



TRUE LIGHT

January 21, 2024

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
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."*

Psalm 118:24

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

RESURRECTION 2.6: THE LORD OF FRESH STARTS

Years ago while on vacation, I woke up one morning, took my Bible, grabbed my breakfast, and went outside on the back porch. I wanted to enjoy the breeze and the rustling of the pine trees. As I munched my cereal and read, a couple began to play tennis on the nearby court. Their play was awful! The harder they tried, the worse they played. Eventually, they went to a corner of the court, drank some water, talked a bit, then shifted over one court and started playing considerably better.

What made the difference in their play? Was there less wind to influence their shots? Was the sun now at a better angle? Was the court surface better than the previous court?

I sure couldn't see any difference in conditions. I chalked up their improved play to their fresh start. The change in courts was more symbol than substance. This couple had decided they would let the bad play on the previous court die there. They decided they would start fresh. It worked.

Wouldn't life be better if we could have a fresh start after making a mess of things?

If you know the good news of Jesus, you know our Lord is the Master of fresh starts. His sacrifice on the cross and his resurrection victory over sin, death, and hell are the foundation for us to have a fresh start in our lives. Jesus' apostle, John, described it this way: *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness* (1 John 1:9).

Notice that John promised us much more than forgiveness; he promised us forgiveness and purification! If we are honest and transparent about our failures, he forgives and removes our sin. Our Lord gives us a fresh, new, clean, start on life! Jesus paid the cost for us to have this fresh start through his atoning sacrifice (1 John 2:1-2).

How could John know this? How could he be so sure?



John had seen Jesus give Peter that gift on a fishing trip. That trip occurred after Jesus' resurrection from the dead. He had begun to show himself to his followers to prove to them he was alive (1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Acts 1:1-3). His apostles, however, were not quite sure what to do with themselves. One day, Peter turned to some of his buddies (Thomas, Nathaniel, James, John, and two other disciples - John 21:2) and said, "I'm going fishing." His buddies went with him. Their fishing trip provided Jesus an opportunity to teach them about love, forgiveness, and fresh starts.

Reminiscent of a fishing trip over three years earlier, Peter and his friends fished all night and didn't catch a thing (John 21:3; Luke 5:5). On this occasion, Jesus called to them from the shore, but his disciples didn't recognize him. The Lord told them to throw their nets on the right side of the boat, and they did. Like that previous time, they caught so many fish they could barely haul them all into the boat (John 21:6; Luke 5:6-7). With the beloved disciple's help, Peter recognized that the person on the shore must be Jesus, the one who had made a similar miracle happen at the beginning of his ministry. So, Peter jumped out of the boat and swam ashore to greet his resurrected Lord (John 21:7).

The other disciples hauled the fish to shore and joined Jesus and Peter on the beach. Over a breakfast of fish, the Lord gently, but consistently, challenged Peter about his arrogance and failure on the night he denied his Lord. Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me?" He bluntly reminded Peter of his bragging overstatement that if the other apostles turned away from the Lord, he wouldn't (John 13:27; Mark 14:29). Around this breakfast cookout fire and before the disciples Peter had bragged and then failed, Jesus asked Peter THREE times, "Do you love me more than these?" (John 21:15).

Hmm! And Peter had denied his Lord THREE times! Peter got the message: *Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?"* (John 21:17).

Continued on back

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

January 28 - Melissa Shelton



CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Hamburger Helper * Paper Towels
* 13-Gallon Trash Bags * Cream of
Chicken Soup * Shampoo or
Conditioner * Vanilla Wafers
Pick up Date: February 19

WILLING TO SERVE

January 21, 2024

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Derek Mays
Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely
Scripture.....Jason Karnes
Prayer.....Sam Garner
Closing Prayer.....Jess Lecroy

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Ron Garner
Prayer.....Rodney Williams
Scripture.....Derek Mays
Dismissal.....David Burleson

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

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

January 28, 2024

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams
Opening Prayer.....David Carson
Scripture.....Ron Garner
Prayer.....Zack Tanner
Closing Prayer.....Justin Allen

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....David Carson
Prayer.....Rodney Williams
Scripture.....Jeff Rodgers
Dismissal.....Jerry Burleson

Continued from front:

Jesus confronted Peter with his failure in front of the people who knew him and his failure, best. Then - and this is the essential part for you and me - the resurrected Jesus called Peter back to leadership and ministry ... THREE times. *Jesus said, "Feed my lambs ... Take care of my sheep ... Take care of my sheep"* (John 21:15-17).

