



# TRUE LIGHT

**April 14, 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

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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***

## HEAVEN'S WINDOW

When asked who Peter thought Jesus was, he replied: *You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God* (Matthew 16:16).

Jesus didn't praise Peter for giving a smart answer. Yes, the Lord did bless Peter for sharing these words, but he also made clear that Peter didn't come up with his answer on his own. Peter's answer didn't come through human insight. Jesus said it was revealed to him by the Father: *Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven* (Matthew 16:17).

Let's pause and think about these words of Jesus. Whether it's an episode of "Family Feud" or a teacher in class or the whispered voice inside our head, what do we expect to hear? "Great answer, great answer!" Our tendency is to give praise to the person who gives the correct answer.

In this situation with Jesus and his apostles, the whole interaction shows that Peter didn't have a clue what his answer meant. He had the right words, but not much else than those right words. He received these words through heaven's window with no idea what they really meant on earth, much less what they might mean for his own life.

*Faith isn't just about saying the right words. It never was. Faith is about trusting in what Jesus has done to save us and investing our lives in following Jesus as Lord because of what we believe. For us to have this faith, we've got to be willing to walk with Jesus as Peter did.*

So much of our approach to biblical truth today is about acquiring information and having the right words. It's like we're trying to become thumb drives full of biblical truth.

The issue for Jesus, however, is not about having information. It's not about having the right words or the correct religious formula or saying things in the exact and proper way.

We can know words and miss what they mean for our heart's allegiances. We can recite the truth, and the truth never challenges the conceptions we have of life in our minds. We can proclaim the truth of heaven but never live it with grace so that truth is totally lost to us and to those around us. We can say the words, but never be shaped into a true disciple of Jesus!

Jesus reminds us in his most definitive teaching on being disciples - the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew chapters 5-7) - that knowing truth only makes us a fool if all we do is recite the words of truth and expect them magically to do something for us: [Jesus told his disciples,] *Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles:' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!' Everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash* (Matthew 7:21-23, 26-27).

In a day where so many religious salvation peddlers offer quick and easy word formulas for people to be saved, Jesus' words appropriately sound harsh. When we command people to recite prayers or say words not even found in scripture, then give them assurance that they are saved, these words of Jesus are jarring ... shocking ... even confusing. In our day, there is little or no call for life and heart change (repentance), for following Jesus as Lord, or for placing our total trust in Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection in baptism. But all of these things were associated with believing and practiced consistently in the book of Acts when people came to Christ for the first time in the first century of Christianity.

So have we made faith mean something the Bible doesn't? Have we reduced faith to saying a magic formula and getting the words right so we can feel good about our future? Before you are ready to criticize me for trespassing into salvation by works, take a second to ponder a few things...

Re-read Jesus' words at the end of the Sermon on the Mount and compare his words to our practices, formulas, and definitions of faith. Think a minute about what happens to Peter in this story of his confession of Jesus' identity. He was divinely inspired to speak true words about Jesus' identity. He even believed those words based on his flawed definition of the terms.

**Continued on back**

## BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

April 15 - Traci McQuin  
 April 17 - Jon Neely  
 April 20 - Nicole Garner  
 April 21 - James & Janet Wood (A)



## CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Salsa/Picante Sauce \* Coffee \* Cereal \*  
 Tissues \* Velveeta Cheese  
 \* Chocolate Chips



Pick up date: May 20

## WILLING TO SERVE

### April 14, 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, April 17, 2024

Song Leader.....Dylan Seabaugh  
 Prayer.....Jacob Clayton  
 Dismissal.....Jerry McCoy

### April 21, 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.....Wayne Reams  
 Scripture.....Sam Garner  
 Dismissal.....Jerry Burleson

Attendance for April 7: 113

Contribution for April 7: \$3111

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Helen McGowan's surgery went well and she was expected to come home Friday \*  
 Cody Boyt's surgery to remove two stage 1 cancerous tumors in her stomach was  
 rescheduled for April 17 in St. Louis \* Janie Burleson doing better after a brief  
 scare last week \* Donna McQuin will be having an echocardiogram May 21 and  
 other tests run for various health issues \* Becky Johnson was scheduled for surgery  
 this past Thursday \* Roxanne Carson and Joe Vincent currently undergoing treat-  
 ments for cancer \* Sue Flowers continuing to decline but having good days here  
 and there \* Stan Goodman, Phyliss Howard's brother-in-law, recently diagnosed with  
 cancer.

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

## Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Melinda Akers \* Chastity Beard \* Cathy Bennett \* Rodney Britt \* Roxanne Car-  
 son \* Sherry Chambers \* Randy Cravens \* Barbara Denson \* Bill Fitzpatrick \*  
 Patricia Greninger \* Stan Goodman \* 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):

We are updating our sick list. If you have someone you'd like added to the list, please let Amy know.

## Our Shut Ins

Sue Flowers \* Bettie Thurston \* Marty Watson

## Looking Ahead

April 16 - Ladies Lunch Out at Wings Etc. in Dexter at 11:30. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer if you'd like to attend.  
 Note this is one week later than usual due to our Gospel Meeting.

Wednesday Fellowship Meal: hot dogs, soups and chili. Desserts will be needed.

May 5: Senior Recognition Sunday and first Sunday potluck/early evening service. Please make plans to stay and help us recog-  
 nize our 2024 seniors: Luke Worley and Ryan Young, both graduating from Dexter High School.

Continued from front:

What did Jesus say to Peter when this inspired disciple revealed his wrong-headed notions of what these words meant for Jesus? What good is  
 having the right words when Peter rebuked Jesus' description of what those words would actually involve? [Jesus] *turned and said to Peter,*  
*"Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man* (Matthew  
 16:23).

Faith isn't just about saying the right words. It never was. Yes, we have to believe the truth about Jesus. No one is denying that. But faith is  
 about trusting in what Jesus has done to save us and investing our lives in following Jesus as Lord because of what we believe. For us to have  
 this faith, we've got to be willing to walk with Jesus as Peter did.

Like Peter, we're going to say and do some dumb, uninformed though often well-intentioned, things. We are going to have flashes of insight  
 given to us through heaven's window and then be dumber than a hammer about what to do with those in our lives. However, the issue is not say-  
 ing the formula, but following the Savior. We follow Jesus. We keep following Jesus until our life is caught up into his life and his life becomes  
 seen in our life. Being a follower of Jesus has never been about formulas or magical words (Acts 19:13-16; James 2:12-17); it's about Jesus and  
 his way of life being formed in us (Galatians 4:19; Colossians 1:28-29). We are called to become Jesus shaped!

To paraphrase James, "Words mean very little until faith puts our lives where our words are" (James 2:18).

Let's refuse to trust the formulas, the magical word sets, or the "easy believism" often pedaled today by those who want to notch their belts with  
 the number of decisions they've led people to make. Instead, let's seek Jesus.

Let's have Jesus' words shape our lives. Let's trust Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection as the basis of our hope. Let's have our faith in Jesus  
 call us to live a life like his.

Then, our words will match our lives, lives that flow from hearts of profound devotion, love, and trust. Which is, after all, a whole lot of what it  
 means for us to truly believe that Jesus is the Messiah, Israel's anointed one, the very Son of God!

Phil Ware, www.heartlight.com