



Classes

Auditorium Class: Andy Scott

Teens: Arpoika Daniels

4th - 6th Grade: Lani Renner

1st - 3rd Grade: Ginger Posey

3yr - K: Lynn Grimes

Nursery: Miranda Hays

Sermons

AM: Arpoika Daniels

PM: No Evening Bible Study



IN SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY®

Next Sunday on Search: Apr 12-Our Forgiving God

We should not think the God of the Old Testament has no interest in saving us from sin. He loves us and sent His Son Jesus so that we would not perish but find everlasting life. We can know our Father by looking at Jesus.

Daily Bible Reading

Sunday

Psalms 54-56 & Matthew 5:1-26

Monday

Psalms 57-59 & Matthew 5:27-48

Tuesday

Psalms 60-62 & Matthew 6:1-18

Wednesday

Psalms 63-65 & Matthew 6:19-34

Thursday

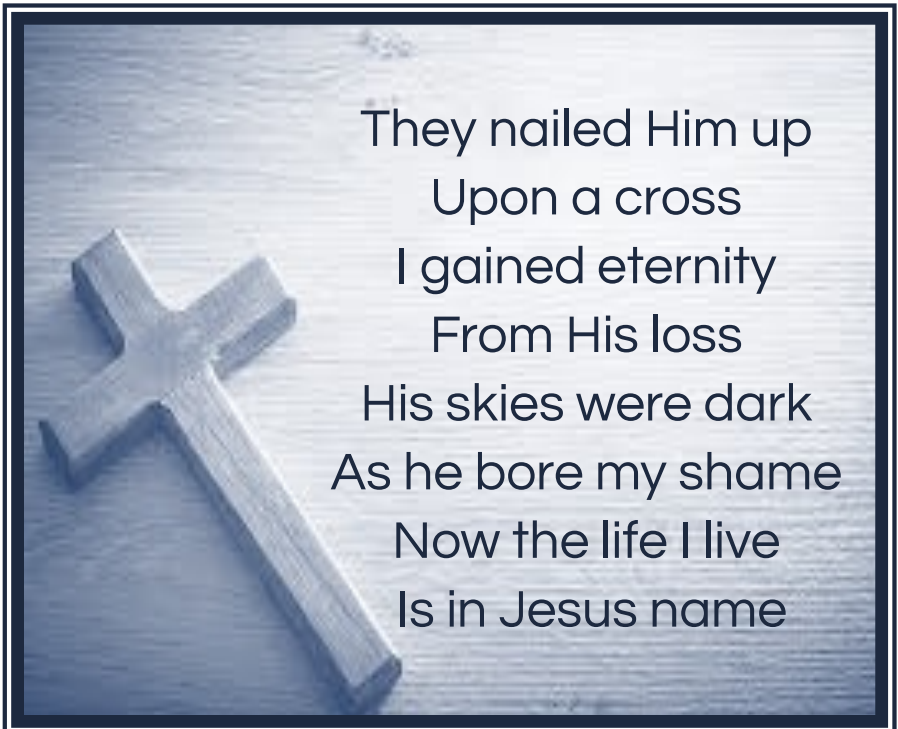
Psalms 66-67 & Matthew 7

Friday

Psalms 68-69 & Matthew 8:1-17

Saturday

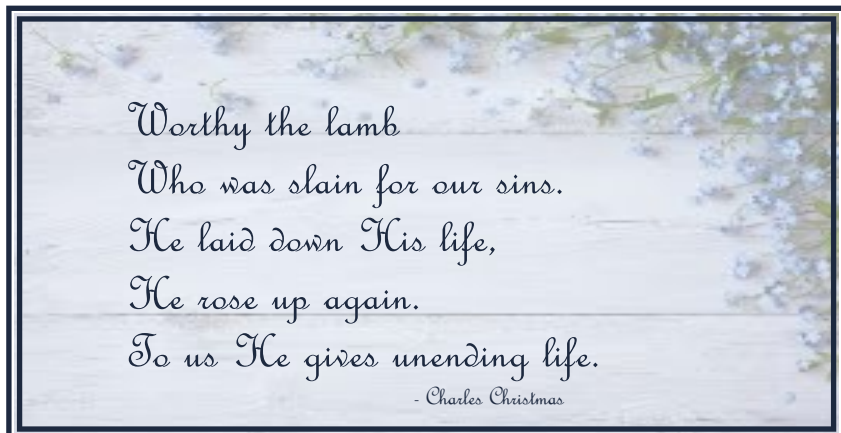
Psalms 70-72 & Matthew 8:18-34



They nailed Him up
Upon a cross
I gained eternity
From His loss
His skies were dark
As he bore my shame
Now the life I live
Is in Jesus name

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3 (NIV)



Worthy the lamb
Who was slain for our sins.
He laid down His life,
He rose up again.
To us He gives unending life.

- Charles Christmas

In Our Hearts:

Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall. Psalm 55:22 (NIV)

Ezekiel Smithee, great grandson of Shirley Howell, has a tumor that has returned and is larger. The doctors are deciding what the best plan going forward will be.

Sara Shelton, daughter of Andy Scott, Clancy Phillis, Beverly Ramsey, Larry Waddell, Lee Daniels, mother of Arpoika Daniels, Pat Joslin, sister of Sue Alexander, LaRohnda Jones, niece of Johna Myers, Kenny Brewer, Sue Alexander, Talhia Vanlandingham, Steve Lashley, Alvis Campbell, Ted Criswell


Let's remember our shut-ins: *Peggy Malone*

Gospel Meeting: The Highland Church of Christ in Tecumseh will be hosting a Gospel Meeting beginning on April 15th and running through the 19th. The service will begin each evening at 6:30 and will be followed by a cookie fellowship. The theme for the series of lessons from Glenn Colley will be *Authentic Christianity*.

Vacation Bible School: The planning for Vacation Bible School 2026 has begun! If you would like to volunteer to help with any part of this year's VBS please let Lani Renner or Debbie Crane know. The tentative date has been set for July 20th through the 22nd. Please make plans now to be a part of this outreach to our community!

