

The Mars Hill Messenger

September 15, 2019

Come Alive!

I grew up in the 1960s, so I remember Joanie Sommers singing the Pepsi jingle, "Come alive! You're in the Pepsi generation!" I don't care at all whether you drink Pepsi, Coke, etc. But God, through His word, exhorts us to Come Alive!

Sin makes us spiritually dead – not just sick, but dead! "*And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked*" (Ephesians 2:1, ESV). Being dead in sins made us fit subjects for burial. And, as God designed it, as we are buried with Christ in baptism, we die to sin (Romans 6:2-4). Sin is no longer our master.

Jesus' death was a "death to sin" (Romans 6:10). Certainly, Jesus never sinned, but He was subject to physical death, even as we are. His death at Calvary ended that relationship. "Death no longer has dominion over Him" (6:9). We remain subject to physical death until Jesus returns, but our own death to sin ends sin's control over us. We came forth from baptism to live a new life (6:4). In sin we were dead, but now we are "alive to God" (6:11).

Since God has transformed us from death to life, should our service be sluggish? Shouldn't we live up? "*Awake, you who sleep! Arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light*" (Ephesians 5:14). May it never be that we would be like the church at Sardis: "*You have a name (reputation) that you are alive, but you are dead*" (Revelation 3:1). Evidently those brethren had once worked zealously, making a good name for themselves. When did their enthusiasm cool, and why? Your guess is as good as mine.

More to the point, what would Jesus say about us? Do we need to come alive?

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday	
Bible Class	9:30 a.m.
Worship	10:15 a.m.
Evening Service	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday	
Bible Class	7:00 p.m.

CONTACT INFORMATION

P.O. Box 185
Vilonia, Arkansas 72173
Phone: (501) 796-2052
www.churchofchristmarshill.org

Elders

Curtis Sawrie	849-2365
Steve Shock	328-7072

Deacons

Dan Blair	519-1173
Ralph Hunter	428-0466
Rodney Partee	328-7380
Clay Winn	472-5928

Evangelist

David Riley	796-2052
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Youth Minister

Dan Blair	519-1173
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Missions

- Ted & Barbara Knight (U.S.A., Romania)
- Main Street Church of Christ (Stuttgart, Arkansas)
- Youth Outreach University Youthoutreachuniversity.com
- Truth For Today World Mission School
- Gospel Chariot (Africa)
- Gospel Gathering (Local)
- Camp Areopagus

At A Glance

September 15-18 – Gospel Meeting. Perryville C of C. Speaker: Jeremy Pierce
September 16-23 – Main St. C of C, Stuttgart. City-Wide Campaign
September 18 – Wednesday Meal. 6 p.m.
September 21 – Men's Breakfast. 8 a.m.
September 22 – Elders/Deacons Meeting. 3:30 pm.
September 22-25 – Gospel Meeting. N. Main C of C, Stuttgart. Tommy Brooks, speaker
September 25 – Wednesday Meal. 6 p.m.
September 29 – Potluck Meal after a.m. service. Early evening service
September 29 – Teacher's Appreciation
September 29-October 2 – Harding University Lectures. Theme: Fan the Flame
September 29 – Contribution to the Building Fund
October 2 – Organizational Meeting for National Door-Knocking Campaign
October 5 – 1st Annual Brotherhood Door Knocking Campaign
October 6 – Ted Knight will speak at a.m. service. Josh Moore will speak at p.m. service
October 6-8 – Gospel Meeting. Springfield C of C. Speaker: David Riley
October 8 – Fellowship Supper. Harding St. C of C. 5 p.m.
October 14 – Preacher's Meeting. Greenbrier C of C. 10 a.m.

Bible Class Lessons

Sun., Sept. 15: Lesson #180 – 1 Kings 18
 Wed., Sept. 18: Lesson # 181 – 1 Kings 19
 Sun., Sept. 22: Lesson # 182 – 1 Kings 20
 Wed., Sept. 25: Lesson # 183 – 1 Kings 21

September 15, 2019

Nursery

Brittney Wells

SOUND ROOM

Clay Winn

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gary Lambert

SCRIPTURE READING

Gary Lambert

A.M. SERVICE

LEAD SINGING

Clay Johns

LEAD PRAYER

Carlton Clayton

Jack Hancock

LORD'S TABLE

David Bayless, b.

Rodger Moore, c.

Dennis Martin, c.

Clay Johns

James Moore

Mark Mauney

P.M. SERVICE

LEAD SINGING

Ethan Johns

LEAD PRAYER

Ethan Johns

Rodger Harlan

LORD'S TABLE

Caleb Shock

Bob Johnston

September 18, 2019

LEAD SINGING

Ethan Johns

LEAD PRAYER

Dennis Martin

Clay Johns

DEVOTIONAL

Curtis Sawrie

September 22, 2019

Nursery

Brittney Wells

SOUND ROOM

Clay Winn

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gary Lambert

SCRIPTURE READING

Caden Johns

A.M. SERVICE

LEAD SINGING

Caleb Shock

LEAD PRAYER

Stanley Gordon

Jade Smithe

LORD'S TABLE

Steve Shock, b.

