



TRUE LIGHT

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

May 16, 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

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
Tim Woods

OFFICE: 573-293-5620
Bernie Church of Christ
P.O. Box 366
Bernie, MO 63822

EMAIL:
berniechurchofchrist@gmail.com

WEBSITE:
www.berniechurchofchrist.com

FIND US ON FACEBOOK:
Bernie church of Christ

"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**

JESUS AT THE CENTER

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 3:14-15 - underlined for emphasis).

Joshua's dad wanted to know what his pre-school son's teacher had taught him in Bible class. So, his dad asked him on their way home from church. The dad wasn't interested only out of fatherly concern. Joshua's dad was on staff at the church. To answer, Joshua folded his arms across the chest, then, with a stern look, said, "Jesus! Jesus! Jesus! That's all they want to talk about is Jesus!"

The Bible is a rich library of inspired literary types - poetry, prophecy, hymns, psalms, oracles, narratives, sermons, letters, parables, proverbs and laws. For followers of Christ, however, Jesus must be at the center of all of it. While Joshua may have wanted more diversity in his Sunday school curriculum, his teachers had found the heart of the matter: Jesus!

Putting Jesus at the center doesn't mean the rest of Scripture is unimportant, irrelevant, or uninspiring. Instead, the story of Jesus becomes the lens through which the rest of Scripture comes into focus. Jesus is the tuning fork that brings harmony to the rest of the Scriptures.

The New Testament books in the Bible make this claim in various ways. Paul's words written to Timothy, his apprentice in ministry, are but one example - see the Scripture quoted at the beginning of this message. Paul also told the Corinthians: *For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ. And so through him the 'Amen' is spoken by us to the glory of God* (2 Corinthians 1:20).

Jesus' call for folks to "follow me" (Matthew 4:19 - and many other times in the Gospels) are another example. But even more directly on target to our point, Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount, "You have heard that it was to people long ago...But I tell you..." (Matthew 5:21-22 - also see verses 27-28, 31-32, 33-34, 38-39, 43-44, for other examples) are his claim to be THE authoritative interpreter of Scripture.

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Jesus' final words on earth drive home the crucial role his teaching plays in the life of God's followers. These words are known as The Great Commission, and they emphasize the importance of making disciples from people of all cultures, "teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:20).

The rest of the New Testament emphasizes the crucial place of Jesus at the center of everything. If his followers are to know God and find true life, Jesus must be their central focus. He is the one who has made God known (John 1:18). He is the way to God, the source of truth, and the one who brings us life (John 14:6). Jesus is the only name that can provide us with salvation (Acts 4:12). Jesus is God's ultimate revelation of himself (Hebrews 1:1-3). Jesus is God come to earth in human flesh to reveal the Father to us (John 1:14). Jesus is the goal of our spiritual maturity (Colossians 1:28-29). The Holy Spirit is at work shaping our lives to become like Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:18). Jesus is the goal his followers are to attain as his Body (Ephesians 3:12-16).

So what's the point? Simple. Jesus has to be at the center of everything for us! While there are all sorts of things we can study, Jesus is THE essential. While there are many fascinating tangents to chase in our Bible study, we can't be all tangents: we must have a center. That center must be Jesus.

While the Bible, the Holy Scriptures, is crucial and vital for us, Jesus is the authority, the goal, the truth, the standard, and the measure of our faithfulness. His character and compassion are the tests of our orthodoxy and loyalty. Our goal as his followers is to become Jesus' bodily presence in the world. His concern for people - lost, broken, forgotten, last, abandoned, foreign, rich and poor, young and old, powerful and powerless - must be our passion.

As followers of Jesus, let's not let anything or anyone take Jesus' place. If Joshua were to look at our lives, let's make sure he would say, "Jesus! Jesus! Jesus! That's all they want to talk about is Jesus!"

SHINING STARS

I can close my eyes and go back in time to the house where I grew up. I remember stargazing with my father. We took turns squinting through his telescope, trying to focus on glowing dots that shimmered and winked. Those pinpricks of light, born of heat and fire, stood out in sharp contrast to the smooth, ink-black sky.

