



TRUE LIGHT

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

June 14, 2020

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Bible Study..... n/a
Worship.....10:15AM
Worship..... n/a

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00PM

MINISTER

Stan Dauck
573-293-5620

ELDERS

David Burleson
573-820-0329
David Carson
573-276-5567
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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**

FORGIVENESS AND POWER

We all can make a mess of things. It starts when we are young. We don't even have to be trying to make a mess - it's just what we do best sometimes. And our messes do not necessarily happen because we've done something terrible. We could be just trying to have fun, or live life, or be minding our own business, and we make a mess, or someone else makes a mess that happens to us.

Our messes ripple out and cause problems in our families, businesses, lives, friendships, purity, passion, churches, marriages and dreams. We end up ashamed, demoralized, and embarrassed for what we have done. And if we are not careful, our spiritual life becomes a game of hiding and pretending. Then our wounds go underground and rip apart something inside us polluting how we view ourselves and our relationship with God.

Is there a way out of our messes?

Hmmm, imagine what it was like for Saul of Tarsus - later known as the apostle Paul - on the road to Damascus when Jesus said, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" (Acts 9:4). He considered himself faithful to God, committed to Torah, passionate about holiness, and loyal to the traditions of his people. Suddenly, through a direct encounter with Jesus, he discovered that he was a murderer and persecuting followers of God's true Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth, someone he had been calling a blasphemer.

Don't you think Paul saw the face of the dying Stephen as he waited in his blindness for three days to learn what he needed to do?

Don't you imagine him trying to figure out how to undo all the messes he had made because of his hatred of Christians and Jesus (Acts 7: 57-60)?

Don't you imagine he heard the screams of the families that he tore apart as he arrested those who believed in Jesus (Acts 26: 9-10)?

He wasn't using hyperbole, he was speaking from his heart when he said, *Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners - of which I am the worst* (1 Timothy 1:12-15). You can feel his anguish in Paul's words, even across the centuries.

How do you make your life count for God after you've made such a horrible mess of your life? How do you turn your life around after doing such harm? For Saul, it began with these words from Ananias, sent to show Saul his way back to the Lord:

And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name (Acts 22:16).

The fuller version of the account goes this way:

Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord - Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here - has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength (Acts 9:17-19).

What we see is God's forgiveness and power, given as a gift, to help fix the messes that Paul could never fix.
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CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

BIRTHDAYS

June 14 - Jason Shelton
June 16 - Judy Flannery
 Jacie McGowan
June 18 - Owen Flowers
 Karen Martin
June 21 - Marty Howard

ANNIVERSARIES

June 17 - David and Cindy Burleson
 Mike and Judy Duley

CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

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

PICK UP DATE JULY 6

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Cereal * canned spaghetti sauce *
crackers * canned vegetables

Monetary donations are appreciated

Attendance for June 7: 93
Contribution for June 7: \$3966

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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

Remember: **Jackson Howard** has a broken growth plate in his elbow but should not need surgery * **Katie Skelton** (Pam Claeys' granddaughter) is in need of prayers for addiction issues * **Sonja Mays** remains in the hospital following hip surgery * **Janet Wood** will be having knee replacement surgery in the near future * **David Burleson** had a PSA test Friday * Cathy Provance's dad, **Tom Provance**, is having some issues * **Johnny Dauck**, Stan's brother, will see his doctor July 2 * **Sue Jester** (Amy Thomason's mother) scheduled for extensive knee surgery July 7 * **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 *

Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Kristi Altman * Roxanne Carson * Sherry Chambers * 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

Our Summer Series speaker this week will be Art Smith. There is a schedule of speakers on the table in the foyer.

SURVEY SAYS...

Please, if you haven't taken the time to fill out the survey on resuming Sunday School and other activities, do so now. There are copies of the survey on the tables in the foyer. Your input is important, and will help the elders guide us in the direction we need to head over the next few weeks and months. Thank you!

Continued from front:

Now imagine the many Jewish men and women who loved God and prayed daily for the coming of the Messiah. They had made the trip to Jerusalem for the Passover and are back for Pentecost seven weeks later. They had heard rumors about Jesus' resurrection.

Then, on that first Pentecost after Jesus' rumored resurrection, they heard a mighty roaring wind and saw something like tongues of fire coming to rest on the apostles. Suddenly, no matter from where they had traveled, they began to witness the incredible miracle of hearing the message in their own home language. The once fearful followers of Jesus suddenly became bold, unafraid, and spoke with power.

As they listened to the message, in a thunder-clap of horror, they hear the truth about Jesus and realize what they had done: They realized that they were complicit in murdering the Messiah! Some of them had even yelled out, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" The words cut them to the core of their being and pierced their hearts with their rejection of God's son and Messiah.

How could they make their lives matter for God after such a thing? How would they turn their lives around and undo the messes they had made? Amazingly, the answer is very much the same as what Ananias told Saul. When they asked what they needed to do, Peter replied: *Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38).* And that's what they did.

So let's admit it again: we have made a mess of things! And for us, two questions remain. How do I make my life count after such a mess? How can I turn my life around after the messes in which I find myself trapped?

And God's answer is as simple and clear for us as it was to them: forgiveness of our sins and power from the Holy Spirit!

Aren't we promised God's *incomparably great power* from the Holy Spirit at work in us (Ephesians 3:16) who *can do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine* (Ephesians 3:20)?

So the real issue for us is quite straightforward:

Isn't it time to quit defining ourselves by **who we are not** and **what we don't have** and **what we've already done**? Isn't it time for us to start expecting what Jesus promised: his forgiveness and his power through the Holy Spirit!

God wants us to hear him say, *My strength is made perfect in weakness* (2 Corinthians 12:9). He wants us to know that we can be forgiven, cleansed, and empowered beyond our messes!

Phil Ware, www.heartlight.com

