



TRUE LIGHT

Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. ~ Psalm 119:105

March 29, 2020

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:30AM
Worship.....10:15AM
Worship.....5:00PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00PM

MINISTER

Stan Dauck
573-293-5620

ELDERS

David Burleson
573-820-0329
David Carson
573-276-5567
Stan Dauck
573-293-5594

DEACONS

Wayne Reams
Joe Watson
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"This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Psalms 118:24

**We Welcome You
To All Of Our
Services**

Not Molded by Our Circumstances!

You know the story. You probably heard it as a child. But this story is certainly not just a child's story. We need to know this story because it reminds us that we can refuse to be ruled by the unfairness we face. We can live productively even if we began immediately. We can choose to write our story based on our allegiance to God and how we finish our life's journey. No one does this better in the Bible than the person who is today's focus. Here's his story.

As a boy, he was a bit of a spoiled brat. His doting father enabled his bratty behavior. His brothers deeply resented him. Even more, they detested his arrogance. He told his brothers his dreams of being their superior. All the while, he was oblivious to his petty arrogance. They then plotted to kill him. At the last minute, however, an older brother mediated his sale into slavery to avoid having the murder of his bratty and favored brother on his hands.

Slave traders sold this boy into the most significant household in the world at the time. He grew in favor in that environment until his resistance to a sexual advance landed him in prison - yes, it seems, no righteous deed he did went unpunished during this time in his life. Steadily, over time, he grew in favor with the jail keepers and his fellow inmates. One fellow prisoner forgot him when he was released from prison. Another fellow prisoner did remember him, so he was returned to favor in the eye's of the world's most important leader when he prophesied and interpreted this leader's dreams.

...Joseph is a reminder that we can re-write our story. Circumstances don't have to define us, but our allegiance to godliness can. Even when we fall short in portions of our story to the person we want to be, our faithfulness to be a person who reflects God's values, his gracious compassion, and his righteous character, can lead us, and many others because of us, to be blessed by God.

The leader of the land placed him in charge of famine preparation that gave him great power and saved untold thousands of lives. Some of those lives were his own family, even his brothers who had sold him into slavery. Now, the second most powerful man in the land, he forgave his brothers and brought them to live in this new land, just as it had been prophesied years earlier. This seemingly happy ending to such a horrible beginning took a dreadful turn years later, but then, that's the beginning of another story that leads us to another leader.

We have told a very short version of the Joseph story in Genesis - the Joseph story cycle is the longest in the Bible outside of the gospels telling the story of Jesus. Through all the intrigues, twists, turns, and challenges in Joseph's personal story, one thing remained true of Joseph: He remained faithful to the compassion and character of God.

Joseph's virtues are the characteristics of God throughout his dealings with people - faithfulness, gracious compassion, and righteous character. God wants his people to display these virtues, these traits of his godliness. God wants his people to be like him in who they are and what they do.

Joseph was faithful. He was a man of righteous character. Joseph was a person of gracious compassion! From the moment he was sold into slavery until the day he forgave and saved his brothers, Joseph consistently lived these characteristics of God. No matter what the circumstances, Joseph was faithful. No matter the temptation, Joseph maintained his righteous character. In the face of horrible situations, Joseph practiced gracious compassion toward those around him. As God promised Abraham, he blesses those who maintain faithfulness, righteous character, and gracious compassion. He also blesses those who bless them. Even more, he blesses this world through their actions. Joseph is a reminder of God's great promise. Remember that promise?