Do you consider yourself to be a shining star? I'm not talking about reaching the heights of human achievement, but standing out against a dark background of brokenness and evil. The apostle Paul told the Philippian believers that God would shine in and through them as they held "firmly to the word of life" and avoided grumbling and arguing (Philippians 2:14-16).

Our unity with other believers and our faithfulness to God can set us apart from the world. The problem is that these things don't come naturally. We constantly strive to overcome temptation so we can maintain a close relationship with God. We wrestle against selfishness to have harmony with our spiritual brothers and sisters.

But still, there's hope. Alive in each believer, God's spirit empowers us to be self-controlled, kind and faithful (Galatians 5:22-23). Just as we are called to live beyond our natural capacity, God's supernatural help makes this possible (Philippians 2:13). If every believer became a "shining star" through the power of the Spirit, just imagine how the light of God would repel the darkness around us! Jennifer Benson Schuldt

FACING THE DARKNESS

In the mid-1960s, two people participated in research on the effects of darkness on the human psyche. They entered separate caves, while researchers tracked their eating and sleeping habits. One remained in total darkness for 88 days, the other 126 days. Each guessed how long they'd remained in darkness and were off by months. One took what he thought was a short nap only to discover he'd slept for 30 hours. Darkness is disorienting.

The people of God found themselves in the darkness of impending exile. They waited, unsure of what would take place. The prophet Isaiah used darkness as a metaphor for their disorientation and as a way of speaking about God's judgment (Isaiah 8:22). Previously, the Egyptians had been visited with darkness as a plague (Exodus 10:21-29). Now Israel found herself in darkness.

But a light would come. *The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned* (Isaiah 9:2). Oppression would be broken, disorientation would end. A Child would come to change everything and bring about a new day - a day of forgiveness and freedom (v 6).

Jesus did come! And although the darkness of the world can be disorienting, may we experience the comfort of the forgiveness, freedom and light found in Christ. Glenn Packiam

Greed is relative; it is not defined by what something costs - it is measured by what it costs you.

Max Lucado

CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

BIRTHDAYS

May 16 - Rita Burch
May 17 - Jerry McCoy
May 21 - Justin Allen
Trish Baldwin
May 23 - Cooper Karnes
Marietta Reams



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

May 22 - Jerry and Rosemary McCoy

CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Velveeta Cheese * Disinfectant Spray (i.e. Lysol) * Light Bulbs * Nuts * Toilet Tissue * Spaghetti Sauce

PICK UP DATE AUGUST 16

FOOD PANTRY

We are currently operating on an individual, "as needed" basis. Monetary contributions are very much appreciated.

Attendance for May 9: 130
Contribution for May 9: \$4276

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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

Remember: Pam Claeys was expected to be moved Friday to Cypress Point in Dexter for rehab * Mike Duley will see his surgeon next month for additional surgery on his foot * Morris Karnes had a scan Monday and got a good report

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 * Luke Ethan Mason * 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

Senior Recognition Day

is next Sunday, May 23 following morning service. Please make plans to stay for the potluck and honor our 2021 graduates: Caris Foriester, Luke Tanner and Bronwen Young



Wise Up!

Uncover some wisdom from the book of Ecclesiastes by carefully following the instructions below. Are you wise enough to solve this on your first attempt?

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Truth	The	Wise	end	foolish	of
2	a	people	matter	lesson	meaningless	is
3	numbers	better	than	acts	its	world
4	beginning	gift	kingdom	and	wrongdoer	patience
5	lies	is	certain	will	better	job
6	than	knowing	property	pride	celebrate	saint

1. Cross out all the words in Columns A and F that have five letters.
2. Cross out all the words in the table that rhyme with eyes.
3. Cross out all words that are books of the Bible.
4. Cross out all words in Row 2 that have more than two vowels.
5. Cross out all words in Column D that have double letters.
6. Cross out all words in Row 4 that contain all the letters in GOD.
7. Cross out all 7-letter words.
8. Cross out all words in Column B that end in T.
9. Cross out all words in Row 6 that have three syllables.

Write the remaining words here, in order from left to right and top to bottom:

