORD FOR PREVIOUS WEEK

BIBLE CLASS.....94
 SUNDAY A.M.163
 SUNDAY P.M.78
 CONTRIBUTION.....\$4329

Family Matters

INTEREST

If there is anyone who would be interested in helping a single mom get a special needs son to school in the morning, three days a week, please see Wanda for more details. It is in the Bethlehem area.

COMMUNION BREAD

Thank you to all the ladies who faithfully prepare communion bread each month. The schedule for 2019 is posted. If you would like to volunteer to make bread, please sign up on the sheet by the water cooler.

GOSPEL MINUTES

We have discontinued direct mailing of "Gospel Minutes." For those who wish to continue getting this tract, they will be available in the foyer. If for any reason, we do not have enough copies to satisfy the demand, we will order more in the future. The Shepherds

ALUMINUM CANS

Please continue to save your aluminum cans for Potter Children's Home. There is a box in the black and white room in the education building for the cans.

SCENT FREE ZONE

In consideration of several people who are very sensitive to a variety of scents, we are establishing a "Scent Free" zone for them in the Alcove. Everyone is free to sit in the alcove, but if you do we are asking that you do not use perfumes, colognes or after shave. This may take some time to get used to, but in time, with repeated announcements and sign postings, we are sure that we can all adapt to this effort in consideration of those with chronic allergies. Thank you. The Shepherds

ATTENDED NURSERY

We have an attended nursery on Sunday mornings in the basement for little ones two and under. Parents can leave their children to be cared for during the worship service. If you have volunteered in the nursery, the schedule is posted on the bulletin board in the foyer. If you wish to volunteer, please see Andrea Baldwin

PRAYER LIST

KEVIN KALANY, KAY PORTER, PATTIE LINDEN, CHERYL STIERS, GORDON & MARION TAYLOR, WELSEY POWELL, TRACY DELESIO, JERRY WINTER, PENNY DULANEY, ADRIAN THORNBERRY, LINDA STULLENBARGER, NANCY MILLER, LORETTA BABER, LINDA FRESHOUR, TIM SMITH, ELLA LEE, ASHLEY EBY, TODD DAY, SHARON PUGH, GEORGIA JOANNE BOLLINGER, RED PETERS, CAPRI WALTON, DAVE WELCH, ELLI GEORGE, MABEL IVERSON, ANNE EBAN, MARGIE MILLS, SHANNON SURRETTE, GEORGE PORTER and LEE ANN HESSON are undergoing treatment or have finished treatments for cancer.

MICHAEL SONNENWALD, MARIE HUNT, WILDA COLE, TOM HENTHORN, KEN MOORE, EVELYN HOSTUTLER, PAT CHAPMAN, DIANNE TOMLINSON, REGINA HIGGS, SANDRA RENSCHAW—CONTINUOUS CARE, DOTTIE RUCKH-GOOD SHEPHERD, VERNA WROBEL, RUTH SAMPSON AND JOANN WALKER are our shut ins either in nursing homes or at home and are unable to get out.

JACOB WALTON, JILL (HENNEN) BARNETT, TAMMY DOUGHERTY, JUDAH BLACKWELL, TYLER SEDZIOL, HUNTER SIMMONS, BARRY SULLIVAN, DARLENE MCKINNEY, PARKER AND MIRANDA SMITH, BILL WROBEL, DAVID AND MISSY SMITH, KROSS RADCLIFF, ALICIA RICHEY, VERONICA BARONE, PAUL & BENITA ZVONAR, PEGGY BRINGMANN, BECKY AND CLINTON ROBSON, JAMIE GILBERT, HOWARD PEARSON, JODI AND SHELDON MADDOX, ALFIE, ASTIN, MIKE WELLMAN, ANDREA CARTER, EDWARD MOWDER, PERRY HENRY, JOHN CRONIN, BENJAMIN LENZ, BLANCHE MUSILLI, TAMARA BONDARCHUK, SEAN CLARK, ABIGAIL HEPBURN, MELVIN CUNNINGHAM, AND AIDEN FUNDERBUNK are having health issues and need our prayers. Keep BOB HALL, WANDA EDDY, BONNIE RUTH, ERIC WRIGHT, AND LLOYD BALDWIN in your prayers as they recover.

JASON WATSON, son-in-law of Keith and Cathy Wright, is starting chemo treatments. Keep him in your prayers.

SONDRA CECIL was able to go home from the hospital.

Prayers are requested for JAMES BULLET, friend of Clinton Robson, who has been diagnosed with many debilitating problems.

Continue to remember those who are in the hospital, at home and on our prayer list in your prayers.

LADIES TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS

The Tuesday morning ladies Bible class will suspend meeting for the holidays until January.

