



TRUE LIGHT

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

SEED, TOWEL, PROMISE, AND TORCHLIGHT: THE SEED

March 27, 2022

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Sunday School :

9:30 a.m.

Worship:

10:15 a.m.

5:00 p.m.

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

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**

The Seed: The four items of our focus - The Seed, the Towel, the promise, and The Torchlight - seem so ordinary, so simple. These four items were part of the day-to-day world of Jesus. He often used the example of a seed in his teaching. A towel was part of the mandatory washing before meals in Jewish society. God's promise was the currency of the Jewish faith. Torchlight was all they had to drive the darkness away. Four common things from Jesus' world become four key witnesses to Jesus and his glory. Today, we look at The Seed.

Let's focus on the mystery of a seed and the power of God that brings new life out of his Son's death. Even more, let's remember that the power of a seed is also a guarantee to us!

But someone may ask, "How will the dead be raised? What kind of bodies will they have?" What a foolish question! When you put a seed into the ground, it doesn't grow into a plant unless it dies first. And what you put in the ground is not the plant that will grow, but only a bare seed of wheat or whatever you are planting. Then God gives it the new body he wants it to have. A different plant grows from each kind of seed (1 Corinthians 15:35-38).

The Time: The Holy City of the Jews, Jerusalem, was filled with people and with expectations. Passover was happening soon. Lazarus had been raised from the dead just outside of the city. Jesus' reputation had been growing throughout the land. His followers were looking for the kingdom of God to come with power and glory. Jesus rode into town accompanied by their cries of "Hosanna," declaring his right to be the rightful heir of King David. These praises echoed down the walls and avenues. The tension was at the breaking point because the religious authorities wanted Jesus and Lazarus dead. They also wanted Jesus' movement stamped out.

This setting wasn't just a Jewish moment of expectation. A group of Greeks, who were begging to meet Jesus, found Philip and Andrew. For Jesus, these non-Jews coming to him was a divine signal (John 12:2-22). His time had come. Everything was in place. He knew what lay ahead. He was ready to embrace his destiny:

Jesus replied, "Now the time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels - a plentiful harvest of new lives" (John 12:23-24).

Throughout his ministry, Jesus chose to use typical, simple images from everyday life to teach eternal truths. Now, as the whole prospect of his death loomed, Jesus was planting ideas, eternal concepts, into the hearts of his disciples. They could not fathom them at the time. Jesus' words bloomed into expectation in his followers' hearts. They understood what Jesus had done by allowing himself to be the planted seed of new hope.

With the coming of the Greeks, he knew the time of his death was near. He had tried to prepare his little band of faithful followers for what lay ahead, yet they couldn't understand. How would the masses that had heard of him raising Lazarus come to understand? He was going to die. Their Messiah, the mighty - yet humble, Son of Man, would give up his life. The Son of David would hang on a cross before he came in glory. They could not understand. So, Jesus planted a thought about a seed in their minds.

The Truth: A seed is only an ugly, small thing unless it is put into the ground and dies. It is just a seed until it enters dirt, darkness, and isolation. But, beautiful things happen when the seed gives itself up to the earth.

Life. Growth. Beauty. Bounty - multitudes of seeds!

If we are honest, we can't understand why Jesus had to die. Oh sure, our heads can go over the details - someone must die for the world's sins; yes, it is God's will that his son would be the sin offering; and of course, love must triumph over hate and sacrifice defeat the abuse of power. In our hearts, however, how do you understand the Creator submitting to the ill will of the created? How do you understand God dying on a cross? Why would the Almighty withhold his power and submit to death when he had the power to

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The Seed of Righteousness

- Romans 4:13-16 -



BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

March 27 - Mary Barnett
March 31 - Gabe & Brooke Smith (A)
April 1 - Cassie Summers
April 3 - Ron & Gaye Miller (A)



Attendance for March 20: 83
Contribution for March 20: \$3355

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Remember: Judy Snyder was admitted to Southeast Hospital Thursday evening with fluid on her lungs and around her heart * **Kristi Altman's** cancer has spread to her brain, and she is not doing well * **Woody Wood** has a spot on his lung and is scheduled for a biopsy April 4 * **Liz Rice**, Donna McKuinn's niece's sister-in-law, had an emergency triple-bypass Wednesday * **Mike Duley** will have a stress test soon, and continues to have issues from a foot injury several months ago * **Darrin Shipman** will be having knee replacement surgery in early May * **Louella Akers** has been unable to have her treatments recently, but is feeling better and hopes to continue them soon*

