



TRUE LIGHT

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

November 15, 2020

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Worship:
8:45 a.m. (masked)
9:50 a.m. Sunday school
10:30 a.m. (masks optional)

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00PM

MINISTER

Stan Dauck
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ELDERS

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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**

CAN WE TRUST THE SCRIPTURES?

The New Testament documents claim that Jesus is the "Word of God," God's greatest and clearest message about himself to his human children (John 1:1-18; Hebrews 1:1-3). Christians - Jesus' disciples - trust and follow Jesus as both Messiah and Lord (Acts 2:33-41). They recognize that he was shown to be the Son of God in power through his resurrection from the dead (Romans 1:3-4).

The apostle Paul emphasized that the good news about Jesus - our Messiah, Lord and Son of God - was *promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures* (Romans 1:1-2). Paul wrote the following words to Timothy about the Scriptures (what many call the Old Testament):

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17 NLT).

Timothy had learned these Scriptures from childhood from his mother and grandmother (2 Timothy 3:15). Paul called him to remain faithful to these Scriptures as he lived his life and shared his ministry (2 Timothy 3:15).

So, for the New Testament writers, Jesus is God's ultimate and fullest revelation of God. The Scriptures - the Old Testament - was inspired and given to us to help us come to faith in Jesus and live the kind of lives God wants us to live. These Scriptures are useful and helpful to us as we live our daily lives for God!

But, can we trust that we have reliably received the Scriptures? How can we be certain that we have the written documents God wants us to have? Is there any evidence that these Scriptures were accurately passed on to us?

We are blessed to know that the documents that we call the Old Testament are reliably preserved for us. This assurance enables us, as Luke describes it, to *be very certain of the truth of everything you were taught* (Luke 1:4). The vast number of documents supporting the Scriptures is mind-boggling and should be reassuring. No other ancient writing can approach the volume of early documents or the accuracy and care with which they were preserved. To have the Dead Sea Scrolls sit for two thousand years and then found to be almost identical to those same documents we have from other resources is mind-boggling.

We can know with certainty that the manuscripts have been carefully and accurately preserved for us. The bigger question, the faith question, has to do with what we will do with this understanding!

Look, again, at how Paul said: *The Holy Scriptures ...are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus* (2 Timothy 3:15).

The Scriptures need Jesus, God's most complete and clearest message, to help each of us become *wise for salvation* and the Holy Spirit to help us fully understand what we are called to do and how to live (2 Corinthians 2:9-13). Most importantly, the Holy Spirit is our anointing we received when we became Jesus' disciples, and the Spirit teaches the truth about Jesus (1 John 2:20-27) so that as we focus on Jesus, we can be transformed to become like our Lord (2 Corinthians 3:17-18).

We can trust the accuracy of the Scriptures as they have been preserved for us. *We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit* (2 Peter 1:19-21).

Do we place our faith in the one the Scriptures lead us to meet as Lord, Jesus of Nazareth? [Jesus said,] *You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, [Jesus from Nazareth, the Christ,] yet you refuse to come to me to have life*" (John 5:39-40).

Will we use these Scriptures to guide us into truth and warn us away from unholiness? *For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide, we might have hope. May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ* (Romans 15:4-6).

James Nored and Phil Ware, www.heartlight.com

CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

BIRTHDAYS

November 15 - Jase Foster
November 17 - Mason Beard
November 19 - Zack Tanner



CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Dry Spaghetti * Chili Mixes *
Large Freezer Bags * Microwave
Popcorn * Kidney Beans * Ranch style
beans

Pick Up Date February 1

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Cereal * Crackers * Canned spaghetti sauce
* rice * dried beans

Monetary gifts also appreciated

WHO DO YOU FOLLOW?

My father-in-law is a retired farmer from the state of North Carolina. He was visiting us recently when the following story happened to come up in conversation.

