

Church of Christ



December 18, 2016

Elders

Robert Budy
home (859) 525-7396
Art Green
cell (859) 743-3290

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact one of the elders.

Deacons

Jesse Black
Matthew Hallmark
Wyatt Robbins

Minister

Bruce House
cell (270)570-0830

Schedule of Services

Bible Class	9:30 am
Worship	10:30 am
Evening Worship	6:00 pm
Wednesday Class	7:00 pm

Contact Information

1141 Boone Aire Rd.
Florence, KY 41042

(859) 283-2355
www.florencecc.org
churchoffice@florencecc.org

FROM THE ELDERS

Due to safety concerns
The church doors will be locked
10 minutes after the beginning of service.

Someone will be stationed in the foyer
to allow admittance to latecomers.

Life Beyond the Grave

by Clem Thurman

The salient doctrine of Christianity is the teaching of Jesus Christ about the life after death. Most religions have some kind of "hope" about life after death, but only Christianity offers real evidence of that hope and also carefully defines it. Christ not only taught of the resurrection, He also prophesied of it and then demonstrated it. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the basis of Christian faith and hope.

Take away the resurrection of Jesus, and Christianity will crumble into nothing, because that would remove the very keystone from this great arch. The apostle Paul writes of Christ's resurrection and ties it to our hope: "But if there is no resurrection of the dead, neither hath Christ been raised: and if Christ hath not been raised, then is our preaching vain, your faith also is vain. Yea, we are found false witnesses of God; because we witnessed of God that He raised up Christ: whom He raised not up, if so be that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised: and if Christ hath not been raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also that are fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If we have only hoped in Christ in this life, we are of all men most pitiable" (I Corinthians 15:13-19). In other words, the inspired apostle declares that everything that is unique to Christianity is false and worthless -- unless there is a resurrection from the dead. This is the central theme of the gospel.

Present Life and Life After Death

The worldly-minded person lives primarily for this life. He reasons, as Esau must have, "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush." He cannot concern himself with what lies beyond the grave. He feels that it is foolish to be "other-worldly," as he might call it. He indulges to the limit in all fleshly desires. He attempts to fulfill all of his temporal appetites. He dwells in the here-and-now world -- the material, the physical.

Such a person measures success in terms of what he can "lay up for himself" on earth. And when he dies, he hopes that is the end, for he has made no preparations for what lies beyond. He is not willing to look at the problem of death, the end of life on earth, and attempt to solve it. His is the very common philosophy of, "Get all you can and can all you get." After all, he reasons, you have only one life to live, so get all you can out of it.

The Christian has a different attitude. He realizes that life is short and eternity is sure. He says, with the psalmist, "The days of our years are threescore years and ten, or even by reason of strength fourscore years; yet is their pride but labor and sorrow; for it is soon gone and we fly away" (Psalms 90:10). Centuries later the inspired apostle agrees with that: "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. What is your life? For ye are a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, if the Lord will, we shall both live, and do this or that" (James 4:14,15). The attitude of the Christian is found in these words of Jesus: "For what will a man be profited, if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:26).

Hope of Future Life Is a Powerful Incentive

When a person has an abiding hope in anything, he will arrange all of his activities so that his hope can be realized. Hope is a powerful and driving force in the life of any individual. After stating that we shall be like Christ, John writes, "We know that, if He shall be manifested, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him even as He is. And every one that hath this hope set on Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure" (I John 3:2,3). Nothing has more power to inspire people to righteous living than the hope of life after death.

(continued on page 2)

The Church you read about in the Bible

(continued from page 1)

The basis of Moses making the right choice was "recompense of reward" (Hebrews 11:24-27). It was this great hope that enabled Paul to "fight the good fight of faith" and "keep the faith" (II Timothy 4:6,7). He then added, "Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give to me at that day" (II Timothy 4:8).

The hope of life after death:

1. Purifies and keeps us pure (I John 3:3).
2. Is an "Anchor of the soul" (Hebrews 6:19,20).
3. Sustains the sorrowing heart (John 14:1-3).
4. Directs our vision (Titus 2:11,12).
5. Keeps us "steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord" (I Corinthians 15:58).

The Reality of Life After Death

The apostles saw the reality of life after death when Jesus was raised from the dead. And they used it as the basis for their preaching that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God: "Ye men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God unto you by mighty works and wonders and signs which God did by Him in the midst of you, even as ye yourselves know; Him, being delivered up by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye by the hand of lawless men did crucify and slay: whom God raised up, having loosed the pangs of death: because it was not possible that He should be holden of it...Brethren, I may say unto you freely of the patriarch David, that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us unto this day. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins he would set one upon his throne; he foreseeing this spake of the resurrection of the Christ, that neither was He left unto Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. This Jesus did God raise up, whereof we all are witnesses...Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly, that God hath made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom ye crucified" (Acts 2:22-24,29-32,36). These twelve men were there, they were witnesses of the fact that Jesus was raised from the dead. And they were willing to give up their lives for that message. We must conclude that they were telling the truth.

These apostles wrote about the resurrection:

"Who through Him are believers in God, that raised Him from the dead, and gave Him glory; so that your faith and hope might be in God" (I Peter 1:21).