There will be no evening Bible study on Sunday, April 5th, due to the Easter Holiday.

What should not be heard by little ears . . .
Should not be said by big mouths.



AN ENCOURAGING WORD

In the Beginning - John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1).

This first verse from the gospel of John in the Bible describes someone who is called The Word, that is, Jesus Christ Himself. Reading on down in verse 14 John says, **“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”** When the Son of God became human, being born of Mary, His name was called Jesus. In verse 17 of John 1, the scripture says, **“grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.”** The term “only begotten of God” is also mentioned in the familiar verse of John 3:16, **“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”**

In these first verses of his gospel, John uses term “The Word,” to describe Jesus before His being born in Bethlehem. So, lets read it again putting Jesus' name into these verses. It says, **In the beginning was Jesus, and Jesus was with God, and Jesus was God.**

The promise stands that whoever believes in Jesus **shall not perish but have eternal life.** Jesus came to give His life and be resurrected again. He wants to give us an eternal and abundant life (John 10:10). That is good news, which is why the Gospel is called the Gospel, which means “good news.” Jesus truly is the encouraging Word.

Faithfulness Though People Sin

Why should we stay faithful to Jesus when so many churches and Christians do so much wrong?

It's a common complaint. Here is a leader in a church who fell from grace in some way or hurt others. There is a church that is worldly and selfish, turning a blind eye to their own problems. Christians may fail to speak up for the oppressed and then dismiss the sins of others. The world sees this and wonders why Christians keep serving Jesus. Doesn't all that prove Christianity to be false?

The problem is not new. Jesus rebuked the Laodiceans, "For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked" (Rev 3:17). This can be true of any of us or any church, and when people see the hypocrisy, they might walk away. Many have.

What shall we say to this?

