

Church of Christ

3361 West State Street, Fremont, OH 43420

Worship Services

Sunday Bible Study	10:00 am
Sunday Worship	10:45 am
Sunday Worship	6:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 pm
<i>Classes for all ages</i>	

Preachers: Ted Bowen and Sean Rizor

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

1. Learn the truth (Hear) (John 8:32; 17:17; Rom 10:14-18)
2. Believe in Christ (John 8:24; 20:31; Heb 11:6)
3. Repent of all sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30; Rom 2:4; 2 Cor 7:9,10)
4. Confess faith in Christ (Rom 10:10; Acts 17:30; Matt 16:16)
5. Be baptized into Christ for remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)
6. Live faithfully (Revelation 2:10)

7 THINGS TO REMEMBER DURING THE LORD'S SUPPER!

1 LORD. "There is one Lord." (Ephesians 4:5)

2 THIEVES. "There were also 2 others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death."
(Luke 23:32)

3 CROSSES. (Luke 23:39-43; Ephesians 1:7)

4 PARTS of HIS GARMENTS. "Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier, a part, and also the tunic." (John 19:23)

5 WOUNDS. His head was crowned with thorns. His back was scourged.

His side was cut open. His hands were pierced. His feet were pierced. (John 19-20)

6 HOURS of AGONY. Christ was crucified at the 3rd hour and died at the 9th hour.
(Mark 15:25-37)

7 SAYINGS of The CROSS. (Matthew 27:46; Luke 23:34, 43-46; John 19:26-30)

May 16, 2021

Sunday Morning

Speaker: Sean Rizor

Sunday Morning Worship Only

Birthdays

1 Stacy Appelhans
9 Kaitlin Hall
15 Debbie Hall
20 Lynda Holt
25 Debbie Rowan

Prayer List

Kaitlin Baker
Gen Stanley
Nora Wiseman
Jean Adkins
Jamie Hall
Kaitlyn Hall
Ashley Hall
Nick Hall
Tina Smith
Kathy Grove
Mary Schimming
Betty Davis
Mike Foos
Debbie Rowan
Anita Montague
Stacy Appelhans
Charlotte Williams

GOD'S PARTNERS

Constant Coulibaly

When Paul spoke of fellowship of men and God in 2 Corinthians 6, it had never been so powerful and intense. The Apostle tells us in that passage how he sensed that he and his fellow-preacher Timothy were working with God. He said in verse 1, "We then, as workers together with Him [God] also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain (emphasis, mine)."

Although this verse introduces a new chapter, it is intricately connected with the latter part of the preceding chapter. Paul had at the end of chapter 5 spoken of reconciliation with God and the nature of it. Five times in three verses the word "reconciliation" or

"reconciled" is used. Paul said that God "has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ", He "has given us the ministry of reconciliation", "God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them", He "has committed to us the word of reconciliation" and, finally, "be reconciled to God" – this was a direct appeal to the Corinthians.

A man or woman can step up their relationship with the Lord from a phase of becoming a child of God to that of being a servant of God. This consists in moving from turning in penitence away from a world of sin, through baptism, to actively doing God's work faithfully and diligently.

This labour, Paul explained, was about calling on people to reconcile with God. The means by which the calling was done was the gospel of Christ as we learn in 2 Thessalonians 2:14. Paul told the Christians in Thessalonica, "He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ." Note that reconciliation means two parties, whether friends or spouses or whoever else, becoming friends again after a quarrel or disagreement. In the case under consideration, it's men who have quarrelled with God. They've done that by disobeying God's commands. The first human act of violation of divine limitation occurred when Adam and Eve ate of a tree in the garden of Eden that God had forbidden them to.

Adam and Eve's act resulted in sin and caused the relationship the couple had been enjoying with their Creator to be severed. The reason was that they had died spiritually as God promised they would in the event they consumed the forbidden fruit (Genesis 2:17). The first male and female ever created were thereon at enmity with God on their own volition as anyone is today who does "wicked works" (Colossians 1:21).

The calling also consisted in administering the truth that God, the offended One, "made Him [Christ] who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (2 Corinthians 5:21). The Apostle's role was just to proclaim what heaven had declared concerning Christ's work of atonement (Isaiah 53:5, 1 John 2:2).

Simply put, the efforts involved in the call to reconciliation to God amount to conveying the gospel message of salvation from death to others (Romans 1:16).

Paul states that he and his young companion were doing this great work in partnership with God (cf. 1 Corinthians 3:9). What an honour it is for a man to do the same thing which God does. This must be the highest of all honours.

The Apostle was conscious of the facts that this work he was engaged in with his associate was God's and that God was using them to accomplish it. In a sense, they were with God in the business of saving souls using the very means God had provided to this effect, which is the gospel. Ephesians chapter 6 verse 17 informs us that God, too, makes use of the gospel in conversion.

These two ministers understood that, to this end, the message was indispensable just as the proclamation of it was. Furthermore, they appreciated the fact that people in need of reconciliation with God are alienated from God (Isaiah 59:1-2). Worse, they are in danger of being eternally separated from God. The Bible teaches that when Christ returns, those who have not come under the influence of His gospel would have lost for good all chances to come in the presence of God the Father (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

Such individuals would thus be lost as Jesus said that "the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). The Lord was there talking about being lost spiritually as opposed to being lost physically. For, a person may have a biological existence and yet be physically dead. Paul told this truth when he said, concerning the brethren at Ephesus, "you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:1).

We learn from the words of the prophet in Isaiah 53:6-7 that when someone is lost or separated from God, they are separated from the purpose of their existence. The purpose of human existence is communion with God (Genesis 1:26-27). Relationship with God constitutes man's natural habitat, not the world of sin from which all men and women must be rescued.

Perhaps, the Apostle Paul's personal sense of cooperation with God was so deep that he could endure so much difficulty and hardship in life and never give up preaching. In this respect, the second epistle of Paul to the Corinthians is a type of spiritual autobiography. Preachers in need of motivation to go on when the going in ministry gets tough can find encouragement in this book.