"But sanctify in your hearts Christ as Lord: being ready always to give answer to every man that asketh you a reason concerning the hope that is in you, yet with meekness and fear" (I Peter 3:15).

"If we have only hoped in Christ in this life, we are of all men most pitiable. But now hath Christ been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of them that are asleep. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead" (I Corinthians 15:19-21).

Every Christian should continually test the reality of his hope to see whether he is building on the rock or the sand (Matthew 7:24-27). As we sing:

Will you anchor hold in the storms of life,
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife?
When the strong tides lift and cables strain,
Will your anchor drift, or firm remain?

The Believer's Victory in Christ

Some day all Christians will follow the glory of Christ and share in His triumph in rising from the dead. Jesus Christ, by His resurrection from the dead, has made death to us but an incident in a never-ending life. As Paul wrote: "O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting? The sting of death is sin; and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, Who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Corinthians 15:55-57). The Lord, by His resurrection, has transformed us into His image (II Corinthians 3:18; Colossians 1:9,10), so that we can share His glory.

Jesus gathered the twelve together, just before He was taken and crucified. He explained that He would soon be put to death, and seeing their state of mind, He said: "Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and will receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:1-3). He had previously taught, "Marvel not at this: for the hour cometh, in which all that are in the tombs shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of judgment" (John 5:28,29).

John writes in Revelation 14:13, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth; yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; for their works follow with them." This is a great and comforting announcement for Christians. Blessed are those who die "in the Lord." Why? Let the apostle Paul answer that one: "Wherefore we faint not; but though our outward man is decaying, yet our inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is for a moment, worketh for us more and more exceedingly an eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. For we know that if the earthly house of our tabernacle be dissolved, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal, in the heavens" (II Corinthians 4:16-5:1).

What Will It Be Like?

God made promises to Israel that they would dwell in the "land flowing with milk and honey" (Exodus 3:13, 33, etc.). But because they did not keep His covenant, they were not allowed to enter in: "And with whom was He displeased forty years? was it not with them that were disobedient? And to whom sware He that they should not enter into His rest, but to them that were disobedient? And we see that they were not able to enter in because of unbelief" (Hebrews 3:17-19). In a similar way, He makes promises to us under the New Testament. So, He warns us, "Let us fear therefore, lest haply a promise being left of entering into His rest, any one of you should seem to have come short of it" (Hebrews 4:1). In other words, God's promises to us are conditional promises, and we must do what He says to enter in to His rest: "Let us therefore give diligence to enter into that rest, that no man fall after the same example of disobedience" (Hebrews 4:11).

We are not told about heaven, and our life after death. We don't even know what kind of body we will have; "But some one will say, How are the dead raised? and with what manner of body do they come? Thou foolish one, that which thou thyself sowest is not quickened except it die: and that which thou sowest, thou sowest not the body that shall be, but a bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other kind; but God giveth it a body even as it pleased Him, and to each seed a body of its own" (I Corinthians 15:35-38). The Bible reveals some of the conditions there: "There shall in no wise enter into it anything unclean or he that maketh an abomination and a lie: but only they that are written in the Lamb's book of life" (Revelation 21:27).

When we live as He directs, we have His assurance that we shall live with Him forever in that place called "Heaven." That is the hope -- the assurance -- of the Christian, "An anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast, and entering into that which is within the veil, whither as a forerunner, Jesus has entered for us" (Hebrews 6:19,20).

CONGRATULATIONS

David and Nita Mayfield
Are pleased to announce the engagement of
Their daughter
Isabella Angelina Mayfield
To
Blake Ryan Emmens.

Benevolence

The Northern Kentucky Emergency Shelter patrons expressed their thanks for the hot meal provided on the 10th.

Christmas Benevolence

Please bring unwrapped gifts to the building today. We will be wrapping the gifts tomorrow beginning at 10 am.

Children's Christmas Party

Today 3:00-5:00

Girls bring gift for a girl and boys bring a gift for a boy.

\$5-\$10 gift

Lads to Leaders

Team B meets today @ 1:00-3:00

**THERE WILL BE
NO EVENING SERVICE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25TH**

Centurions of Scripture

We would like to challenge the entire congregation to memorize 100 scriptures. Our youth do this as a part of the Lads to Leaders program. We ask that you do this with your family. We will be putting two scriptures in the bulletin each week.

This week's scriptures to memorize are:

Psalms 119: 73-74

73. Your hands have made me and fashioned me;

Give me understanding, that I may learn your commandments

74. Those who fear You will be glad when they see me,

Because I have hoped in Your word.

To ensure accuracy of announcements and prayer requests please fill out a gold or blue form and turn in to the office by Wednesday.