First, sin is not to be ignored among God's people. Being Christians does not make us immune to sin and evil. 1 Corinthians 5 shows the church at Corinth tolerating evil, and this was to their shame. Yet the fact of sin should never lead to its acceptance among us. Holiness is our goal (1 Pet 1:13-16).

Second, we need to know that non-Christians can often see the sins of Christians and they will call them out. They may see hypocrisy and want to warn others about Christians. This is one reason Christians need to identify sin for what it is. There should be no double standard wherein we call out the sins of the world while minimizing our own. Sin is sin whether committed by the world or Christians.

Third, we must never justify wrongdoing. We need to address sin for what it is. Paul told Timothy that preaching needed to include rebuke, and he warned of those who accumulate teachers that suit their own passions (2 Tim 4:1-4). There is no softening this. Jesus addressed sin in churches and called them to repentance (Rev 2-3). Confession and repentance are vital to our spiritual health (1 John 1:5-7).

With that in mind, let's answer the original question. Why should we remain Christians and identify with churches even though Christians and churches can be so flawed? Why should we stay faithful?

The essential answer is that following Christ is based on the love and grace of God, not the flawed actions of people. We recognize that what we do, how we treat others, how we love, and our unity or disunity affects people negatively and can contribute to disbelief (John

13:34-35; John 17:20-21). That's on us, and we will be held accountable for how we act. Yet that does not change what God did for us and how He demonstrated His love through Christ, a love that is offered even to those who oppose God.

This affects us deeply. Many have witnessed mistreatments and sins of those in churches. This can be heart-breaking and cause some to question faith. Is this what Christians and churches really stand for? Emphatically, "No!" and we need to make this clear. If we rest our case on the actions of people, we might just give up. Again, many have.

The truth of Jesus stands regardless of how people act. Even Paul felt the sting of those who failed to do right. We can hear the pain in his words, "For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me..." (2 Tim 4:10). His deep concern for all the churches was ever present (2 Cor 11:28). There were those preaching from envy who were trying to harm him (Phil 1:15-18). Yet he stayed faithful to the end because of Jesus: "for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me" (2 Tim 1:12). Faith is in Jesus. We act based on Him, and He is always faithful, always the same (Heb 13:8).

The church at Corinth had significant problems. There were false apostles seeking to discredit Paul. Yet the bottom line for the determination to be faithful and persistent is what Christ accomplished. Paul could have been sidetracked by those who do wrong, but he remained steadfastly committed: "For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified" (1 Cor 2:2). Ultimately, because Jesus was raised from the dead, we have incentive to stay true to our commitment: "Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain" (1 Cor 15:58).

While Christians do not always do what is right, leaving the Lord should never be the response because the Lord Himself is ever faithful. Remember, too, that there are Christians who do faithfully love and seek to do right, even though imperfectly. Regardless of how others act, at the end of the day, the final reason to stay faithful is Christ Himself. We must not minimize the sin, but we also must not minimize the Savior, for His grace is greater than our sin (Rom 5:18-6:4).

- Doy Moyer

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Deacons:

Ken Crane
Jim Grimes
Steve Johnson
Jerry Renner
Bob Swearingen

**Worship & Bible Study
Schedule**

AM

Sunday 9:30 - Bible Class

Sunday 10:30 - Worship

PM

Sunday 5:00 - Bible Study

Wednesday 6:00 - Bible Study

Worship Workers

April 5

In Charge: Steve Johnson (405-380-5013)

Welcome AM: Syd Morgan

Song Leader: Steve Johnson

Opening Prayer: Andy Scott

Closing Prayer: Nuben Barton

Lord's Supper & Offering AM: Bob Swearingen

Lord's Supper & Offering PM: No Service

Scripture Reading: Paul Alexander

Heritage House

Thursday, April 9

Jim & Donna
Hardin

April Nursery Attendants

April 5 - Debbie Crane

April 12 - Ginger Posey

April 19 - Ashley Noey

April 26 - Kay Lashley

April Worship & Bible Class Greeters

North Doors: Paul & Sue Alexander

South Doors: Bob Griggs & Alan Morgan