

SERVING IN WORSHIP

January 20, 2018

Sunday Morning Worship

Call to Worship

Psalm 119: 1-8

Stanton See

Song Leader

Ralph Brown

First Prayer

Dennis Blanton

Presentation

Mark Claypool

Lord's Table

Walter Culbreth * Barry Phillips

Fred Duggin * Nathan Graves

Speaker

Johnny Felker

Prayer & Announcements

Barry Cary

Usher: Jim Smiley

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Sunday Evening Worship

Call to Worship: Job 38: 1-11

Brandon Graves

Song Leader

Dennis Blanton

First Prayer

Mark Claypool

Speaker

Johnny Felker

Lord's Table

Larry Miller

Prayer & Announcements

Barry Cary

Usher: Jim Smiley

Remember in Prayer The Sick

Amy Hall, Heather Blanton's sister, is currently at home undergoing cancer treatments. Recently she has not been doing well.. Cards can be sent to 550 E. 7th Street Salem OH 44460.

Stanton See was able to be with us these past Sunday and Wednesday evenings. We are thankful for his recovery from surgery.

Jim Smiley continues to have health problems but was able to be with us last week, for which we were thankful.

Frankie Patterson is currently at the Vanco Manor Nursing Home and Rehab facility (813 S. Dickerson Rd. Goodlettsville, TN 37072) following a hip fracture. Cindy reports that she is making good progress.

Louise Blanton has been suffering with the flu this past several days and feels very weak., but is thankful to her family for all the help and attention.

Brian Mitchell, Eva's husband, is progressing in his physical therapy, and is currently undergoing six 30 minute treatments daily. He is frustrated at the slow pace of recovery, but his determination to get better quickly is encouraging to all. Cards can be sent to: Brian Mitchell, 320 N. Shawnee Blvd., Jackson, MO 63755.

Alda Brown underwent surgery in Florida this past Wednesday to have a pacemaker implanted due to a low pulse rate. The Browns are to remain in Florida until at least Wednesday, when she will have a follow-up evaluation. The surgery was considered a success by the doctor, and Ralph and Alda thank us for our prayers.

Let us continue to remember our ailing church and family members, and those who are shut-in, with our fervent daily prayers.

Shirley Miller (Larry's mother), Dennis Stepp (Dennis Blanton's brother-in-law) Ernestine Reed, Janett King, Clara Burkett, David Smith, Chelsea Gilliam (a friend of Betty Copley), Susie Kaiser, Susie Martell, (friend of Shirley Ford), Paige Toxey, Elbert Jacks (Brandon Graves' grandfather), Dottie Reed (Anita Carmen's mother), Jason Cummings (Amy Pittman's brother), Judy Cannizzaro, Keith Barclay (a friend of Betty Copley's), and Vernice Sharpe (Shirley Ford's sister).

News & Notes

Group 2 will meet today in the Library after the morning service.

—BIRTHDAYS—

22nd Paul Culbreth

ELDERS: Doug Driver, Johnny Felker

DEACONS: Ralph Brown, Mark Claypool

Perry Heights Weekly Bulletin

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"...let us consider how we may encourage one another"
Heb. 10:24

Service Times:

Sunday Bible Study at 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:55 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. Wednesday Bible Study at 7:00 P.M.

January 20, 2019

Memorizing Scripture

It was Mr. Powell's sixth grade class, and the plan was for a special celebration of Lincoln's birthday. I was tall and skinny, and with a stove pipe hat made of construction paper and a fake black beard, I made a pretty fair 'Abe Lincoln'. My assignment was to memorize the Gettysburg Address and recite it before the whole student body. I can still remember how hard it was to memorize that speech. And the stage fright – WOW!

For some folks memorizing things is a real challenge – for others, it comes easier. But for us all, it requires special effort and commitment. This is certainly true when it comes to memorizing Scripture. But the benefits are real and the need is critical. All Christians need to have important passages of God's Word committed to memory.

It is impossible to imagine a more important document that we could endeavor to learn by heart. The Bible contains God's complete revelation to man (2 Tim 3:16,17) and contains everything we need for "life and godliness" (2 Pet 1:3). It is the only way we can know the mind and will of the Eternal Creator (1 Cor 2:9-13). For these reasons this inspired message should be our "delight" (Ps 1:2) and "the joy and rejoicing of our heart" (Jer 15:16).