Prayer List

Charlene Dickerson knee replacement surgery
Joan Dunaway twisted ankle and bronchitis
Nora, Stacey Brown's grandmother is in the hospital
Brian Eviston, former student of Bill Morgan, ALS
Tom Garland, Diana Green's brother in law, bypass surgery
Jim Gilpan, friend of Clint Green, heart attack
June Pugh
Oswaldo Bonaga, friend of Vicky Robinson, health issues
Alexis Aiken, Joyce Bewley's Great Granddaughter,
Nancy Noojin, Karen Brown's cousin, health issues
Bowen Becker, Bob Becker's grandson, heart problems
Stacie Grindstaff
Peggy Harber, Bob Warmack's cousin, on life support
Cindy Walker health issues
Those affected by the wildfires.
Our Elders
Our Nation's Leaders
Our Military Personnel
Our Police, Emergency and Healthcare Personnel
The Churches of Christ around the world
All those traveling
The Emergency Shelter
The Creation Museum and Ark Encounter

Those with cancer and their families

Oswaldo Bonaga	Dennis Blundell	Margie Koons
Randy Williams	Desirae Wilson	Janice Gallagher
Gary Burke	Dwight Lowerg	Kay Shinck
Jim Kennedy	Layla Adkins	Jim McCarthy
Kristen Shaw	Ayden Egan	Donnice Palmer
Donna Farrar	Peggy Davis	Mike Lohman
Lorraine Starr	Gwen Miller	Lindy Blankenbuehler
Tammy Palmer	Chad Fischer	Buddy Webb
Ashley Pike	Debbie Hellman	Lois Stroub
Theresa Falukner	Nancy Lambert	Ruth Phelps
Mike Lowe	Steve Dobson	Serena
Cale Thomas		

Our shut-ins and those caring for them

Joyce Tingle	Chuck Gambil
Eveline Lanham	Dessie Hacker

"For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their prayer" 1 Peter 3:12

Please check the prayer list and let me know of any updates.
Thank you.-Nita

Serving in AM Worship

	December 18	December 25
Announcements	Bill Morgan	Bill Morgan
Opening Prayer	Jerry Gorman	Bob Warmack
Song Leader	Dale Franklin	Carl Power
Communion	Jesse Black	Art Green
Serve	Mark Walker	Mark Walker
Serve	Nathan Bowling	Nathan Bowling
Serve	Dan Brown	Dan Brown
Serve	Wyatt Robbins	Wyatt Robbins
Serve	Steve Thomas	Steve Thomas
Serve	Clint Green	Clint Green
Scripture Reading	Nathan Bowling	Dave Moster
<i>Romans 8: 38-39</i>		
Sermon	Robert Budy	Bruce House
<i>The Greatest Event in a Christian's Life</i>		
Closing Prayer	Art Green	Matthew Hallmark

Serving in PM Worship

Announcements	Art Green
Opening Prayer	Wyatt Robbins
Song Leader	Dale Franklin
Communion	Jesse Black
Sermon	Robert Budy
Closing Prayer	Bobby Lemay

**NO
EVENING
SERVICE**

Wednesday

	December 21	December 28
Song Leader	Robert Budy	Jesse Black
Invitation	Jesse Black	Bruce House
Closing Prayer	Wyatt Robbins	Bobby Lemay
Announcements	Art Green	Art Green

Communion Prep

December	Dan Brown
January	Communion Prep needed

Greeters

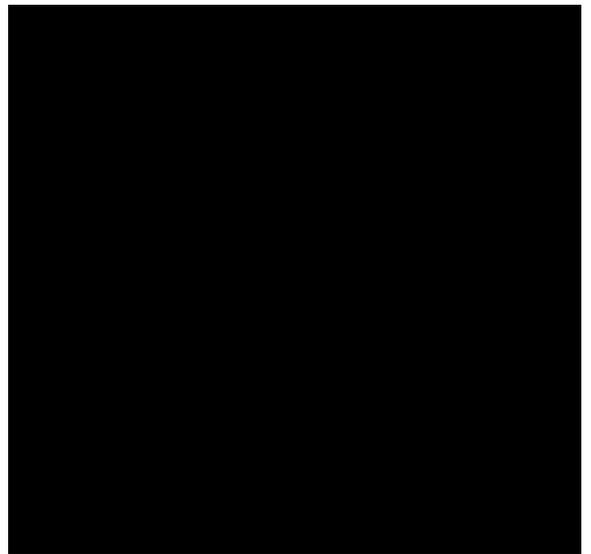
December	Greeters Needed
January	Greeters Needed

*Serve
wholeheartedly, as
if you were serving
the Lord, not men.
Ephesians 6:7*



Mark Your Calendar

Dec	18	Lads to Leaders Team B
Dec	18	Children's Christmas Party
Dec	19	Christmas Benevolence Gift Wrapping
Dec	25	NO EVENING SERVICE
Jan	6	Bible Bowl Meeting
Jan	7	Lads to Leaders Indv. Scrapbook
Jan	8	Lads to Leaders Team A
Jan	14	Shelter Meal
Jan	14	Lads to Leaders Group Scrapbook
Jan	22	Lads to Leaders Team B



Deacons

Jesse Black	<i>Children's Education/ Fellowships</i>
Matthew Hallmark	<i>Building Maintenance</i>
Wyatt Robbins	<i>Youth and as needed</i>

Coordinators

Jerry Gorman	<i>Prime Timers</i>
Dave Moster	<i>Worship Service/ Duty Roster</i>

STAMP

Florence Church of Christ
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Florence, KY 41042