

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:	Lowell Smith
Song Leader:	David Turpin
Prayer:	Don Salisbury
Lord's Table	Keith Pennington Bruce Curfman Les Smith Cade Hutchings
Sermon:	Marc Curfman
Closing Prayer:	Bob Parker
PM Song Leader:	Lowell Smith

Attendance

	Last Week	Week Before
Sun. Bible	38	35
Morn. Assembly	71	63
Sun Eve.	84	24
Wednesday	14	24
Zoom Class	13	11
Contribution:	\$2867.00	\$2588.00

"You shall teach them diligently to your sons"

One of the more frightening realities of society is how quickly things can change. There is an old saying that we are never more than one generation away from apostasy or extinction. We see this repeatedly in the Old Testament. The generation of Joshua is replaced by the faithless years of Judges. A good king like Hezekiah was followed by the evils of Manasseh. In 2 Kings, the people of God have almost forgotten about God. God still has his spokesmen, the prophets, but no one is listening. Then there is this odd story of what appears to be a group of teenager boys or young men who mock God's spokesman, Elisha. **"Go up, you baldhead; go up, you baldhead!"** 2 Kings 2:23. (With my thinning hair, I understand the insult.) But in this story bears come out and attack these young men. Obviously God's judgment and punishment for their irreverence for God's prophet.

The question is: How did things get so far from God? How did an entire village become so corrupt and rebellious? I look about today's world and see that it happens quicker and easier than we might think possible. These 42 boys in Bethel might well come from 42 sets of parents, 84 fathers and mothers who had not taught God's word to their families. So, what had these parents taught their sons? Perhaps to work hard and get a good education. Maybe they taught their sons that life is short, so have fun, enjoy your life. Maybe they wanted their sons to have all of the good things in life they never had. After all, the popular god at this time was not the LORD but Baal, the god of having it all. In our churches today we have to ask ourselves what message have our children learned from us. In the 21 century, the church is getting older. In many congregations, we see more elderly than youth. We want to blame society, blame the school system, blame the shift in economy. Maybe it is time for us to return to the commands of Deuteronomy 6: **"You shall teach them diligently to your sons."** Deut. 6:7.

The word Moses uses for diligently is **נָחַם** shaman – to sharpen or "whet" a sword. A sharpened sword takes diligence, time, care and even skill. We revere our society and culture more than God when we place the greatest emphasis on having the good life. Some push education, some sports or beauty. We want fun, pleasure, and ease for our children. What about righteousness? Are we sharpening that need and desire for righteousness? The problem in 2 Kings 2 is not those 42 irreverent boys but the 84 unconcerned parents. It is also worth noting that this took place in the area of Bethel – "house of God." At one time a hub for righteousness. But rather than a house of God, they had a golden calf there. They called that golden idol "the God of Israel" when in truth it was the god of self-fulfillment.

I think today's church suffers from parents who have not sharpened that sword of righteousness in their children. You might think about whetting that sword, you probably have plans to do it someday, maybe you even pray over the son or daughter, but are you doing the task? How often? How consistently? And who is the real authority in sharpening the sword of the soul? Does the child make the rules or do you as a parent choose the path? Are there great excuses for not teaching diligently or do you plan your life and your child's life around the glory of God? New parents in Christ have a very difficult task. Everything in this world wants priority in their lives. There are a lot of "Baals" out there calling for the soul. God calls for knowing what is right and doing what is right. God calls for faithful obedience to His kingdom.

Elisha was mocked by young men of that village who for whatever reason, had not learned God's word, not embraced God's word and therefore had no real concern for God's ways. We are always just one generation away from extinction. On the other hand, maybe we are just one generation from greatness. Teach them diligently, sharpen the sword of righteousness.

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

Cradle Roll - Yvonne Glover
Pre-K-K - Kacie Schunk
1st-6th - Ron/Myrna Smith

Sunday Morning Adult classes:
Frank Glover

Wed. Eve. Don Salisbury - 7:00pm



August Teacher

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



August Building & Communion Don Salisbury

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

Announcements:

Thank you all who helped make the Area Wide Singing a great time for all. We had a wonderful turn out.

Joyce Warman will be having surgery on 8/6/24 and Huey Jones will be having a heart ablation as well on 8/6. Keep these ladies in your prayers.

VBS - Monday July 29 – Wednesday July 31st. 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Invite all you can to attend.

Direction Change: Kelli Wright has a new address –
1349 U.S. 52
New Richmond, OH 45157

There will be no Ladies class for the month of August due to Ladies Day Saturday 9/7/24. Pick up flyer on table in lobby to invite your friends.

August Birthdays

8/6 Mark Book
8/9 Ruth Barnes
8/23 Alex Watkins
8/26 Linda Pennington
8/27 Linda Bukvic

August Anniversaries

8/3 Bob/Mary Parker(60th)
8/20 Ron/Linda Carter
8/26 Betty Sutton
8/28 Rich/Jenni Book

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

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