



TRUE LIGHT

CRUCIFORMED DISCIPLE

April 28, 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
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DEACONS

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*"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**

Years ago as a boy, one of the greatest birthday gifts I ever received was a VAC-U-FORM by Mattel. You would heat up a piece of plastic to make it pliable, then quickly press that piece of plastic over a desired form while pushing down a lever that vacuumed all the air out around the object. When you were done, you had a piece of plastic formed into the image of an object. The warmer the plastic became, the more pliable and ready to be "VAC-U-FORMed" into the new shape it became. However, there was a point where the plastic became too hot and burned up and was unusable. Knowing how hot to get the plastic to make it pliable without ruining it was always the challenge.

The Holy Spirit is at work to transform us to become more fully JESUShaped. To use more Jesus-focused language, the Holy Spirit was at work to "cruciform" us into the image of Christ:

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:18; cf. Romans 8:28-29).

But, how do hardened hearts become pliable? How do old habits of self-will and old patterns of egoism and selfishness become open to change?

Peter had spent much of his time with Jesus over-promising and under-delivering.

The cross of Jesus changes everything about us if we let it. The cross becomes our template, our "desired form" over which our pliable will is stretched, and we are transformed (Philippians 2:5-11). Jesus' crucifixion is a triumph of love, obedience, and service over hate, selfishness, and evil. Through all of Jesus' work in Peter's life, the Lord had the transformation of the cross as the goal. To be a disciple, a true follower of Jesus, Peter had to be willing to see Jesus' example as his transformation's desired destination (Luke 9:23-26).

Peter met with the resurrected Lord one morning by the Sea of Galilee and was "cruciformed" by the Lord's grace into the servant leader he became.

*Simon son of John, do you love me more than these? (John 21:15). * Simon son of John, do you love me? (John 21:16). * Simon son of John, do you love me? (John 21:17).*

Peter was deeply pained because Jesus asked him this simple question... three times! Just as Peter had denied his Lord... three times! Peter had spent much of his time with Jesus over-promising and under-delivering. Despite Peter's promise that he would not abandon Jesus even if all of the other apostles did (Mark 14:29), Peter denied the Lord three times. Despite Peter's promise that he would lay down his life for his Lord (John 13:37), Peter denied ever knowing Jesus.

Now, in the presence of all the other apostles, Jesus made Peter face his failure of faithfulness. Peter's brashness needed to be transformed into boldness to proclaim the good news of Jesus. His impetuosity needed to be converted to a passion for reaching the lost. His desire to be seen as important desperately needed to be changed into a heart that would sacrifice everything to follow Jesus and shepherd Jesus' followers. Peter needed to be "cruciformed"; he needed to be molded into the Lord's "desired form." He needed to be JESUShaped!

So, with every question challenging Peter's claim to love faithfully, the Lord also responded with an affirmation of Peter's call to minister as shepherd to Jesus' followers:

*Feed my lambs (John 21:15). * Take care of my sheep (John 21:16). * Feed my sheep (John 21:17).*

Jesus was not only affirming Peter's forgiveness and his ability to minister, but he was also calling Peter back to shepherd Jesus' sheep! More than just forgiveness, Jesus was bringing restoration and renewal of purpose to Peter.

If you are like most of us seeking to live for Jesus, you've had your meltdown moment over your own unfaithfulness to the Lord. You've been broken by your sin, shocked by your hypocrisy, frustrated by your weakness, or disappointed in your lukewarm faith. So let Peter's restoration by Jesus be your turning point. You see, the Lord didn't confront Peter to destroy him, but to make him pliable. Peter needed his will to be conformed to the cross - to be "cruciformed"! Once transformed, Peter's outlook was changed. All that he once failed to achieve by ego, the Lord accomplished through him by grace.

Continued on back

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

April 29 - Scott Flannery
April 30 - Steve Burch
May 2 - Celia McGowan
Annabelle Shelton
May 5 - Avery Neely



CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

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



Pick up date: May 20

WILLING TO SERVE

April 28, 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.....Derek Mays
Prayer.....Rodney Williams
Scripture.....Ron Garner
Dismissal.....David Burleson

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton
Prayer.....David Carson
Dismissal.....Jerry McCoy

May 5, 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

Continued from front:

If the Lord can transform Peter with all of his failures, imagine what he can do with you! Don't let your failures make you despondent, bitter, or fatalistic about your sin. Instead, ask the Holy Spirit to use your failures to make you pliable. See the cross for what it is - the place the Lord meets us in our most flawed moments, forgives us, and calls us back to be used as his "cruciformed" disciples.

Peter reminded us:

He himself [Jesus Christ] bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls (1 Peter 2:24-25).

Phil Ware, www.heartlight.com

Bible Trivia:

When the tabernacle was built, who was the chief craftsman? * What emotion will cause your bones to rot? * What group of people were told to burn their hair after it was cut off? * Who was told to say, "My little finger is thicker than my father's waist?"

A: Bezalel - Exodus 31:1-5 * Envy - Proverbs 14:30
* The Nazaretes - Numbers 6:18 * Rehoboam - 2
Chronicles 10:6;7,10

Attendance for April 21: 98

Contribution for April 21: \$3664

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Judy Flannery had a stent put in for a kidney stone Thursday and will go this week to have it pulverized * **Pat Cooper** has been having trouble with her leg * **Janie Burlseon** recovering at home after breaking 3 bones in her foot * **Helen McGowan** doing well following surgery * **Cody Boyt's** surgery went well and she will have a follow up in six months * **Donna McKuIn** will be having an echocardiogram May 21 and other tests run for various health issues * **Becky Johnson** recovering from surgery * **Sue Flowers** has been doing better recently *

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 McKuIn * Gloria 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 Carson * Sherry Chambers * Randy Cravens * Barbara Denson * Bill Fitzpatrick * Audrey Galloway * 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 * Joe Vincent * Alan Woodward

Our Shut Ins

Sue Flowers * Ida Roberts * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson

Looking Ahead

Wednesday Fellowship Meal: Taco Salad. Desserts will be needed.

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

May 6-9: Revival at Arnold church of Christ with speaker Hiram Kemp. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery.

May 14: Ladies Lunch Out at Malden Country Club. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer if you'd like to attend.

May 18: Living with Loss Workshop at Central church of Christ, Paducah. More information is on the bulletin board by the nursery.

Q AGE IS JUST A NUMBER

Youthfulness shouldn't stop anyone from achievement. It certainly didn't stop eleven-year-old Mikaila. Instead of putting up a lemonade stand, Mikaila opened a lemonade business. Me & the Bees Lemonade started with her grandmother's recipe and eventually earned a \$60,000 investment from investors on the television show *Shark Tank*. She also signed a contract with a major grocer to sell her lemonade at fifty-five of the chain's stores.

Mikaila's drive and dreams point us back to Paul's words to Timothy: *Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young* (1 Timothy 4:12).

Timothy, though not a child like Mikaila, was likely considerably younger than most of his congregation. After interning with the apostle Paul, some thought that Timothy wasn't mature enough to lead them. Instead of telling him to prove himself by showing his credentials, Paul encouraged Timothy to demonstrate spiritual maturity by the way he used his words, lived his life, loved his parishioners, exercised his faith, and remained sexually pure (v 12). No one could discredit him as a teacher and minister if he backed it up with a godly example.

Regardless of our age, we can impact the world. We do it by setting a Christ-centered example for others as God provides what we need. May He shape our lives with the gospel, so whether we're seventeen or seventy, we'll be worthy to share it with others.