It is worth noting that God has always expected – even commanded – that His people commit His Word to memory. Moses instructed the Israelites to "lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul" (Deut 11:18). That sounds like memorizing, does it not? Similarly, Paul wrote that we ought to "let the word of Christ dwell in you" (Col 3:16).

Of course, our motivation for memorizing needs to be correct. In the early 1900's a young Russian boy named Nikki won prizes at the Russia Orthodox church in his home village of Kalonovka. He even received special

MEMORY VERSE: JOHN 8: 31-32



Our lives will be immeasurably enriched by memorizing God's word.

The Scriptures stress the importance of memorizing God's d_____ and w_____.

Moses encouraged God's people to be able to k_____ and to s_____ the words of God through memorization (Deut. 4:9; 6:6-10)

Jesus in the Gospels quoted from ___ books of the OT a total of ___ times!

The Scriptures stress the b_____ of memorizing Scripture.

Memorizing Scripture guards us from t_____.

"Thy word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not s_____ against Thee."
(Psalm 119:11; see also Mt. 4:4,7,10)

Memorizing Scripture shapes our c_____.

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the r_____ of your m_____, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:2; see also Prov. 4:23)

Memorizing Scripture c_____ us in trial.

"For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the e_____ of the Scriptures we might have hope."
(Romans 15:4) Memorize these promises of God (Deut. 31:8; Is. 40:31; Phil. 4:6-7; Mt. 6:33)!

Memorizing Scripture equips us to t_____ others spontaneously.

"...always being ready to make a d_____ to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;" (1 Peter 3:15)

Memorizing Scripture prepares us for w_____ and p_____.

"Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of p_____ to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give t_____ to His name." (Hebrews 13:15; see also 1Jn. 5:14)

I encourage you to add to your daily Bible reading the weekly effort of memorizing a verse from the word.

recognition for memorizing and reciting the complete texts of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. But his incentive was for the prizes and acknowledgement, not for the real sake of learning and applying the Scriptures to his daily life. Oh, by the way, we know that young Nikki better for his later activities as the Communist ruler Nikita Khrushchev (*Parade Magazine*, 2/11/62).

As was mentioned earlier, the benefits of memorizing Scripture are many and significant. For instance, it serves as a principle resource for resisting temptation and sin. The Psalmist asked: "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?" In other words, how is a young person going to 'stay on the strait and narrow'? He continues with the answer: "by taking heed thereto according to thy word . . . Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Ps 119:9-11). Hiding the Word in your heart? Certainly sounds like memorization! Of course, we have the perfect example of Jesus who resisted each of Satan's temptations by quoting Scripture (Matt 4:3-10).

Furthermore, knowing and being able to recite Scripture will help us make the difficult decisions that face us on a regular basis. His Word is "a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path" (Ps 119:105), but we are 'left in the dark' unless we have it committed to ready recall. The stress and hardships of daily life are eased by remembering and applying His truth in all of our circumstances. Again in the Psalms we read: "Remember the word to Thy servant, in which Thou hast made me hope. This is my comfort in my affliction, that Thy word has revived me" (119:49-50). Do you see it? Hope, comfort in affliction, revival – all coming from the Word.

Ranking high on the list of advantages we gain by memorizing Scripture is the courage we gain to share His truth with others. Christians are often too timid and reserved when it comes to talking to others. This timidity can be directly linked to the fear that we might be asked questions that we cannot answer. But, if we have worked hard to commit important sections of the Bible to memory, this fear is removed. With an arsenal of memorized Scripture, we stand "ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you" (1 Pet 3:15), and we are "set for the defense of the gospel" (Php 1:17).

The story is told of an old preacher who was approached by a young admirer: "Sir, I'd give half my life to know the Bible like you do!" The old preacher replied: "Well, son, that's about what it's taken – about half my life." If you really want to know your Bible well, and be able to recall and recite multiple passages of Scripture, you should start now to implement a specific plan to memorize God's Word. You will not be sorry that you did.

Greg Gwin (Kirkwood Church of Christ, November 2, 2015)