REACHING OUT MINISTRY

A program called "Reaching Out Ministry" has been started to help our shut-ins. A meal is being prepared and delivered to them every other Thursday. If you would like to help out with this ministry, please inform Jim Poole, Donna Parsons, or Carol Thomas and give any donations for food purchases to Wanda Adamson. Volunteers are also needed to help deliver the meals. We will not have meals in January and February due to weather conditions.

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

The men will not be meeting this month for a prayer breakfast.

THE NATIONAL ROAD ADVISOR

*A bulletin supplement for
Christian Living in the 21st Century*

What Do We Do with Christmas?

[Reprint]

-Jim Hyst-

When I was growing up as a child, Christmas was not only a significant affair in the Presbyterian Church where I attended, it was an important time in my life. As a very young child, it may have been more Santa Claus than Christ, but I still have fond memories of hearing the stories of the birth of Jesus and listening to, or singing, the great hymns that celebrated it. As I grew older, even into young adulthood, when I was drifting from God rather than growing toward Him, I still enjoyed the Christmas season. It always seemed that people treated each other better, everyone seemed more selfless, and thoughts returned to ponder one of the great and mysterious events in the history of the Creation: God became flesh!

I encountered my first challenge to Christmas when I became acquainted with the churches of Christ where many people taught that it was wrong to celebrate it. It was argued that the date of December 25 was wrong and there was no directive in the scriptures to give it special attention. While we were part of this congregation we observed the Christmas season to ourselves without giving much thought as to whether it was right or wrong, or what, indeed, we should think about it. For a few years in the 1980s we moved to another congregation in St. Clairsville, OH. The teaching there was much more adamant that Christmas ought not to be observed and considerable pressure was present to conform to that view in our personal lives. It was not a universal view, but it was genuinely strong. At that point in my life I took the position that I did not know much about the Bible and generally acceded to those I took to know much more than I did. I was also very much focused on running a business that ran me more than I ran it, and taking care of my family. Nevertheless, various issues would arise that seemed less certain than was taught; certain issues that did not justify the point of view being advanced with the force that was behind it. But I would simply store them away in my mind to deal with at a later and more convenient time. Christmas was one of those issues.

In the short run I was so influenced that I began a

process of taking Christ out of Christmas. I tended to say "have a happy holiday" rather than "Merry Christmas" and observed Christmas as a secular festivity. Yet, I don't think I was ever quite comfortable with that rationale. As life progressed and I found more time to study the Bible, think about what I read and heard, and, most importantly, think independently. It was then that I found a flaw in my reasoning. It was actually, I think, the product of pursuing the knowledge of God more than developing and defending "correct doctrine" that made me reflect anew on this whole Christmas thing. In my studies, I read again "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus (Col. 3:17)." My conclusion was that it is never a good thing to separate the secular from the spiritual; every part of the Christian's life is to be conducted in the context of a life devoted to God. Christmas celebration had to be either in the name of Christ or it had to be disregarded altogether. At that point I put Christ back into Christmas. But, in order to do that a number of issues had to be addressed. What follows are some of those issues and how I think about them.

1) It is argued that since the Bible does not specifically "authorize" a special celebration of either the birth of Christ or Easter, we should not observe them. Some take it so far as to say we should not do so not only as a body, but also as an individual. First, I counter that as a body we do acknowledge and celebrate both Christmas and Easter. Whereas much of the world does it big-time once a year, we do it fifty-two weeks a year. We do not attach all the holiday festivities to it, but we recognize, acknowledge, and remember all the spiritual components every Lord's Day. It is the central purpose for our assemblies. The specific words of the institution of the Lord's Supper emphasize the death of Christ as our main focus, but it implies much more. Both the Incarnation as well as the Resurrection are implied. Without an Incarnation, there would be not a Death to memorialize. If there were no Resurrection, there would only be a death and nothing to celebrate. The birth, death, and resurrection are all implied in every Lord's Day celebration.

2) We have to look at all these elements from God's perspective. As humans we see things temporally and chronologically. People in the western world especially think in linear fashion. The Creation comes first, followed by the Incarnation, then, the Death, Burial, and Resurrection. Typical of human analysis, men will question which is the most significant; which should receive the greatest focus. But from God's perspective, all events occurred

TABITHA'S STOREHOUSE NEWS

24 Families served

NEEDED ITEMS

Toothpaste, toothbrushes, and bar soap.

Remember to bring in your paper bags, especially those with handles.

Want to give cash or check? Now you can make your check out to "Tabitha's Storehouse" and give it to Pat or Becky Cronin or Molly Williams.

Tabitha's storehouse will be closed on Wednesday, December 26 and January 2.