

TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Don Taylor /Opening Prayer by: Robert Ward

Morning Assembly Song Leader: Michael Simmons

#701 My Jesus, I Love Thee
#180 Jesus Is Lord
#738 Take the Name of Jesus with You
#827 Sweet Hour of Prayer

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Medley

Scripture Reading by: Brooks McKelroy

#332 Lead Me to Calvary

Lord's Supper and Contribution

#414 Anywhere with Jesus

Sermon: Guest Speaker Tony Bloom

#943 Do You Know My Jesus?

#852 When the Role Is Called Up Yonder

Closing Prayer by: Andre Jones

Welcome by: Don Taylor

Evening Assembly Song Leader: Michael Simmons

#841 Hide Me O My Savior

#853 When We All Get to Heaven

Scripture Reading: Tristan Strickhausen

Prayer by: Wayne Noonkester

#549 There Is Sunshine in My Soul

Sermon: Guest Speaker Tony Bloom

#480 Blessed Assurance

#939 O Why Not Tonight?

Closing Prayer by: David Warren

Other Opportunities For Spiritual Growth

Sunday: 9:00am — Bible Study Classes, 10:00am — Worship, 6:00pm — Worship

Wednesday: 10:00am — Ladies Bible Class, 7:00pm — Bible Study Classes

April 28, 2019

“Stand Firm in...Liberty”

Galatians 5:1

For Christ's Sake

I remember particularly as a boy, though occasionally still today, hearing people close their prayers with the phrase, “in Christ’s name and for his sake we pray.” Have you ever thought about that phrase? Have you ever really considered what we are saying with that expression? We are asking God to look on the face of his only son and to deal with us on his merits, to essentially treat us as if we were him.

But that is only one side of the equation. God wants us to look upon the face of his son and for Christ’s sake suffer, serve, and glorify the Father.

We do a great many things for the sake of others. We hear parents say they will do just about anything “for the sake of my child.” We ask people for favors, often on behalf of others and request, “would you do it for my sake?” When we turn to the pages of Scripture, we see things being done there too for the sake of others. In the long ago, God promised Abraham regarding the city of Sodom *for the sake of ten I will not destroy it (Genesis 18:32)*. David showed Mephibosheth kindness *for the sake of Jonathan (2 Samuel 9:7)*. God did not take the kingdom from Solomon during his lifetime *for the sake of David his father (1 Kings 11:12)*. Paul entreated Philemon in behalf of Onesimus *for love’s sake (Philemon 1:9)*.

We are all familiar with the concept; accordingly, we are instructed to do certain things for “Christ’s sake.” Peter says we are to *Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution*, speaking specifically of governmental officials. He raises the example of Jesus’ submission to authority, never reviling those who were abusing him even though he was unjustly accused. But how many of us *honor the emperor* when their political party doesn’t match up with our team? **(1 Peter 2:13ff)**

Paul tells us in **Ephesians 4:31-32** that we are to forgive one another as God for Christ’s sake has forgiven us. If someone hurt your feelings, forgive them for Christ’s sake. And when we forgive, it is to be in just the same way that God in Christ has forgiven us. That means we forget. The, “I forgive you, but I won’t forget” business that we sometimes hear people say is completely foreign to Scripture. Thank God that he does not deal with us that way! *He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the*

Our Sick

J. P. Williams is in Liberty Health Care room 605B for rehab.

Continued Prayers

(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Gwen Pettit, Gary Nielsen, Harold & Geri Cryer, Steve Ward, Jackie David, Frank & Tina Garcia, Eric Davis, Dayla Hale, Minny Owen, Doris Trahan, Willo Dean Ellis, Joe Edd Stifflemire, Tem Meigs, Phillip Cottle

Shut Ins

(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Jim Smith, Winona Angelle, Myrtle Sheffield, Dr. Ronald Davis, Larry Hicks, Mark Wilcox

"Singing with the Spirit" May 3rd-5th

A workshop to enhance our appreciation and practice of singing for both the church and song leaders. There are Friday and Saturday sessions as well as a congregational singing Saturday evening. We will be a meal after morning service on Sunday, May 5th.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Lynette Ward and her family on the passing of her grandmother, Catherine Christian. She passed away last week.

Upcoming Activities

Elders, Minister meeting Monday at 7:00pm.

We will have a Houston Food Bank truck on Tuesday, May 7th at 8:00am.

Crawfish Boil Saturday, May 11th at 12:00 pm at the church pavilion. See Phillip Strickhausen for more information.

VBS July 8-12

Help is needed! Please be thinking how you can contribute to VBS.

The following help is needed:

Teachers: 2 year old-pre/k, Kindergarten-2nd grade, & 3rd-5th grade, Teen helpers, Craft Coordinator, Outside Game Coordinator, Registration, Artist/Bible Classroom Decorators, Face Painter

If you're interested in helping, there will be a VBS meeting Sunday, May 19th after morning service.

Thank You

Dear Liberty Church of Christ,
Thank you so much for the beautiful schif-felera plant you sent for our wonderful father, Joe Leonard. We are also grateful to you for the support over the years of his aging and decline.

The Family of Joe Leonard

Privilege to Serve Sunday, Apr. 28th

Communion Preparation: Marsha Rader
Nursery Attendants: Debra Faneros, Melony Hicks

Communion Preparation for Sunday, May 5th: Ann Rogers
Nursery Attendants for Sunday, May 5th: Marsha Rader, Lynette Ward

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heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us (Psalm 103:10-12). If we forgive for Christ's sake, then we cannot bury the hatchet with the handle sticking out of the ground just in case we need it; we must act as if whatever the offense was never happened.

Remember that our own forgiveness before God is predicated on our willingness to forgive others. Jesus tells us plainly in the Sermon on the Mount that if we are not willing to forgive others, God will not forgive us. In the context in **1 Peter** mentioned earlier, Peter writes that we should follow in the steps of Jesus. Nothing is more Christlike than to have compassion and exercise forgiveness. Do you remember, on the cross he prayed and said, *Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do (Luke 23:34).* Can we honestly pray, *forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us?*

For the sake of Christ, we are to strive together in prayer (**Romans 15:30**). If we would strive together in prayer, we could bring more honor and glory to the Lord. There are numerous examples of this in the practice of the early church recorded in **Acts**. After they were threatened not to preach in the name of Jesus anymore by the Sanhedrin, Peter and John gathered with the rest of the church and they prayed (**Acts 4**). In **Acts 12**, we see the church again striving together in prayer. James had been put to death, and Peter was in prison awaiting the same fate. The church came together to unite and strive together in prayer.

For the sake of Christ we are to serve one another (**2 Corinthians 4:5**) Paul tells us they did not preach for the purpose of bringing glory to themselves. And if we are acting for Christ's sake, we can think of his example here in particular: *The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45).*

This list is certainly not exhaustive. But the point is, just as we are accustomed to doing things for the sake of others, so we are called to do things for the sake of Christ. If we are his people, it should make a visible difference in how we live our lives. How are we doing with that?

"Stand Firm in...Liberty"

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