



TRUE LIGHT

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

September 20, 2020

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Worship:
9 a.m. (masked)
10:30 a.m. (masks optional)

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
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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***

WHAT'S NEXT?

I listen to the people who get paid to talk on national TV, and I hear their version of hope. They "hope" that their political candidate gets elected. They "hope" that the economy rebounds and their 401k's are replenished. They "hope" they don't get the coronavirus or cancer. The crowd I run with "hope" they limit out on ducks or catch enough white perch for a fish fry.

In the end, however, their hope is nothing more than "wishing." There's no real expectation that what they hope (wish) for will ever come true. Wishing is a kid's game - nothing more. Maybe it'll happen - maybe it won't. But we don't really know until after the fact.

The hope held out to us in the Gospel (Colossians 1:23) is nothing like childish wishing games. This hope, the hope of the Gospel, is filled with confident expectation. Rather than throwing coins into wishing wells and hoping for the best, it's more like seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. We know where we are now, we are familiar with the struggles of living in the flesh in a sin-cursed and broken world, but we see eternity looming. And because of the heavy lifting that Jesus did for us when he hung on the cross, we are free of the condemnation of law and can approach the throne of grace with confidence right now (Hebrews 4:16). The hope of the Gospel compels us to long for the day of His appearance when we get to spend eternity with the Father and his son, Jesus the Messiah. Because our hope is real and bankable, we are actually looking forward to his return.

A few years ago, one of the brothers at church asked me what to do about an old boy that had resisted surrendering his life to Christ. I told him to bring him to me, and I would talk to him. When I saw the young fellow, I immediately noticed his bulging muscles. He was obviously a man deeply committed to spending time in the gym. Never one to beat around the bush, I looked him up and down and said, "You have a beautiful body!" All he could do was stammer out a nervous, "thank you." Then I lowered the hammer on him: "My question is, how are you going to get that body out of the grave?"

Because of what Christ did for us, we place our heads on our pillows at night and sleep soundly no matter what is going on in the world around us.

Now listen carefully! I knew that no matter how much time he spent in the gym working on his physical appearance, it would only be a matter of time before age and gravity would catch up to him. I knew that he would be unable to maintain the same physique as he aged, and that the day would come when his skin and flesh would sag, he would lose those muscles, and death would follow soon after.

No one escapes this, no matter what we do to prolong it. Not me! Not you! So, since life is finite and brief, it begs the question - what's next?

And that is a very good question. In fact, it's the only question that matters - what happens after we breathe our last breath? I would suggest to you that if anything other than faith in Christ is the reason you live and move and have your being (Acts 17:28), you have no idea what real hope is. You are only wishing; life for you is a crap shoot. It's a roll of the dice.

You may have a few moments of reprieve from the nagging feeling that it's going to come to an end, but you still know that it is. And you are hopeless. You can't really answer the question, "What happens next?" Without Christ, you never win - you are hopeless.

The kind of hope that God is offering is nothing like wishing-well hope. It is something we can bank on because it doesn't depend on our goodness or righteousness. It depends on the work of Christ that He performed when He died on the cross and was raised from the grave. The only thing that I can do is fall before God and admit my failure to keep the law. But in doing what He did for us, Christ makes us right before God (something we could never do on our own) AND throws in the bonus of eternity with God.

Ladies and gentlemen, *this* is hope. It is like nothing else. Because of what Christ did for us, we place our heads on our pillows at night and sleep soundly no matter what is going on in the world around us. Deadly viruses lurking in the shadows ready to take us out? No problem - my hope is secure. Social unrest and the unraveling of our culture? I'm still good to go because all of my hope is in Jesus. Nothing has more power to enable me to live a victorious and joyful life than the hope of the Gospel. I suggest you check it out. I promise you will never regret it! Phil Robertson, One Kingdom

CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

BIRTHDAYS

September 20 - Katie Mayberry
 September 23 - Shirley Johnson
 September 26 - Jacob Clayton
 September 27 - Pam Collier



ANNIVERSARY

September 23 - Curtis and Vickie McClard

CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Olives * BBQ Sauce * Bleach *
 Country Gravy Mix * Tortilla Chips *
 Brown Gravy Mix
 PICK UP DATE OCTOBER 12

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Canned fruits and vegetables *
 spaghetti noodles and canned sauce
 *canned tomato products * cereal
 * monetary donations appreciated!

