



TRUE LIGHT

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

September 6, 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
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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**

BEYOND RELIGIOUS PLACES, PRACTICES AND RITUALS

Imagine how you would feel if someone new on the religious scene began to attack what you considered to be precious. This new teacher started criticizing spiritual practices that you, and generations before you, had been taught were sacred. Not only that, but he also directly challenged what occurred in the places that you considered holy. He directly confronted people with what they believed and those who had taught those things to you. This teacher even challenged the foundation on which your holiest of days rested, saying they weren't instituted to honor God but to bless people.

You don't have to imagine those things: Jesus was the teacher who did them!

From the beginning of his ministry, Jesus irritated the teachers of the Jewish Law. He infuriated the religious establishment behind the synagogues and the Temple. At times, Christ Jesus chose to provoke those religious leaders with what he said and did. They felt that Jesus didn't respect the tradition of his elders and that he violated the Sabbath. Jesus' differences with them were not cosmetic, not some squabble over the finer points of the Torah.

Jesus made clear that the LORD had created the Sabbath for humankind, not humankind for the Sabbath (Mark 2: 27-28). God rested on the first Sabbath (Genesis 2: 1-3). His rest was an example of a rhythm he placed into his creation. Human beings needed to honor this rhythm in their lives and their dealings with their families, neighbors, laborers, and livestock (Deut. 5: 12-14). God made the Sabbath as a blessing to his creation, and especially to the crown of all that he had made, humankind (Genesis 1: 26-31).

Instead, the Jewish leaders of his time, Jesus made clear, had made a mockery of the LORD's intentions by encrusting the Sabbath with all sorts of rules, traditions, and requirements (Luke 3: 10-17; 14: 1-6). These encrustations were not God's plan. They had become ways of making some feel more righteous than others because of their superior performance of these rules (Mark 7: 1-8). Jesus was not shy in his rebuke of this approach to religion based on human traditions (Mark 7: 9-13).

Jesus' challenges to Israel's tradition-encrusted religious practices and his repeated disruption of worship in their sacred places eventually led to his showdown with the religious authorities in Jerusalem. The Lord's last trip to Jerusalem was filled with conflict, confrontation, and criticism of those in religious control. As challenging as Jesus' actions in his early ministry may have been, they were mild compared to his confrontations in that final week in Jerusalem before his crucifixion. Those actions had begun with his Triumphal Entry. The Lord entered the city to shouts of "Hosanna!" and the praises of the people. The Lord's closest disciples also saw him weep and pray over Jerusalem. They heard him teach about a withered fig tree as he mourned and predicted the future that awaited the Holy City. Viewing the beauty of Jerusalem and the Temple, Jesus warned his apostles that the Holy City would be torn down one stone after another. The coming destruction was going to happen because the religious establishment rejected his coming. His words, his actions were ominous.

As Jesus' followers today, we must remember God's sacrificial love for lost and broken people. We must not forget our call to mission. We must always remember that God's love for broken people and our call to his mission must matter more to us than all of our sense of religious place, practice, and ritual. If we lose sight of this truth, we have lost sight of Jesus, why he came, and why he allowed himself to be crucified.

Christ Jesus' actions in the Temple, however, were even more pointed. He entered the Temple and went on a holy rampage. He turned over the tables of the money changers. He drove out those selling and buying animals for sacrifice.

And as he taught them, he said, "Is it not written: 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it a 'den of robbers'" (Mark 11:17).

The religious leaders considered Jesus' actions as a direct attack on the place and practices of the Temple, and all they valued as holy. Their fury at Jesus moved them to plan for his death. Meanwhile, the people were amazed at the Lord's teaching, which infuriated the religious leaders more, yet also leaving them fearful of the crowds. They began to look for ways to discredit Jesus and diminish his hold over the people.

The leaders then increased their attack on Jesus with religious questions. They were determined to trap him in his answers. They wanted to have him say something that put him at odds with the Torah or the Romans, or both. Jesus skillfully answered their questions and navigated their attacks with God's truth and graceful elegance that left those in power even more furious.

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CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

BIRTHDAYS

September 6 - Sonny Allen
Katie Paige Williams
Micah Woods
September 7 - Stan Flowers
September 9 - Alex Garner
September 10 - Steve Jones
September 12 - Jack Simmons
Ishmael Smith



CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

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

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:

Sept. 10 - Sonny & Pauline Allen
Celebrating 71 years!

Attendance for August 30: 118
Contribution for August 30: \$5609

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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

Remember: Pam Claeys is home and doing some better * Sharlette Watson got good test results. She will have more tests Sept 22 * Sonja Mays continues to struggle with health issues * Helen McGowan should be able to start home dialysis soon * Kristi Altman (LaRhonda's sister) is not doing well * Dana Jo Jackson remains in the hospital with a suspected blood clot in her leg * Alan Robinson will have surgery Friday in St. Louis

Continue praying for these members of our church family: Louella Akers * 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) :

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 * 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.

That old September feeling, left over from school days, of summer passing, vacation nearly done, obligations gathering, books and football in the air. Another fall, another turned page: there was something of jubilee in that annual autumnal beginning, as if last year's mistakes had been wiped clean by summer.
Wallace Stegner



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What are we to do with this Jesus who confronted the spiritual practices and places of his time? What are we to think about the Christ who rampaged through the Temple?

We must hear the warning for our day. Religious practices and places can become encrusted with all sorts of traditions to make the religious adherents feel more righteous while they forget the heart of God and the mission of God. Religious leaders can get so caught up in their places, practices, and rituals that they forget about the brokenness of humanity that God has sent them to love, serve, and save.

Religionists killed Jesus. Yes, a Roman governor gave the edict to crucify him, and Roman soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross, but the religious leaders were the ones who orchestrated it all. When the places, practice, pomp, and rituals of religion forget the heart of God for broken and lost people, they are not just hollow ceremonies and rules. They are an affront to God and abuse to his purpose for his people. Jesus went to the cross of Calvary because of religion's fury at the God who would dare to love the lost so sacrificially. However, God's love cannot be contained by religion any more than the tomb could hold the body of the resurrected Christ. God's purposes for the world revealed in Jesus come back to two pivotal statements of mission:

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him (John 3:16-17).

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28: 18-20).

As Jesus' followers today, we must remember God's sacrificial love for lost and broken people. We must not forget our call to mission. We must always remember that God's love for broken people and our call to his mission must matter more to us than all of our sense of religious place, practice, and ritual. If we lose sight of this truth, we have lost sight of Jesus, why he came, and why he allowed himself to be crucified.

James Nored and Phil Ware, www.heartlight.com