

HIGHWAY 32 MESSENGER



Highway 32 Church of Christ
 1688 Tri-County Highway
 P.O. Box 642
 Williamsburg, OH, 45176
www.highway32churchofchrist.com

Elders
Lowell Smith
Ron Smith
Marc Curfman
 (513) 553-3703

Sunday Bible Class 10:00AM
 Sunday Morning Assembly 11:00AM
 Sunday Evening Assembly 6:00PM
 Wednesday Bible Study 7:00PM

Privileged to Serve

Announcements: Frank Glover
 Song Leader: Lowell Smith
 Prayer: Dave Turpin
 Lord's Table: Keith Pennington
 Brent Shafer
 Jim Hutchings
 Cade Hutchings
 Sermon: Marc Curfman
 Closing Prayer: Bob Parker
 PM Song Leader: Bruce Curfman

Attendance

	Last Week	Week Before
Sun. Bible	38	39
Morn. Assembly	68	69
Sun Eve.	20	21
Wednesday	10	13
Zoom Class	19	16
Contribution:	\$3145.00	\$2723.00

No Magic Pill

I want a magic pill. I know they don't exist, even at the best pharmacy. I'm not talking about a pain med or antibiotic, as amazing as they can be. I'm talking about a magic pill for life, successful life, a happy life. What I mean is the desire for an instant, no cost solution to my unhappiness. Jack and the beanstalk had magic beans. Cinderella only needed that one shoe for dreams to come true. Peter Pan had magic fairy dust. No wonder we are seduced into believing in the "magic pill" solution to life. Unfortunately, the "magic pill" of happiness or "victory" has even infected the religious with a holy lie. For Eve, it was a bite of fruit. The nation of Israel always thought the right sacrifice to the right god would do the trick. They even went as far as sacrifices to Molech.

But what about us Christians? Is there a magic pill for us? If you listen to most preachers, you would say that there is a magic pill. Some tell you about a sinner's prayer or how about the mantra of "name it and claim it?" Many see baptism as that magic pill that cures all that needs cured. Perhaps the greatest lie is the one that takes a smidgen of the truth and envelops or wraps it in a lie. While there is no sinner's prayer in scripture, we do need to confess Jesus as Lord and bow the depths of our souls in obedient submission. Rather than a 30 second prayer, such involves a choice of life for all on one's life. Peter tells us that baptism (1 Peter 3:21) saves us but keep reading.

"baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" Not the ritual itself but the act of baptism must be joined with our ***"appeal to God..."*** Our soul's pledge to God ἐπερότημα εφεροῖμα (Arndt and Gingrich).

Just as a wedding is not about one afternoon in May but a lifelong journey dedicated to one's betrothed, baptism is my commitment to a new life born of the water and the spirit. In other words, in Christ, there is no "magic pill." Yes, I am saved by grace but that happens through faith/trusting, not fairy dust. (Eph. 2:8) When Paul says that we are not saved by works, Paul is not sanctioning some form of a sit back and watch theology espoused today. He is merely pointing out the obvious, that we cannot earn salvation by religious acts. It is God's gift through Christ for the faithful. Read all of Ephesians (I'm serious- read Ephesians). The rest of the letter is not about a magic pill but life choices, decisions, commitments and a new direction. Why would someone cast aside the letter of Ephesians but save one verse?

There is no magic pill for success, there is no magic pill for victory, there is no magic pill for salvation. Instead, there is a path based on faith that God's way is the only way. And read your Old Testament. God gets very jealous! What does that mean? Just like a groom will not share his bride with others, God will not share you with the worldly and other masters in your life. Christ is Lord, not your advisor. You must put off the worldly and put on Christ. In Exodus 33 when Moses told the people to ***"put off your ornaments from you"*** he wasn't simply talking about jewelry but those golden and silver ornaments that showed their commitment to other gods, other beliefs, other values in life.

Jacob told his sons to put away the foreign gods (idols). Paul tells us to put away ***"all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander,... along with all malice"*** (Eph. 4:31). We are making choices for life, not just for a moment in life. The Apostle Paul is the voice of what to ***"put on"*** for hope and victory. ***"Put on armor, put on Christ, put on immortality, put on the new self, put on righteousness, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience,"***

put on love, put on faith, love and salvation, (Rom. 13:12,14, 1 Cor. 15:53, Eph. 4:24; 6:11,14, Col. 3:10,12,14, 1 Thess. 5:8)

At this point, you might want to put down this letter and go back to see about that magic pill. Please do not make that deadly decision. What you are hearing are not words of slavery or a heavy burden. Only Satan would make that argument (re-read that Garden story). Instead, the Apostle of love assures us: ***"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome."*** 1 John 5:3. And our Lord cried out on the streets of Judea: ***"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. 29"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30"For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."*** Matt. 11:28-30.

But be advised! Jesus never prescribed "magic pills." Jesus taught salvation through faith, a path of life. That jailor once asked Paul and Barnabas ***"what must I do to be saved?"*** to which Paul replied: ***"Believe in the Lord Jesus."*** Acts 16. The question for you is will you believe in Jesus? Will you trust his words, his teachings? Will you obey his commandments? Will you put on His truth and do so not for an instant, but for life?

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.

May Teachers

Cradle Roll - Yvonne Glover
Pre-K-K - Sue Curfman
1st-6th - Marc Curfman

Sunday Morning Adult classes:

Frank Glover

Wed. Eve. Don Salisbury - 7:00pm



May Teacher
Sue Curfman

Note: Children will go to Bible Hour during the song before the morning lesson.

May Building & Communion
Frank/Yvonne Glover



Zoom Meetings - every Thursday evening at 7pm. Let Sue know if you want the link to join in.

Announcements:

Potluck Luncheon for May will be a Graduation Luncheon for Melody Watkins and Jose DeLeon on May 19th due to May 12th is Mothers Day. They will be graduating from Live Oaks on 5/14/24.

Libby Watkins has had a successful brain surgery. They were able to take 80% of the tumor out which is what they wanted. Libby still has double vision in her right eye and hearing loss in her right ear but expected to return to normal. She is up and walking and in really good spirits.

Larry Paul is not feeling well due to new medication, please keep him in your prayers.

We will be holding VBS on Monday July 29 – Wednesday July 31st. 5:30pm to 7:30pm. We will be needing your help. Please sign up on the list in the lobby asap or see Lindsey Stith.

Thank you for all those that came to work-day yesterday helping accomplish a lot of projects needing to be done.

Welcome David & Sandy Turpin who are making Highway 32 their home congregation. So glad to have you here serving with all of us.

Address: 113 Fawn Lane, Blanchester, OH 45107
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Phones: Sandy 513-416-2266 David 513-390-2561
Birthdays: Sandy 4/9, David 9/4
Anniversary: 5/13/89

May Birthdays

5/2 Daniel Beard
5/5 Emma Boggs
5/7 Kelsey Book
5/9 Frederick Mayes
5/22 Kacie Schunk

May Anniversaries

5/13 David/Sandy Turpin
5/23 Brian/Linda Bukvic
5/30 Ron/Myrna Smith

Continue to Remember: Mary Carrothers, Karen Smith, Carol Basham, Joyce Warman's sister, Ruth Barnes and our church family.

"The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."