



TRUE LIGHT

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

April 19, 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
Rodney Williams
Tim Woods

OFFICE: 573-293-5620
Bernie Church of Christ
P.O. Box 366
Bernie, MO 63822

EMAIL:
berniechurchofchrist@gmail.com

WEBSITE:
www.berniechurchofchrist.com

"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**

FROM FEAR TO FORGIVENESS

There is no wonder that we feel a sense of failure and unworthiness. All around us people say things that attack and tear down our self-esteem. We are evaluated and judged daily. As we seek to survive, we fight against the fear that we're just "not good enough" to succeed.

Do you remember the first time you were afraid? What about the general feeling of uneasiness as if the world were somehow hostile to you? Do you recall the first person you ever "fell out with" and the sense of alienation you felt? How about the last time you really felt guilty over something you did wrong? If you're like me, thinking about these times is painful.

Would it help if you understood more about where negative emotions like fear, hostility, loneliness and guilt came from? Would it help to know what God has to do with it all? Is He friend or foe? Can these negative emotions be replaced by positive ones like good self-esteem, a sense of being forgiven and belonging, and real peace in your life?

Dr. Charles Siburt, a trusted friend and skilled counselor, has helped me understand forgiveness. He says, "when we are bogged down in guilt and the Gospel comes and knocks on the door and says, 'Open up your house because I am coming to you today,' what do we say? 'Oh, no, I'm a sinful man, Lord. You can't come in my house. You can't sit at the table with me. Look at me.' That's the problem. We look at ourselves and try to believe and to convince God that our salvation depends on us. It never has and it never will. It depends on faith. It depends on God. It depends on our looking into His face and saying, 'I think you mean it. I think you mean what you say; and I think you have the power (and desire) to rescue me from my own self-destruction and rebellion against you. I'm going to trust you.'"

A preacher friend tried to describe this gift of God with a story: "A contest offered to give one million dollars to anyone who could swim from the West Coast of the United States to Hawaii. Though impossible to accomplish, several great swimmers entered. All ultimately failed. One got much farther than the others, but when he was about to go under for the last time someone threw him a life preserver and he was saved." The preacher went on to say, "That's how it is with God. We try our best, give it our all, and finally - after we've done all we possibly can - God steps in and does the rest."

In the audience sat an older and wiser man, K.C. Moser. He gently corrected the younger preacher: "Son, I didn't like your illustration. You had that man going down for a third time and then he was thrown a life preserver. If you think that's the picture of Jesus Christ saving us, you're mistaken. Now, if you'd had him dead and the one had reached down, pulled him out and brought him back to life again, then you would have had a picture of Jesus Christ. We weren't going down for the third time. We were dead in our sins. There was no life left. Dead men don't reach out and grab life preservers. Jesus Christ pulled us out and brought us back to life."

John, one of the first twelve men to follow Jesus, wrote, *This is how God showed his love to us: He sent His only son into the world to give us life through Him. True love is God's love for us, not our love for God. God sent His Son to be the way to take away our sins* (1 John 4:9).

God's forgiveness isn't partial. It's complete. The past is over and gone. King David committed adultery and murder. He was consumed with guilt and asked for forgiveness. God later described David as His servant and one who "kept my commands and followed me with all his heart, doing only what was right in my eyes" (1 Kings 14:8). God forgives and forgets! When we are forgiven, we are free to concentrate on what He has done, not on what we have done.

After he became a Christian, the apostle Paul no longer thought of himself as a blasphemer, persecutor of Christians, or violent man, but as one who had received the amazing grace of his God. Like him, you can lay aside your fears that you have too many sins or that your sins are too terrible for God to forgive. Paul writes that we are no longer a "slave to fear" but a true child of God (Romans 8: 14-17).

The forgiven enjoy their freedom from guilt and fear and appreciate the gift of God's grace. John writes, *The Father has loved us so much that we are called children of God* (1 John 3:1). We begin to understand that God loves us and experience the promise that *perfect love casts out all fear because fear has to do with judgment* (1 John 4:18).

When we trust that God has forgiven us, and truly feel forgiven, only then do we begin to understand the amazing grace that makes his forgiveness possible. When we understand this gift we are able to trust Him to help us with the future. God knows our situation and our difficulties to overcome. Each time we fall He will pick us up again.

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CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

BIRTHDAYS

April 20 - Nicole Garner
April 23 - Pauline Allen
April 24 - LaRhonda Billingsley
April 25 - Jonathan Simmons

ANNIVERSARIES

April 21 - James and Janet Wood
April 23 - Jeff and Karen Martin

OUR RECORD FOR LAST WEEK

Contribution - \$ 1970

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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

Remember: **Helen McGowan** had a port put in her neck Thursday and began dialysis treatment Friday. She will have additional surgery to move her port to her arm in the near future * **Johnny Dauck**, Stan's brother, is at home now. His biopsy for masses in his stomach showed no cancer * **Guy Gibson**, husband of Michal Woods' cousin, is in a Nashville Hospital in ICU with COVID 19 * **Jennifer Adams** is at home with pneumonia and waiting on results from COVID 19 testing * **Pansy Zimmerman** continues to decline * **Sharlette Watson**

Continue praying for these members of our church family: Louella Akers * John David Barnett * David Burseson * 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 * 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 * Fern Botsch

For the time being, Amy will be in the office on Fridays from about 8:30 to 1 or 1:30 and will be available to assist you with getting communion supplies or dropping off your contribution. She will come to your vehicle if you would prefer not to leave it. Also, if you are in need of any other supplies please let us know and we will do our best to help fill that need.

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:

Your past has no business determining your future. You've taken personal responsibility but now you are "responsibly forgiven" by God who loves you. Because you feel at one with Him again, you are free to feel at one with yourself.

Although we are loved and valued, we need repeatedly to forgive ourselves for the bad things we do. We can do that because God keeps on forgiving us as we keep on talking to Him about our mistakes. When we have forgiven ourselves, we will be able to love others because we realize how much we are loved. Love is the signal that we have actually released the guilt that condemns us. Love is our signal to the world that God's power is a power within us and that his grace has reached us. It's then that the words of the apostle John find true meaning and our lives true hope: [God is love. When we take us permanent residence in a life of love, we live in God and God lives in us. This way, love has the run of the house, becomes at home and mature in us, so that we're free of worry on Judgment Day - our standing in the world is identical with Christ's. There is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear. Since fear is crippling, a fearful life - fear of death, fear of judgment - is one not yet fully formed in love. We, though, are going to love - love and be loved. First we were loved, now we love. He loved us first.]

Because we often have difficulty understanding His grace and accepting this love, I'd like to offer three suggestions that I hope will help you believe in God's forgiveness, rely on his grace, and live in his love. First, try to help someone else experience forgiveness by sharing this message of grace. Sometimes we don't really understand a message well until we share and talk about it with others. Second, stay in the Word of God, focusing on his love. Third, let other believers love you. We all need to feel the human hands of God's love.

Randy Becton, www.heartlight.com

In Sympathy:

Sympathy is extended to the family of our brother Isaac Wheeler, who passed away March 29. A graveside service was held for Isaac April 4 in Catron.

Sympathy is also extended to David Carson, in the loss of his brother in law, Donnie Rawlings. Donnie passed away April 10 and a graveside service was held April 16 in Campbell

Sympathy is also extended to David Carson in the loss of his aunt Theetta Cokley, who passed away April 11.