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 * Patsy (Hardy) Gregg * Don Jackson * Sonja Mays * Curtis McClard * Darlene McGowan * Helen McGowan * Jeff McGowan * Kevin Mickey * Reba Owens * Ida Roberts * Gayle Rodgers * Waynetta Rodgers * Jane Smith * Leon Smith * David Terrill * Bettie Thurston * Gunner Townsend * Marty Watson * Sharlette Watson * Woody Wood

Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Chastity Beaird * Cathy Bennett * Gina Bogle * Roxanne Carson * Sherry Chambers * Randy Cravens * Chris Daley * Bill Fitzpatrick * Jo Carolyn Flowers-Noe (not doing well) * Kim Goins * Ronnie Goins * Patricia Greninger * Neal Halford * LeAnn Jacques * Tommy Jacques * Pam Jeralds * Holly Johnson * Connie Lemmons * Ponna Mahan * Linda Morgan * Paula Mason * Betty Nicholson * Keagan Owens * Tammy Telker * Bobby Thornton * Paula Walls

Other health issues (non-congregational):

DeeDee Burch * Mary Burke * Jodi Claeys * Ruth Dauck * Jerry Grimes * Katie Hicks * Grant Howard * Lem Hubbard * Clyde Jacques * Lola Johnson * Beckie King * Nikki Lawrence * Shug Lee * Jerry Don McGowan * Baby Owen * Brenda Robinson * Gene Rowland * Beth Schwendemann and family * Kevin Steed * Traci Suiter * Paige Tanner * Marilyn Tucker * Heather Whitehead * Eva Latham

Our Shut Ins

Louella Akers * Fern Botsch * Travis Cooper * Sue Flowers * Don Jackson * Sonja Mays * Reba Owens * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson * Joy Watson

Looking Ahead

Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal will be barbecue, baked potatoes, green beans and coleslaw. Desserts will be needed.

Ladies Day Saturday at Green Forest church of Christ. The theme is "Removing the Mask" with guest speaker Rosemary McKnight. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery.

Work Day Saturday at the building to do some deep cleaning. Volunteers are needed

Gospel Meeting at Arnold April 3-6 with speaker Jacob Rutledge. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery

We will have potluck-style Easter dinner April 17 following morning worship. If you would to attend, there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the foyer.

Recently, an anonymous donation was made to the church to be used for cleaning needs. This money was used toward the purchase of two new vacuum cleaners: an industrial corded one, and a cordless for lighter jobs. Thank you!



CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Dried Onions * Dishwashing Detergent * Trail Mix * Freezer Bags (2 Gallon) * Tissues (ie Kleenex) * Toilet Paper
Pick-up date: June 13

FOOD PANTRY

Currently operating on an "as needed/as available" basis. Monetary donations are always appreciated.

WILLING TO SERVE

March 27, 2022

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Cameron Traw
Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely
Scripture.....Jeff Rodgers
Prayer.....Zack Tanner
Closing Prayer.....Wayne Reams

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams
Prayer.....Darrin Shipman
Scripture.....Justin Allen
Dismissal.....Joe Watson

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton
Prayer.....David Carson
Dismissal.....Mike Duley

April 3, 2022

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Joe Watson
Opening Prayer.....Ron Garner
Scripture.....Jason Karnes
Prayer.....Jonathan Simmons
Closing Prayer.....Justin Allen

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams
Prayer.....David Carson
Scripture.....Sam Garner
Dismissal.....Jerry Burleson

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defeat his enemies and never suffer and die? How could someone so perfect be willing to stand in the place of all of the imperfect people like us?

The seed bears witness to us.

The raw glory of Jesus' ministry, the depth of his compassion, and his moral perfection are amazing! However, these are all made fully clear by the glory of his loving sacrifice. Hell's fury is swallowed up in love just as surely as a seed's form is burst open in the ground and then swallowed up in the beauty of the flower. Hate, jealousy, and the abuse of power can destroy the physical form of their enemies, but they cannot stop the seed from producing a harvest of love, joy, and peace.

The Point: Spring is upon us. Passover and Resurrection Sunday are on the horizon. This season is when seeds, long-buried in the dirt and forgotten during the cold of winter, burst through the ground with new life. Their triumph should remind us of Jesus' triumph! Every bud on every tree that rustles in the spring winds whispers aloud the truth: "Risen!"

Just as the ground cannot claim the seed, hell cannot contain the grace of God in Jesus. The darkness of dirt, whether in the ground or the human heart, cannot hold back the love of God and his desire to redeem and reclaim us.

Go ahead, plant a seed. See it disappear into the dirt. But, don't forget: the soil both covers and animates the life inside a seed; it does not extinguish it. The darkness of the dirt ensures that life will one day soon burst from the ground. No hell, no hate, no dirt, no darkness, no death can hold us captive because we believe the witness of The Seed! And, because Jesus is our Seed, life and glory await us all who find our hope in him.
Phil Ware