



TRUE LIGHT

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

April 18, 2021

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00PM

MINISTER

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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**

A JOURNEY INTO TRUTH

In my life's journey, I have wrestled to understand truth. There is a big world out there, filled with religions, philosophies, cultures, and languages. However, in the journey, I recognized truth, because truth found me.

Before all things, truth existed. There is only one truth - the Word of God. And by his Word, God created mankind in his own image (Psalm 33:6). In the garden, mankind recognized the voice of truth. Yet mankind listened to another voice asserting another truth. And so, mankind became perverted by listening to the serpent's lie. The devil has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him (John 8:44). The result of this single decision is that all have wandered from the truth:

We all, like sheep, have gone astray. Each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all (Isaiah 53:6). And so, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14). The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world (John 1:9).

Truth is not something, but Someone

Christ always knew He would die for his creation; for he is *The Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world* (Revelation 13:8). Only the loving shepherd who searches and rescues us can save us from the mess we produced.

Therefore, we worship the truth, because His mighty name and Word are exalted over all things (Psalm 138:2-3). We worship the Word, because the Holy Spirit breathed life into us, and so we praise Him back with the breath He gave. The believer worships *in Spirit and in truth* (John 4:24).

Truth is not something, but **Someone**. There is no truth outside of Christ, and he desires to show us all the truth. When the spirit of truth comes, *he will guide you into all the truth* (John 16:13). As we pursue Christ, we are shown previously-hidden knowledge. The Lord alone is my Shepherd, and he leads me by his Word (Psalm 23).

Again, truth is Someone. Christ is truth (John 14:6). *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God* (John 1:1). God's Word is always truth: *Your word is truth* (John 17:17). It is not possible to change His Word, because Christ never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

Truth is absolute in that God's Word is complete. However, truth is best understood as living - and more than a concept. Truth has a voice, and it can be recognized. *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me* (John 10:27). It is living truth within us that we are being transformed into Christ's likeness (1 John 3:2-3). *Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth* (John 17:17).

My wife, Helena, once asked her grandmother, "Why do you always read your Bible? It's just the same." Her grandmother answered, "Yes, but I am always changing." God's compassion for us is so great, that it is new every morning (Lam. 3:22-23). So, the discipleship journey toward Christ is one of continual unfolding - as we grow, we understand more. There was a time where I thought like a child (1 Cor. 13:11), but that changed as I grew. If I do not understand something in God's Word, it is I who must grow. God's Word is unchangeable (Isaiah 40:8).

Untruth is not something, but the absence of the truth. Likewise, evil is not something but the absence of good.

Someone might say, "If God is all things, then God must be untrue!" Not so, because God never lies (Titus 1:2), and it is impossible for God to lie (Hebrews 6:18). Untruth is not something, but the absence of faith. Likewise, evil is not something, but the absence of goodness. However, God is good all the time. Secondly, God's supremacy far exceeds all evil. For the omnipotent God would not allow any evil in his works, unless his omnipotence and goodness, as the supreme good, is able to bring forth good out of evil. God is so much greater than the mess man created. He can take all the evil, and then turn it for good (Genesis 50:20).

Today, textual critiques scrutinize the Bible and question one passage or another, yet it is not the text that saves. **Continued on back**

CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

BIRTHDAYS

May 20 - Nicole Garner
 May 23 - Pauline Allen (90!)
 May 24 - LaRhonda Billingsley
 May 25 - Jonathan Simmons



CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Cleaning Supplies (non-aerosol) * Furniture Polish * Grape Juice (bottled) * Small Freezer Bags * Spaghetti Sauce * Taco/Burrito Mixes

PICK-UP DATE APRIL 26

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:

May 21 - James and Janet Wood
 May 23 - Jeff and Karen Martin

Attendance for April 11: 131
Contribution for April 11: \$4689

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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

Remember: Mike Duley will have extensive surgery in St. Louis soon on his foot to repair three shattered bones* **Reba Owens** fell and broke her pelvis, and is at home * **Luke Ethan Mason** has been diagnosed with an autoimmune disease and is having lots of issues with it * **Don Jackson** is back home * **Paula Mason** (Millie's sister) got good results from her MRI *

Continue praying for these members of our church family: Louella Akers * Kristi Altman * John David Barnett * David Burleson * Janie Burleson * Pam Claeys * Scott and Judy Flannery * Sue Flowers * Patsy (Hardy) Gregg * Grant Howard * Don Jackson * 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 * David Terrill * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson * Sharlette Watson

Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Cathy Bennett * Gina Bogle * Roxanne Carson * Sherry Chambers * Randy Cravens * Bill Fitzpatrick * Jo Carolyn Flowers * Kim Goins * Ronnie Goins * LeAnn Jacques * Tommy Jacques * Pam Jeralds * Holly Johnson * Andy Kelley * Connie Lemmons * Annette Lumsden * Ponna Mahan * Paula Mason * Betty Nicholson * Keagan Owens * Tammy Telker * Bobby Thornton * Paula Walls

Other health issues (non-congregational):

DeeDee Burch * Mary Burke * Jerry Grimes * Lem Hubbard * Dana Jo Jackson * Clyde Jacques * Lola Johnson * Beckie King * Nikki Lawrence * Jerry Don McGowan * Paul Maddox * Janie Mouser * Brenda Robinson * Gene Rowland * Kevin Steed * Traci Suiter * Paige Tanner * Heather Whitehead * Eva Latham

Our Shut Ins

Pauline Allen * Fern Botsch * Pam Claeys * Travis Cooper * Sue Flowers * Don Jackson * Shirley Johnson * Sonja Mays * Elwood Rush * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson * Joy Watson

Attention 2021 seniors/

parents: It's time to start compiling pictures for our senior appreciation day, tentatively scheduled for May 21. Please submit 30 to 50 photos via hard copy or flash drive/email to the church at your earliest convenience. Thank you!



Regular worship services are scheduled to resume June 6, barring a large spike in local COVID cases.

N	A	L	W	O	A	K	Y	U	W	T
S										R
U	Here's a super fun Bible word game!									M
N										A
O										I
R	We've hidden a verse from Proverbs in this shape.									T
B										P
U										H
C	To find it, you'll need to start at the correct letter and then read every second letter, going in a clockwise direction.									O
T										A
U										F
R										G
Y	How long will it take you to uncover the wisdom of this proverb?									O
E										E
T										L
W										N
E										I
S	I	N	D	A	S	E	R	L	E	T

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Salvation belongs to God: *And there is salvation from no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved* (Acts 4:12). No one actually finds salvation, but salvation finds us (Romans 3:11). If a person is seeking, it is because the Spirit was at work, opening a heart (John 6:44, John 6:63-65). So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ (Romans 10:17).

Some years ago, on a blustery day in the Jordanian desert, I was teaching the story of the good shepherd (John 10) to a Bedouin called Ahmed in his tent. Ahmed smiled and nodded; he knew immediately about the shepherd's voice. He turned to me with confidence and said he knew each of his sheep by name. That was astonishing, because there were many sheep outside his tent. After the study, we walked out, and I watched him call his sheep by name, and they ran to him. He knew them because he watched them being born; he fed them, kept them safe, and led them to green pastures.

Jesus described sinful men like lost sheep - caught in the thicket, unable to get out of the mess. Leaving the 99, he searches after the lost. And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home (Like 3:5-6).

Truth found me - rescued me back from the mess - and has brought me back on his shoulders to a life of goodness.

Gary Witherall, One Kingdom newsletter

SERVING THE LEAST

His name is Spencer, but everybody calls him "Spence." He was a state track champion in high school; then he went on to attend a prestigious university on a full academic scholarship. He lives now in one of America's largest cities and is highly respected in the field of chemical engineering. But if you were to ask Spence his greatest achievement to date, he wouldn't mention any of those things. He would excitedly tell you about the trips he makes to Nicaragua every few months to check in on the kids and teachers in the tutoring program he helped establish in one of the poorest areas of the country. And he'd tell you how enriched his life has been by serving them.

"The least of these." It's a phrase people use in a variety of ways, yet Jesus used it to describe those who, according to the world's standards, have little or nothing to offer us in return for our service. They are the men and women and children the world often overlooks - if not forgets completely. Yet it's exactly those people Jesus elevates to such a beautiful status by saying, "Whatever you did [for them], you did for me" (Matthew 25:40).

You don't have to have a degree from a prestigious university to understand Christ's meaning: serving "the least" is the same as serving Him. All it really takes is a willing heart.

John Blase

Last week's trivia answers: Isaiah (3:32); Jair (Judges 10:3.4)