Jesus had provided Peter and his friends a miraculous catch of fish earlier so that he could call them to be his apostles (Luke 5:1-11). Now, after Peter's failure, Jesus provided a second miraculous catch of fish to give him a fresh start rooted in forgiveness and grace. Jesus didn't just forgive Peter's sin, but he also removed it from him so that he could start fresh.

Peter's breakfast on the beach with Jesus is good news for us. Peter's failure wasn't final. The Lord led him to confront his sin and then called him back to ministry. He longs to bless us with a similar restoration no matter our personal failures. The love of Jesus demonstrated at the cross provides forgiveness for us. The empty tomb and the gift of the Holy Spirit guarantee us a fresh start at life and ministry. All that's left for us is to leave that past behind and follow his call.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation...God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:17-21).

Phil Ware, www.heartlight.com

Attendance for January 14: 83

Contribution for January 14: \$3630

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Roxanne Carson is in the hospital * **Joy Greer** has been in the hospital with COVID and GI issues * **Sharon Durham** will have a follow up with her orthopedic surgeon in a few weeks * **Faye Dockins** is undergoing eye injections for macular degeneration * **Becky Johnson** * **Larry Summers** as he continues cancer treatments * **Rodney Britt** as he continues treatments * **Joe Vincent** (Amy Townsend Vincent's husband) undergoing treatments for sinus cancer * **Sue Flowers** remains on hospice care and has not been feeling well * **Maura Thomason** will be having an MRI on her back/hips Monday *

Continue praying for these members of our church family: David Burleson * David Carson * Mike Duley * Scott and Judy Flannery * Karen Forkum * Patsy (Hardy) Gregg * Darlene McGowan * Helen McGowan * Jeff McGowan * Donna McKuin * Gloria Moore * Ida Roberts * Waynetta Rodgers * David Terrill * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson * Woody Wood

Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Melinda Akers * Chastity Beaird * Cathy Bennett * Roxanne Carson * Sherry Chambers * Randy Cravens * Barbara Denson * Bill Fitzpatrick * Patricia Greninger * Nolan Hollowell * LeAnn Jacques * Tommy Jacques * Pam Jeralds * Holly Johnson * Kristin Meadows * Connie Lemmons * Ponna Mahan * Mike Napier * Betty Nicholson * Keagan Owens * Bill Peck * Nikki Reif * Bobby Thornton * Mindy Tomah * Alan Woodward

Other health issues (non-congregational):

Dixie Billingsley * DeeDee Burch * Mary Burke * Brynlee Douglas * Shirley Grimes * Katie Hicks * Grant Howard * Clyde Jacques * Lola Johnson * Beckie King * Eva Latham * Nikki Lawrence * Tim Lecroy * Shug Lee * Brenda Robinson * Kevin Steed * Traci Suiter * Heather Whitehead *

Our Shut Ins

Sue Flowers * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson

Looking Ahead

Wednesday fellowship meal will be bbq, baked potatoes, baked beans and cole-slau. Desserts will be needed.

January 27 - Disciple Making Seminar at New Madrid church of Christ from 10-2 with speakers Donnie Ray Brown and Grant Fitzhugh. Lunch will be provided.

February 13 - Ladies Lunch Out at 11:30 at La Cascada in Bernie. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer if you'd like to attend.

March 8 & 9 - Inspiration 2024 at Dexter with guest speaker Lonnie Jones. More information coming soon.

GIVE WHILE YOU LIVE

A successful businessman spent the last few decades of his life doing all he could to give away his fortune. A multibillionaire, he donated cash to a variety of causes such as bringing peace to Northern Ireland and modernizing Vietnam's health care system; and not long before he died, he spent \$350 million to turn New York City's Roosevelt Island into a technology hub. The man said, "I believe strongly in giving while living. I see little reason to delay giving ... Besides, it's a lot more fun to give while you live than to give while you're dead." Give while you live - what an amazing attitude to have.

In John's account of the man born blind, Jesus' disciples were trying to determine "who sinned" (9:2). Jesus briefly addressed their question by saying, *Neither this man nor his parents sinned ... but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me* (vv 3-4). Though our work is very different from Jesus' miracles, no matter how we give of ourselves, we're to do so with a ready and loving spirit. Whether through our time, resources, or actions, our goal is that the works of God might be displayed. For God so loved the world that He gave. In turn, let's give while we live.

John Blase