



# TRUE LIGHT

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

**January 29, 2023**

## 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

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Bernie church of Christ

*"This is the day the Lord  
has made. Let us rejoice  
and be glad in it."*

Psalm 118:24

**We Welcome You  
To All Of Our  
Services**

## HOW WE VIEW PEOPLE (PART 1)

Wouldn't you love to treat people as Jesus did? The Lord always seemed to know what people needed. Some of that ability was divine insight, most certainly. However, Jesus approached people in many ways we can also use as we seek to love and reach out to people as he did. As someone who regularly reads the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), I ask the Holy Spirit to open my eyes to ways the Lord approached and dealt with people. I want to value them as he did. I want to hear their hearts and feel their emotions, as he did.

One of the reasons many of us value the Gospel of John is that he covers fewer events while sharing the Lord's encounters with people in more detail. The conversational exchanges are more extended. If we are willing, we can learn to treat people as Jesus did. We can ask the Holy Spirit - our Advocate and Anointing - to lead us into a more profound understanding of Jesus' interactions with people (John 14: 16, 26 and 1 John 2:20-27).

Let me share an insight I believe the Spirit led me to develop after reading John 9. For me, this is a crucial insight into how Jesus views people in contrast to how religious people can often view people. This insight helps me see why non-religious, broken, outcasts, and outsiders flocked to Jesus and were willing to listen and obey him.

As [Jesus] went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" (John 9:1-2). Jesus heard that they had thrown [out the man born blind], and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him." Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you." Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. (John 9:35-38).

*If we are willing, we can learn to treat people as Jesus did.*

A man born blind, living outside of everyday society, and viewed as a sinner, goes through the abuse and blame of religious people. Then after his interactions with Jesus, this man comes to an unshakable faith that Jesus is the promised, "Son of Man," the Savior God said he would send to redeem his people. The journey to this faith centered on how religious people sometimes wrongly view people and how their ways differed from Jesus'.

First, let's look at how religious people wrongly viewed this man. Then we can come back to the way Jesus views people.

1. A Religious Question: "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" (John 9:2). The disciples asked this question in the man's presence, insensitive to the reality that he could hear their discussion. They based their question on the religiously ugly way of blaming someone for their own physical problems. This point of view assumes that if you are good, then good things happen to you, and if you are bad, then bad things happen to you. They ignored the book of Job that blasted this often-held but grossly unfair view of reality. Even more, they devalued this man as a person created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27) who needed their love and mercy. As long as they viewed this man as little more than a religious question, they didn't have to engage with him as someone who needed the Lord's grace! They saw no reason to have concern for this man because they religiously categorized him as unworthy of their time and attention.
2. A Label: His neighbors and other who knew him as a blind beggar asked each other, "Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said he was, and others said, "No, he just looks like him!" But the beggar kept saying, "Yes, I am the same one!" (John 9:8-9 NLT). The neighbors saw the man born blind as little more than a label: he was a beggar. They assumed they knew him and saw no need to approach him differently than their assigned label. They didn't know his story, his longings or his heart. "He's a beggar! We see him every day. We don't have to think about him." But isn't this sinful way of viewing a person something we also easily slip into doing? Are they Republican or Democrat, thin or fat, gay or straight, young or old, tidy or messy? If we view them as a label, we don't have to view them as a person, do we? We don't have to waste our time worrying about them or helping them.

To be continued in next week's "True Light"

## BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES



January 29 - Tim Flowers  
 January 30 - Ginger Beaird  
 February 1 - Jerry & Pam Collier (A)  
 February 3 - John David Barnett  
 February 4 - Zachary Tanner

## CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Tape (Scotch/Masking) \* Paper  
 Napkins \* Paper Plates & Cups \*  
 Spaghetti O's \* Liquid Fabric  
 Softener \* Ketchup  
 Pickup Date April 17, 2023

## WILLING TO SERVE

### January 29, 2023

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Cameron Traw  
 Opening Prayer.....David Carson  
 Scripture.....Jeff Rodgers  
 Prayer.....Zack Tanner  
 Closing Prayer.....Justin Allen

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Joe Watson  
 Prayer.....Wayne Reams  
 Scripture.....David Burleson  
 Dismissal.....Rodney Williams

### Wednesday, January 25, 2022

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton  
 Prayer.....Jerry Burleson  
 Dismissal.....Jeff Rodgers

### January 22, 2023

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Dylan Seabaugh  
 Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely  
 Scripture.....Jason Karnes  
 Prayer.....Sam Garner  
 Closing Prayer.....Jess Lecroy

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton  
 Prayer.....David Carson  
 Scripture.....Jeff Rodgers  
 Dismissal.....Jerry McCoy