Attendance for September : 103
 Contribution for September : \$3038

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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

Remember: Jane Smith is in the hospital with bacterial pneumonia and is doing a little better * Jerry Don McGowan is home from the hospital and improving * Pam Claeys will be seeing her doctor Wednesday and will be referred to a cardiologist * Sharlette Watson will have a scan Tuesday * Sonja Mays had an angiogram and suffered a light stroke and has some blockage issues * Kristi Altman saw her doctor Friday and the cancer has spread. She will continue with a treatment program * Ronnie Mays is still recovering from salmonella poisoning * Dana Jo Jackson is in rehab at Sikeson * Alan Robinson is improving * Don Jackson hasn't been doing well * Pat Provance (Cathy's aunt) has been put on a ventilator as she battles COVID *

Continue praying for these members of our church family: Louella Akers * Kristi Altman * John David Barnett * David Burlison * Pam Claeys * Isaiah Collier * Billie Cooper * Scott and Judy Flannery * Sue Flowers * Grant Howard * Jackson Howard * Morris Karnes * Sonja Mays * Darlene McGowan * Helen McGowan * Jeff McGowan * Kevin Mickey * Reba Owens * Ida Roberts * Gayle Rodgers * Waynetta Rodgers * Elwood Rush * Jane Smith * Leon Smith * Kevin Steed * David Terrill * Bettie Thurston * Joy Watson * Marty Watson * Sharlette Watson

Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Roxanne Carson * Sherry Chambers * Randy Cravens * Bill Fitzpatrick * Kim Goins * LeAnn Jacques * Tommy Jacques * Pam Jeralds * Andy Kelley * Connie Lemmons * Annette Lumsden * Phil McKuin * Ponna Mahan * Paula Mason * Betty Nicholson * Deanna Rogers * Tammy Telker * Bobby Thornton * Paula Walls

Other health issues (non-congregational):

DeeDee Burch * Mary Burke * Bob Garner * Dana Jo Jackson * Clyde Jacques * Lola Johnson * Beckie King * Nikki Lawrence * 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

LADIES DAY

There will be a 2020 Bootheel Ladies Day Saturday, September 26, from 9-noon at the Cape Girardeau West End church of Christ. The Theme will be "Do Not Be Afraid". This ladies day can also be viewed online. If you would like to attend, pre-registration is required. There is no cost to attend. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery.

The Children's Home Homecoming celebration will be September 26 at the 7th and Mueller church of Christ in Paragould. There will NOT be a fish fry this year. There will be a celebration of James Balcom, and change for children cans can be dropped off. This event can also be viewed via live stream. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery.

THE UNTOLD STORY

What do we know about Nicodemus? This man Nicodemus was a ruler of the Jews (v.1), in a group that we know as the Sanhedrin. They potentially consisted of 70-72 men who made judgments concerning disputes, law-breaking, and questions. Nicodemus was the ruler of the group! We also know, for better or for worse, that Nicodemus came to Jesus by night (v. 2). Some could argue that Nicodemus was afraid for his life because of his position as ruler and implied belief in Jesus. Others could argue that Nicodemus was weak in faith because he chose to shroud his meeting with Jesus in darkness rather than be exposed by the light. Either way, we know that he came to Jesus asking about Jesus' teachings and signs (v.2), and this took courage.

What do we not know about Nicodemus? The rest of the story. The story of Nicodemus' life leaves us wanting more. Did he become faithful to God? Does he reject God and refuse the salvation offered to him? He seemed to be so close. You may be like me and want to believe that Nicodemus was on the edge about becoming a disciple of Christ and left his encounter with Jesus wanting more. All we can know for sure is that the rest of his story is left untold.

What will your story tell us? Nicodemus' story is set in stone and only God knows his eternal destination. However, unlike Nicodemus, your story is still being written. You still have a chance to finish your story in a way that will not leave God wanting more. What God wants from you is complete love (Matthew 22:37). Do not attempt to cover your faith and trust in God with darkness and secrecy. Stand up and stand out! Then, when an individual is completely in love with God, obedience follows (Luke 9: 23-24). As you write your story in this life, do so in a way that tells others obeying God is the only way to hope, security, and peace. Ultimately, it's up to you. What will be the rest of your story?

Austin Johnson, via Bulletin Digest

In Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to our brother Elwood Rush in the loss of his brother, Olen Rush, who passed away Thursday evening. Arrangements were not known at press time.