



THE MESSENGER

APRIL 16, 2023

NEWS AND NOTES

Congregational Meeting

May 7

Our Next Gospel Meeting

TBA

Weekly Bible Studies

Thursday at 1 on Zoom

Friday at 1 on Zoom

Times of Service

Sunday

Bible study: 9:45 AM

Worship: 10:45 AM; 6 PM

Wednesday

Bible study: 7:30 PM

(Immediately followed by a short worship service)

First Friday of Month

Singing

February 3, 7:30

Address and Contact

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Christ

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WHAT HAPPENED TO REPENTANCE?

“Jesus loved and ate with sinners.” “He gets us.” These statements are favorites among many these days. The second statement has a number of extremely polished and impressive television commercials based upon it. Both statements are true. Jesus does love sinners and he did eat with them. (John 3:16; Mark 10:21; Matthew 9:9-13) Jesus does “get us” in that he knows what it means to be human. He knows what it means to hurt, grieve, and experience deep emotion. (Mark 3:5; 14:32-34; John 11:35)

However, modern people tend to stop far short of a complete biblical picture in this. When folks make the first statement today, they often leave the impression that Jesus was carousing with sinners, affirming their lifestyle and choices. Those who make the second statement tend to leave the impression that Jesus is just an encouraging shoulder to lean on, wiping away tears while telling everyone, “Hang in there, you got this”, regardless of the life they are living and the choices they are making.

I believe this is the product of a terrible error many make today: the downplaying or complete removal of repentance from the gospel message. Modern people do not like to think about repentance. It’s an uncomfortable word that stubbornly stares us in the face and requires that we admit we’re sinners. It reminds us that “our truth” is meaningless and we will all have to stand before God to be judged. Few messages are as repugnant to modern sensibilities as the one that says *we’ve* ruined our relationship with God, *we* are responsible for our own spiritual downfall, *we* can’t make it right on our own, but it had better be put right or *we* are lost forever. As a result, the gospel becomes so watered down as to cause one to wonder why Jesus had to die at all?

Members Needing Our Prayers

John Thompson, Mary Weatherholt, Joyce Bolton, Julie Patton, Rick Small, Benny Poynter, Richard and Janet Brundige, Rhonda Boyd, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson

Others Needing Prayer

Eli Kempton, Sophie Brown, Fay Thomas, Glen Perkins, Edra Bernard, Valari Jones-Butler (Valari is Gina Seabolt's former co-worker. Her daughter is undergoing chemo for breast cancer. Her 21 year old nephew was killed in a shooting), Charlie Hoy, Marc Nations, Janice Parsons, Veronica Bowman, Charles Bishop, Allison Walker, Mark Nickles, Dwayne Harrod, William Roberts, Paul and Marrian Lyda, Dana and her children, Shane (a relative of Cindi), Ron Harmon, Patty Hill

To Our Guests

Interested in a Bible study? Either let one of us know or mark it on your visitor card.

Visit us on Facebook, YouTube, or our website to watch or listen to sermons.

A basic reading of Scripture is enough to show anyone willing to admit it that repentance is a vital part of the gospel message. Mark gives us the tenor of Jesus' entire ministry in the first words he records from our Lord. "Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, 'the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.'" (1:14-15)

Jesus said, "No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3, 5) If a sinner is made comfortable in their sin, if they are made to think that they are mostly fine just the way they are, whatever message has is leaving that impression is not the gospel as recorded in scripture. The one living in open sin and rebellion against God is *not* mostly fine. Jesus loved sinners enough to tell them they were sinners and needed repentance. If someone says that makes modern people uncomfortable, how comfortable do you suppose Jesus was nailed to a cross? He died to save people from their sins, not to accommodate their living in them. Simply put, without the message of repentance there is no gospel. Adam Litmer

Elders	Deacons	Evangelist
Troy Antle	Richard Brundige	Adam Litmer
David Collins	Adam Daniels	
	Marcus Lake	
	Adam Litmer	
	Frank Patton	
	Jamie Powell	
	Pat Seabolt	
	Matt Thompson	
	James Weatherholt	

