



TRUE LIGHT

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

May 3, 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
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DEACONS

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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**

WHO IS GOD?

The story of the Bible focuses on the one true and living God who wanted to have a loving relationship with his human children. God repeatedly blessed those children with grace, but they turned away from him and chased after false gods. Adam and Eve left God for a lie in the Garden of Eden. God had blessed them with everything, yet they chose not to trust him. Even after their rebellion, God came searching for them in the cool of the day to discipline and reclaim them.

Their rebellion was the epitome of what sin, at its most basic level, truly is. Rather than enter into a relationship with God - to receive his grace and trust him - they chose another path, something less than God. Again and again, throughout the Scriptures, people, leaders, and nations repeated a similar process of rejecting God. They received grace. Adam and Eve came to believe that they were so significant that they knew how they should live better than God did. They rebelled against God and chose their way, sooner or later bringing destruction on themselves, their families, and their people.

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The story of Moses and the Exodus comes at the end to a four-hundred-year-long saga of God's people in Egypt. The Pharaoh was arrogant. He led his people to chase after false Gods. The one true and living God of Israel, came with grace to deliver his people. He had seen his people's suffering. The LORD had heard their cries for help. So, he came down through his servant Moses to bring them deliverance.

Pharaoh had other ideas. Much of the Egyptian way of life and culture were rooted in the demonic world of false gods and viewing the Pharaoh as a manifestation of the great sun god. They refused to believe in the real God because he was the God of powerless slaves. However, the Egyptians had grown dependent on the slave labor of the Israelites. They refused to realize how vulnerable they were both religiously and politically.

The showdown between Moses and Pharaoh was the battle for whose god was the one true and living God. This battle would be replayed throughout history again and again. Whether it was Elijah on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18:22-24), Paul in Athens talking about the unknown god (Acts 17:16-31), or Moses and Pharaoh, the battle was over who was the one true and living God of all creation. At first glance, these old stories may not seem very relevant to us today. If we listen carefully, however, we can hear God's questions for each of us in these stories.

Who are we going to place in the role of God in our lives? Will we choose to view ourselves as masters of our fate and decide to discard the LORD God, who has demonstrated his love and grace for us repeatedly? Are we going to listen to the devil's temptations and choose our preferred way of negotiating life, or will we be obedient to the true God? Are we going to let God have lordship over every area of our lives, or are we going to break lifetimes down into tiny components and let God only rule over our religious lives while we decide morality, ethics, and standards on our own?

Many years after Moses confronted Pharaoh and God defeated the false gods of Egypt, a group of Christians in Colossae were facing challenges of their own. Most of them had not been led to Jesus by an apostle or person of high reputation. Many of the Colossians doubted that they had received the full gospel. Plus, the people had grown accustomed to having different gods and spirits control different areas of their lives. They worried they might miss out on something special if they didn't continue to honor those idols, powers, and spiritual powers of fate. Besides, some people weren't sure they wanted to live under this new, stricter morality that God was calling Christians to live.

Paul wrote his letter to the Colossians to proclaim that Jesus is God's exact manifested presence. Christ created everything. He holds everything together with his authoritative word. He brought peace to us by paying the penalty for our rebellion and sin with the sacrifice of his own body on the cross.

Paul emphasized that the Colossians had received grace by believing in Jesus' work on the cross and the resurrection. Paul stressed that they had shared in those saving events through baptism because of their faith in the powerful working of God. As new creations in Christ, they had begun a new life focused on Jesus as Lord. Jesus called them to follow him faithfully and live by his standards in a world in rebellion to him. God had joined their lives to Jesus' life; their Lord's victorious future was now going to be their future glory.

These new believers must find their hope, Paul emphasized, in Jesus, not in their false gods, extra spiritual practices, or special revelations. Jesus plus anything else was less than a full life, Paul emphasized. It was less than what God wanted for them. It was less than what Jesus died to bring them. It was less than what a Christ-follower wants to be. Jesus is Lord over all, or he was not Lord at all.