One day while they were out near a pond on the farm they came upon some duck eggs. Rather than just leaving them, they gathered them up and brought them back to the chicken coop. One of the workers placed the eggs under a setting hen. The hen had no problem with the "foreign" eggs and they had no problem with her.

When the time came they all hatched - but here is where the story gets interesting. The baby ducks followed the chicken around just as they would have their own mother. Wherever she went and whatever she did they were right there with her.

However, a turning point came one day and it happened that my father-in-law was there to witness it. The mother hen happened to lead the ducklings past a pond. As most of you know, a chicken is ... well, "chicken" when it comes to going in water. On the other hand, her followers were drawn to the pond like... well, "a duck takes to water."

The baby ducks were right at home and having the time of their lives diving and swimming in their natural habitat. Meanwhile, on the bank the hen was having a fit that her little ones had broken ranks.

This story struck me not because of its "oddity," but because it reminded me of a spiritual parallel. We are all born to be followers of our Creator (Ecclesiastes 12:13). Nevertheless, many end up following Satan instead. A prime example is recorded in Acts 8. Philip went down to Samaria where he found a whole city of people following a sorcerer. Yet, when Philip preached Christ to them, they abandoned the sorcerer's deception because they discovered where they really belonged.

Who do you follow? Sin is not your natural habitat! Living for Christ is where we all discover where we truly belong (cf Romans 6:17,18). Like the hen, Satan will have a fit when we break ranks - but so what?

Stan Dean, Killen Church of Christ (reprint)

Attendance for November 8: 85
Contribution for November 8: \$3537

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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

Remember: Morris Karnes' surgery went well and he was expecting to be released Saturday. He will follow up with a series of chemo and radiation treatments * **Ken Durham** is at home and continues to improve. He will see his doctor tomorrow * **Judy Snyder** is at home and is improving * **Wayne and Marietta Reams** have both been under the weather * **Jack and Helen McGowan, Cindy Burleson, Judy Flannery, Gayle Rodgers, Derek and Ronnie Mays, Donna McKuinn, her sister Pat Tubbesing and niece Nicci,** all at home and diagnosed with COVID * **Pam Claeys** will begin a treatment regimen soon for cancer found in two lymph nodes * **Wanda Thomason** will have a lumpectomy Wednesday *

Continue praying for these members of our church family: Louella Akers * Kristi Altman * John David Barnett * David Burleson * Janie Burleson * Scott and Judy Flannery * Sue Flowers * Grant Howard * Don Jackson * Morris Karnes * Ronnie Mays * Sonja Mays * Darlene McGowan * Helen McGowan * Jeff McGowan * Kevin Mickey * Reba Owens * Ida Roberts * Gayle Rodgers * Waynetta Rodgers * Elwood Rush * Jane Smith * Leon Smith * 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 * Ponna Mahan * Paula Mason * Betty Nicholson * Angie Smith * Tammy Telker * Bobby Thornton * Paula Walls

Other health issues (non-congregational):

DeeDee Burch * Mary Burke * Lem Hubbard * Dana Jo Jackson * Clyde Jacques * Lola Johnson * Beckie King * Nikki Lawrence * Jerry Don McGowan * Gene Rowland * Kevin Steed * Traci Suiter * Paige Tanner * Heather Whitehead

Our Shut Ins

Lois McKuinn * Marty Watson * Joy Watson * Elwood Rush * Sue Flowers * Travis Cooper * Shirley Johnson * Fern Botsch * Pam Claeys

In Sympathy:

Sympathy is extended to Ron Garner in the loss of his father, Robert Garner, who passed away November 7. Bob's funeral was held November 10 in Dexter.

A Note of Thanks:

Dear church family: We are so very thankful for all the prayers, kind words and cards you provided on our behalf during the time of our dad's illness and passing. They will never be forgotten.

Cathy Provance, TJ Provance, Jackie Manchas

Now is the time to be praying for our
Friends and Family
Weekend

with **BRAD HARRUB!**
January 2 and 3, 2021*
*subject to change

