

Church of Christ

77 Cogan Avenue
Plattsburgh, NY 12901
(518) 563-2970

July 22, 2018

BAD NEWS . . . GOOD NEWS

Today our dose of daily strength comes from Matthew 5:11, when Jesus gave a “good news . . . bad news” announcement to His disciples. First the bad news: They could expect to be slandered, maligned, and persecuted for their identity with Him. Two thousand years of church history have proven those words to be dead-on accurate.

As a Christian growing up in the West, I have not experienced the excruciating level of persecution faced by scores of saints living for Christ in places like China, the Sudan, Bangladesh, Vietnam, and other hot spots of blatant opposition to the gospel. The growing hostility of Islam only promises to increase the body count. So I hate to even begin to compare myself to them except to say that on a much smaller scale we all face the distinct possibility of being misunderstood, maligned, and ostracized for standing up for Jesus in a day when He and His claims are becoming increasingly unpopular.

I woke up to this reality early on in my life. Our church was hosting an evangelistic service—a “bring all your unsaved friends to hear the gospel” kind of revival meeting. Wanting to join the cause, I got up the courage to ask one of my high school buddies to come, hoping that he would give his life to Christ that night. I remember being disappointed when he sat quietly through the service and stayed glued to his seat during the invitation.

The next day I walked past him as he was hanging out with a group of popular athletes. As I waved, he elbowed the guys and chided, “Hey, Joe took me to his church last night hoping that I would get saved. I guess he thinks I’m going to hell!” They all thought that was hilariously funny while I sheepishly made my way to class. It was

my first taste of being in trouble for Jesus’ sake.

Businessmen who on company trips quietly stand for Jesus by not joining the other guys for an evening at the “gentleman’s club” know how uncomfortable it is to be looked on as being weird and not a part of the gang. College students who are ridiculed in class for daring to be a proponent of creation or intelligent design know what Jesus was talking about in this passage. And most of us have seen the raised eyebrow of a friend when we have mentioned that Jesus is the only way to God.

We are caught in the crossfire of two civilizations. Jesus proved how real the crossfire was when He went to the cross as a maligned, unwanted, falsely accused criminal.

But here’s the good news: Jesus promises that we are “blessed” when we are persecuted for His sake. As He said, “Great is your reward in heaven.”

Blessed? Rewarded? No one feels blessed or rewarded when they are marginalized or, much worse, martyred. Unless, that is, you believe that this is not the only world you have. Temporary trouble here is put into perspective by the assurance that there will be eternal rewards in the world to come. Give me a choice between collapsing to the intimidation here and facing Jesus as a traitor to His cause or of being maligned here and welcomed as a loyal warrior in heaven, and I’ll stick up for Jesus every time.

And, when you are tempted to fold under the pressure, remember that the day is coming when “at the name of Jesus every knee should bow . . . and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:10-11).

So, next time you feel the press of the warfare, chin up! Great is your reward in heaven.

Joe Stowell
getmorestrength.org

PRAY FOR...

Baker, Helen: Melinda’s mother, health
Bennett, Jim: health
Boula, Pat: Chris C’s friend-heart valve replacement
Burra, Jennifer: Carl & Cindy’s cousin, cancer
Cech, Matthew and Terry: health
Collins, Mary: Patty’s friend, struggles
Eagle, Joanne: Marlana’s mother-heart blockage
Elders: Alfred and Doug
Forette, Kevin: John’s friend, cancer
Gundrum, Eloise: one year-old, cancer
Jackson, Jessah: Amber’s friend’s daughter, leukemia
Kashorek, Lori: strength during chemo for cancer
Lapier, Lisa: Patty’s neighbor, lung cancer
Laramy, Paul: Steven’s brother, motorcycle accident
Lebeau, Steve & Gail: John’s friends, health struggles
Lernineau, Sean: Carl and Cindy’s relative, struggles
LePage, Jim Sr. and Gail: Jim L’s parents, health
Miller, Jody: struggles
Missions: Brazil, Ghana, Malawi, Ukraine, Zambia
Nelson, Barb: Alex & Nick’s grandmother, cancer
Page, Gary: Garth’s friend, sick
Recovery: Eddie Bickford & Jean Buskey
Richardson, Elizabeth: Eddie’s sister, health
Rice, John: Jim B’s neighbor, cancer
Snelson, Kelby: Nikki’s niece, hip replacement
Spencer, Carrie: Alfred’s niece, health
Stapleton, Katelyn: job search
Stowe, Kayonna: Nikki’s niece’s friend, cancer
Taylor, Robert Jr.: Nikki’s dad’s preacher friend, dying
Traveling: Chambers, Justin LePage
Warrick, Oaklyn: 1 year-old, heart surgeries
West, Larry: Melenda’s friend in CA health,
Whitfield, Freda: Mary Chambers’ mother, health

“Continue to help us keep this list updated and to pray for those mentioned in previous bulletins.”

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shepherds serving under the Good Shepherd:
Alfred Chambers, 901-205-8584
Doug Kashorek, preacher, 563-0835
c645-1509

available: by appointment

Schedule of Services
Sunday
Bible Class 10 A.M.
Morning Worship 11 A.M.