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CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

BIRTHDAYS

May 5 - Avery Neely
May 6 - Ken Durham
Bonnie Howard

ANNIVERSARIES

May 6 - Jeff and Karen McGowan

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.

Contribution for April 26, 2020: \$3365

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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

Remember: Vicki Peters, daughter of Don Jackson, is in ICU in Cape with a blood clot in her lung. Her condition is grave * **Rex Earnhart**, Michal Woods' father, is waiting on PET scan results following removal of aggressive cancer on his arm. He will have additional surgery May 8 * **Johnny and Diane Dauck**, Stan's brother and sister-in-law, have both been diagnosed with COVID 19. Johnny is in the hospital in Jonesboro. Diane has been released from the hospital and is quarantining at home with her parents. Their son, **Joseph**, has also tested positive for COVID 19 * **Guy Gibson**, husband of Michal Woods' cousin, is in a Nashville Hospital in ICU with COVID 19 and continues to make improvements * **Pansy Zimmerman** continues to decline * **Sharlette Watson** * **Helen McGowan** as she continues with dialysis treatment

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 * Morris Karnes * 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 (currently cancer free) * Sherry Chambers * Carole Eubanks * Bill Fitzpatrick * Kim Goins * LeAnn Jacques * Tommy Jacques * Pam Jeralds * Andy Kelley * Connie Lemmons * Annette Lumsden * Phil McKuinn * 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 McKuinn * 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.

Next Sunday, May 10, we will have morning worship service in the auditorium at 10:15 following social distancing guidelines. At press time it had not been determined if we will have Bible study May 6 in the auditorium, or if we will have Sunday School and evening services on the 10th. We will do our best to keep you informed as those decisions are made by the elders.

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So, the showdown between Moses and Pharaoh is not irrelevant to our world today. Moses wanted Pharaoh and the Egyptians to see that only Israel's God was indeed God. Anything or any little god they added to the one true God made God less than God for them.

Pharaoh had the opportunity to choose God or to believe his propagand and hype - that he was a god. Pharaoh decided wrongly. But, as Paul reminded the Colossian believers, we shouldn't make that wrong choice today. When we choose God, we recognize Jesus as God. When we accept Jesus, we receive grace and the assurance of our firm hope of glory in Jesus.

I don't know about you, but I refuse to be like Pharaoh. I choose God. I recognize Jesus Christ as God come in human flesh. I trust that he is sufficient for whatever else comes my way. As God showed the Israelites in the Exodus, and later, in the wilderness wanderings, our God is more than enough because he is Lord of all.

James Nored and Phil Ware, www.heartlight.com

Always Faithful to Provide

Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Matthew 6:25 (NKJV)

Ever wonder why Jesus was able to demonstrate such an unwavering confidence in the area of material needs? It's an interesting study to examine how worry-free Jesus was when it came to His material needs. We never see Him pacing or troubled about how He was going to provide for Himself or for His disciples. Jesus never worried about finances. It was a foregone conclusion that everything would be taken care of by His Heavenly Father.

Why was that? How was Jesus able to demonstrate such an unwavering confidence in this area? Before you think about playing the, "Duh, he was God" card, remember Jesus deliberately subjected Himself to His human limitations when it came to His own needs. He didn't perform miracles for His own benefit. Rather, He lived in total dependence upon His Father when it came to His own life experience. Right?

Therefore, the question remains, how was Jesus able to live so worry-free when it came to finances? He was able to do so because He was intimately familiar with the fact that His Father is always faithful to provide. It's an aspect of His eternal character that would never change. It's who He is, not just something He does!

That's the point you and I - all of us - need to be thoroughly convicted and convinced. With a multitude of financial pressures out there these days, we need to get back to the simple truth that God is always faithful to provide. Not because it's something He enjoys doing, but because it's who He is. It may not always come in the way we would expect or choose, but one thing is absolutely certain ... it will always come. Our needs will be provided.

Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. Matthew 18:19 (NKJV)

Rincon Valley church of Christ