Dan Blair, c.

Curtis Sawrie, c.

Steve Dixon

Byron Sawrie

Curtis Sawrie

P.M. SERVICE

LEAD SINGING

Randy Riddle

LEAD PRAYER

Sean Vines

Clay Winn

LORD'S TABLE

David Hall

Doug Ellison

September 25, 2019

LEAD SINGING

Michael Hunter

LEAD PRAYER

James Moore

Mark Mauney

DEVOTIONAL

Rodney Partee

Those involved in providing our devotional time on Wednesday evenings are asked to please help us be ready to begin our Bible Study time by 7:15.

Whom do you seek?

The Gospel records show that people regularly underestimated the power and authority of Jesus. This is especially seen in the way that they tried to arrest Him. When Judas came with the Roman troops, along with officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, to arrest him (John 18) they did not realize what they were about to encounter. The text tells us:

So Jesus, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth and said to them, “Whom do you seek?” They answer Him, “Jesus the Nazarene.” He said to them, “I am.” And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them. So when He said to them, “I am,” they drew back and fell to the ground. (John 18:4-5)

They came with weapons, ready to fight the One who had lived so peacefully. They pulled out all the stops to try to bring this One to some kind of “justice,” as they saw it. They ensured they could not fail. But, they failed in the most fundamental way. How could they not know who Jesus really was? We wonder about this, of course, yet would we have reacted any differently? They were seeking Jesus, but they weren't seeking Jesus as He really was (and is). They were looking for a Jesus who was a fake — a mere human who made outlandish claims and needed to be silenced. They weren't seeking God. They weren't looking at Him in any kind of understanding way. Yet God is who they met in the garden.

What is even more amazing is that the God they encountered in the garden was about to submit Himself to their evil plans, for it was by the hands of godless men that Jesus was put to death (Acts 2:23).

“Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know — this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power. (Acts 2:22-24)

Did you notice that last statement? It was impossible for Jesus to be held by the power of death. Hades could not get in the way of God's plans and purposes (Matt 16:18). This is why some of the most powerful words in Scripture are found in these: "He is not here, but He has risen" (Luke 24:6).

The point is often made that you find what you are looking for. However, sometimes we find more than we bargained for. This was certainly the case of those who arrested Jesus. They were looking for a trouble-maker and found the Maker of all creation. The question is, are we seeking God? Even more, are we seeking God in the person of Jesus Christ?

Whom do you seek? Who or what exactly are you looking for?

David

PRAYERS NEEDED

Vanessa Ellison is recovering from rotator cuff surgery.

Kenneth Baxter was able to return home last Wednesday.

Clay Johns is recovering from knee surgery.

Extended Sick List: Roy Bulice, Amy Smith, Ronnie House, Shelia Riddle, Nell Bostic, Paula Stocks, Martha Walker, Alex Lafferty, Nita Patrom, Mark Allen, Pam Webb, Barbara Fowlkes, Barbara Knight, Charlene Lasley, Martha Green, Gladys Widner, Robie Permenter, Jerry Walker, Jerry Almond, Anna Kay Jones

FAMILY NEWS

Kid's Konnection: 5 p.m today. Lesson: Matthew 5:2 – “Blessed are the poor in spirit.”

Men's Breakfast: Saturday morning at 8 a.m.

Elders/Deacons Meeting: Next Sunday, 3:30 p.m.

Potluck Meal and Early Service: Everyone is invited to share in a potluck meal after the morning service on Sunday, September 29th. The evening service will be held immediately following the meal. There will be no 5 p.m. service. Invite your family and friends to join us.

Teacher Appreciation: Anyone who has ever served the congregation as a teacher in any capacity will be honored at the potluck meal on Sunday, September 29th. Everyone will want to be present to show our deep appreciation to these special individuals.

Wednesday Meal: Everyone is invited to share a meal each Wednesday at 6 p.m. If you would like to help with the preparation and serving of a meal, please sign the sheet on the table in foyer. If you are willing to contribute to the purchase of food for the meals please see Bob Johnston.

Do Diets Work?

Do you want the truth? Can you handle the truth? Diet's don't work! You have to work at a diet! Exercise doesn't work; you have to work at exercise. Being a Christian doesn't work; you have to work at being a Christian! We have become as a people at ease, we want something done for us. Give us a pill, handle my child, and take care of my problems. Don't pick up that hoe; you might have to work in the garden.

Christianity is a way of living. It is a method of having and dealing with everything that life may bring. It isn't putting our life in neutral and hoping it all works out for the good. It is working on being good. The key is working! Jesus gave us a clue in this statement, “Do unto others. . .” Paul gave another, “Work out your own salvation.”

What did Jesus mean when he said, “take up your cross and follow me”? Doesn't that entail sacrifice and great effort? Paul said, “we strive toward the mark of the high calling...”

We have become a nation of quitters. If it isn't easy, I don't want to do it. Family life hard? Just quit! Marriage getting rough? Just quit! People not treating you right at Church? Just quit! Folks, the crown comes at the end of the race, not when you quit!

David