Continued on back

*****PREPARE COMMUNION*****

March - n/a
April - David and Cindy Burleson

NURSERY ATTENDANTS
TODAY - none * April 5 - none

OUR RECORD FOR LAST WEEK

Attendance n/a
Contribution \$2736

CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Cold Cereal * Rubber Gloves * All
Fabric Bleach * Aluminum Foil *
Non-aerosol Bathroom Cleaner *
Bottled Apple Juice

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Cereal * canned spaghetti sauce *
crackers * canned vegetables
Monetary donations are appreciated.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

"...I was sick and you visited me..." Matthew 25:36

Remember: **Jeff McGowan** will have a PET scan Tuesday and see his doctor April 3. Two spots were found on his tongue at his last checkup * **Curtis McClard** was released from the hospital Monday and is at home resting and recuperating * **Helen McGowan** did not get a good report at her last doctor visit * **David Carson** should get some test results within the next week * **Paul Ensor** (Cathy Provance's cousin's husband) bladder cancer treatments are no longer working and he is too weak to try another regimen * **Sharlette Watson**

Continue praying for these members of our church family: Louella Akers * John David Barnett * David Burleson * Pam Claeys * Billie Cooper * Scott and Judy Flannery * Sue Flowers * Grant Howard * Darlene McGowan * Helen McGowan * Jeff McGowan * Kevin Mickey * Reba Owens * Ida Roberts * Gayle Rodgers * Waynetta Rodgers * Elwood Rush * Jane Smith * David Terrill * Bettie Thurston * Joy Watson * Marty Watson * Pansy Zimmerman

Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Kristi Altman * Roxanne Carson * Sherry Chambers * Dale Eaton * Carole Eubanks * Bill Fitzpatrick * Kim Goins * LeAnn Jacques * Tommy Jacques * Pam Jeralds * Andy Kelley * Connie Lemmons * Annette Lumsden * Phil McKuin * Ponna Mahan * Paula Mason * Betty Nicholson * Donnie Rawlings * Gerald Robertson * Deanna Rogers * Tammy Telker * Bobby Thornton

Other health issues (non-congregational):

Megan Brenna * DeeDee Burch * Mary Burke * Renee Goodman * Clyde Jacques * Lola Johnson * Beckie King * Nikki Lawrence * Sonja Mays * Alvin Miller * Tom Provance * Gene Rowland * Traci Suiter * Paige Tanner

Our Shut Ins

Lois McKuin * Marty Watson * Joy Watson * Elwood Rush * Sue Flowers * Travis Cooper * Shirley Johnson * Isaac wheeler * Fern Botsch

In Sympathy:

Sympathy is extended to our sister Reba Owens in the death of her sister, Ruby Lee Henson Karnes, who passed away March 20. Ruby had a graveside service Friday in Malden and will have a memorial service at a later date

REMINDER:

All activities/meetings at the building have been cancelled or postponed until further notice. You can watch Stan present a live devotional Sunday mornings at 10:15 and Wednesday evenings at 6 on his Facebook page, and we will try to share it on the Bernie church of Christ page, as well as the Bernie church of Christ Youth Group page. Everyone stay safe as we weather this storm together.

Continued from front:

The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you" (Genesis 12:1-3)

But, what about you? Did you start your story well, or did you mess up your life and your relationships? While we all want to start our story well, Joseph is a reminder that we can re-write our story. Circumstances don't have to define us, but our allegiance to godliness can. Even when we fall short in portions of our story to the person we want to be, our faithfulness to be a person who reflects God's values, his gracious compassion, and his righteous character, can lead us, and many other because of us, to be blessed by God.

Your story, our stories, matter to God. We might never be in the same position to change the world as Joseph did. However, we are all in a place to bless the lives of those around us. As we find our story caught up into God's great story, let's choose to be someone like Joseph. We can change our world for the better rather than having our values eroded by our circumstances!

Let's be God's people living out God's plan of blessing in a world of darkness and pain as we continue on down the road in our journey of redemption!

James Nored & Phil Ware, www.heartlight.com

CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

BIRTHDAYS

April 1 - Cassie Summers

ANNIVERSARIES

March 30 - Ish and Angie Smith
March 31 - Gabe and Brooke Smith
April 3 - Ron and Gaye Miller

* Belated anniversary wishes to Mark and Rita Clayton, who celebrated on March 23