Wednesday

Welcome to Worship

The church of Christ that meets in Plattsburgh invites you to attend any of our services. We love having visitors and are honored for you to attend. We seek to follow the New Testament in all that we do in our worship services. Our primary aim in worship is to glorify and honor God by worshipping Him "in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24) Trusting in the promise of the gospel message, we now live out obedience to God's Word as our only authority and pattern for our lives and the church. We want to encourage you to come and learn, worship, grow, and serve the Lord with us! "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Psalm 133:1).

From the Shepherds ...

We planned much for our Back-2-Bible-School at last week's family meeting. John will lead the next one on 8/19, just a week before the event. On 8/11, we'll have a teachers' workshop (for all who work with youth) before our 8/26-29 B2BS and fall classes.



We've Got Class!

Join us Next Sunday at 10 a.m. for:
Adults: John's class--Search For Truth, lesson 11
Youth classes as well ... and don't forget to meet at Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Munchie Moments

Fellowship Meal: our next 4th Sunday meal was yesterday at Point Au Roche.
Men's Prayer Breakfast: our next 1st Sunday MPB is on 8/5 at 8 a.m.

Camp Hunt Corner

All are back and had an incredible and uplifting week (or two)!

Doug's Devotional

"How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word" Psalm 119:9.

We don't just study Scriptures for the sake of increasing our knowledge like we do with earthly subjects to pass a test and then soon forget. The Bible, however, is living and active and contains the words that lead us to eternal life. Throughout we are told that we must live according to God's Word for this life but especially the one to come. But, how do we do that when every English translation differs so much, we don't understand the original languages, and the Bible was written so long ago? Just before Christ came, the Hebrew Old Testament Scriptures were translated into Greek in the Septuagint (LXX). Jesus approved of this by quoting most often from that translation. Greek was a great language for God's Word as it is very specific, easily understood, and spoken commonly. The New Testament was also written in Greek. In the 300s, however, Jerome translated the Bible into Latin, an error that Erasmus tried to correct 1200 years later when he translated the Latin into Greek, giving us the basis for Tyndale's translation into English. Do you trust God to preserve His Word?

Sundae Toppings

Today: No Fellowship Meal (It was yesterday)
7/29, 5th Sunday
8/5, 8 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast
8/12, 12:30 p.m. NO Ladies' Time
7/15, 12:30 p.m. Family Meeting



The Oasis Project

... is done for the summer! If you'd like to volunteer for next fall, let Doug or Mary Cl know.

Mission Moment

- Please pray for all our mission works.
- Roger & Mitzi are back from Malawi with lots to share.

2018 Weekly Bible Reading Plan



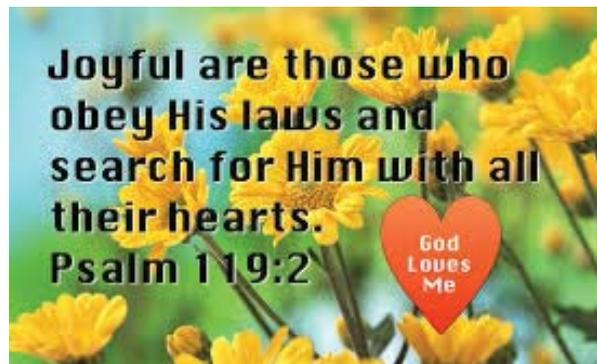
Day 204-Isaiah 47-51
Day 205-Isaiah 52-56
Day 206-Isaiah 57-61
Day 207-Isaiah 62-66
Day 208-Jeremiah 1-4

What major things do you learn from these prophets?



Mark Your Calendar

7/30, Hogan anniversary ('16)
7/31, Marlaina's birthday
8/?, Alfred's birthday in Christ ('69)
8/9, Gracelyn's birthday
8/11, Teaching Workshop
8/18, Jody's birthday
8/24, Stone anniversary ('84)
8/26-29, Back-2-Bible School
9/1, Fall Quarter: new budget/NYS officers
9/3, Labor Day Carpet Cleaning!



Today: 7/22

Announcements: Carl
Opening Prayer: Jim B
Song Leader: Tyler
#448, "The Greatest Command"
#406, "Just a Closer WALK with Thee"
#705, "A Common Love"
Talk/bread prayer: Steven
Pass/fruit of the vine prayer: John
Pass/collection prayer: Garth
#622, "Ring Out the Message"
Scripture Reading: Jim L - Psalm 119:1-6
Lesson: Doug "By Living According to Your Word"
#383, "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"
Closing Song: Chris
#453, "Love Lifted Me"
Closing Prayer: Howard
Subs: DK, AC

Next Sunday: 7/29

Announcements: Doug
Opening Prayer: Steven
Song Leader: John
Talk/bread prayer: Jim L
Pass/fruit of the vine prayer: Chris
Pass/collection prayer: Alfred
Scripture Reading: Carl - Luke 15:8-10
Lesson: Doug "Over One Sinner who Repents"
Closing Song: Tyler
Closing Prayer: Garth

Wash & Wear

- the cleaning and mowing sign-up for this season is on the fridge. Taking a turn is appreciated & needed.
- the church's blue polo shirts in a variety of sizes are \$15 each (to cover cost only).

Week of July 15

Bible Class	21
Morning Worship	30
Wed. Bible Class	9
Contribution	\$582.31
Weekly Ave. Needed	\$575.00