Attendance for January 22: 100 \*\*\* Contribution for January 22: \$4127

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**Louella Akers'** cancer has spread. Doctors have said there is nothing else they can do. \* **Sonja Mays** was scheduled to be released from Dexter Hospital Friday following a severe UTI \* **Rodney Williams** will have some more tests following a trip to the ER last week \* **Cameron Traw** having some issues with his medications \* **Gloria Moore** has been having a lot of lower back pain \* **David Carson's** surgery postponed until February \* **Don Jackson** is improving; the swelling in his knee has gone down \* **Sharon Durham** continues to slowly improve \* **John David Barnett** continues to improve \* **Pat Ingle's** latest scans shows her tumors are shrinking \* **Marty Howard** is scheduled for back surgery Friday \* **Mike Duley** recovering from foot surgery \* **Janet Wood** is home recovering from knee replacement surgery \* **Fern Botsch** on hospice care \* **David Terrill** at home recovering from a serious fall \* **Mike Napier's** cancer has returned \* **Scott Burleson** (Reeda Traw's brother) released from the hospital and improving \* **Wayne McKuinn** is improving \* **Kenny Grubbs** (Pam Collier's father) diagnosed with cancer; it is serious

**Continue praying for these members of our church family:** David Burleson \* Scott and Judy Flannery \* Sue Flowers \* Patsy (Hardy) Gregg \* Sonja Mays \* Darlene McGowan \* Helen McGowan \* Jeff McGowan \* Gloria Moore \* Ida Roberts \* Waynetta Rodgers \* Jane Smith \* Leon Smith \* David Terrill \* Bettie Thurston \* Marty Watson \* Sharlette Watson \* Woody Wood

## Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Melinda Akers \* Chastity Beaird \* Cathy Bennett \* Gina Bogle \* Roxanne Carson \* Sherry Chambers \* Randy Cravens \* Chris Daley \* Bill Fitzpatrick \* Jo Carolyn Flowers-Noe \* Ronnie Goins \* Patricia Greninger \* Nolan Hollowell \* LeAnn Jacques \* Tommy Jacques \* Pam Jeralds \* Holly Johnson Kristin Meadows \* Connie Lemmons \* Ponna Mahan \* Linda Morgan \* Paula Mason \* Betty Nicholson \* Keagan Owens \* Nikki Reif \* Tammy Telker \* Bobby Thornton \* Paula Walls

## Other health issues (non-congregational):

Dixie Billingsley \* DeeDee Burch \* Mary Burke \* Jodi Claeyes \* Ruth Dauck \* Jerry Grimes \* Katie Hicks \* Grant Howard \* Clyde Jacques \* Lola Johnson \* Beckie King \* Eva Latham \* Nikki Lawrence \* Tim Lecroy \* Shug Lee \* Jerry Don McGowan \* Mary Provance \* Brenda Robinson \* Kevin Steed \* Traci Suiter \* Paige Tanner \* Heather Whitehead \*

## Our Shut Ins

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

## Looking Ahead

Wednesday night fellowship meal will be hot dogs, soups and chili (weather permitting). Desserts will be needed. \*\*\*

First Sunday potluck and early evening service will be February 5. We will have a meal following morning services with an early, 1 p.m. evening service. \*\*\*

Valentine's Banquet Sunday, February 12, following evening services. Plan now to attend for an evening of good food, fellowship and fun. \*\*

Ladies Lunch out will be MONDAY, February 13, at 11:30 at La Cascada in Bernie. There's a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer if you'd like to attend. \*\*\*

Inspiration 2023 March 10 & 11 at Dexter with guest speaker Lonnie Jones. \*\*\*

Our Spring Gospel Meeting with Bryan McAlister will be March 5-8. Be praying now for a successful meeting, and plan to attend every night. \*\*\*

## THE PINK COAT

Brenda was walking toward the mall exit when a flash of pink from a display window caught her eye. She turned and stood spellbound before a "cotton candy colored coat." Oh, how Holly would love it! Finances had been tight for her coworker friend who was a single mother, and while Brenda knew Holly needed a warm coat, she was also confident that her friend would never lay down cash on such a purchase for herself. After wavering ever so slightly, Brenda smiled, reached for her wallet, and arranged for the coat to be shipped to Holly's home. She added an anonymous card, "You are so very loved." Brenda practically danced to her car.

Joy is a by-product of God-nudged giving. As Paul instructed the Corinthians in the art of generosity, he said, *Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver* (2 Corinthians 9:7). He also noted, *Whoever sows generously will reap generously* (v 6).

Sometimes we slip cash into the offering plate. At other times we donate online to a worthy ministry. And then there are moments when God leads us to respond to the need of a friend with a tangible expression of His love. We offer a bag of groceries, a tank of gas ... or even the gift of a perfectly pink coat.

Elisa Morgan

