

Church of Christ

Florence



December 25, 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.

Why I Believe in Jesus Christ

by Bobby Witherington

More Than Just A Historical Being

The fact that a man called "Jesus of Nazareth" actually lived upon this earth and died upon a cross is a matter of historical record. If we can believe that such men as George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, or Julius Caesar lived on this earth and interacted with fellow human beings, then we must surely acknowledge that Jesus Christ once dwelt among men on planet earth. Various reputable, contemporary historians were unanimous in their affirmations concerning the actual existence of Jesus, as well as the fact of his death on the cross. Notwithstanding their erroneous conclusions concerning the nature of Jesus, most informed atheists and infidels agree that a person known as Jesus of Nazareth lived at the time and place ascribed to him in the Scriptures. In fact, our calendar is dated from the time of Jesus' birth. Hence, notwithstanding the inward agony it must give them, infidels cannot even write a check without providing mute testimony that Jesus lived!

But Jesus was not just a man. He claimed equality with God the Father (John 5:17, 18). He referred to himself as "the Son of God" (John 9:35-37). On another occasion, referring to God, Jesus said, "I and My Father are one" (John 10:30). That Jesus regarded himself as more than man is evidenced by the facts that he accepted the worship of men (Matthew 8:2; 9:18; 14:33; 15:25, etc.), claimed to "have come down from heaven" (John 6:38), as well as having the power to give "life" (John 5:21), and even said the "Father . . . has committed all judgment to the Son" (John 6:22). In fact, Jesus made claims which no mere sane mortal could ever make. He said, "I am the bread of life" (John 6:48), "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12), "I am the door" (John 10:9), "I am the good shepherd" (John 10:11), "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25), "I am the true vine" (John 15:1), etc. Jesus went so far as to say, "I am the way, the truth, and the life," and then said, ". . . no one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). Jesus also said that "Moses . . . wrote about Me" (John 5:46), and he even claimed the "power . . . to forgive sins" (Mark 2:10). Moreover, he even said that "all authority has been given to Me in heaven and earth" (Matthew 28:18).

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The Church you read about in the Bible

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Surely, in view of the affirmations made by Jesus regarding himself, we must agree that no person ever made greater claims for himself than did Jesus of Nazareth. And we must all agree that his claims were either true or false. If they were true, then he was nothing less than "Immanuel," meaning "God with us" (Matthew 1:23), or "God . . . manifested in the flesh" (I Timothy 3:16). On the other hand, if his claims were false, then he was either the world's biggest liar, or the world's most self-deceived lunatic! We admit that some people brazenly charge Jesus with being either a liar or a lunatic. However, in so doing they obligate themselves to explain how a liar could deliver the greatest moral code which ever existed, or how a lunatic could devise the most workable system ever revealed for enabling human beings to clean up their own lives and to live peacefully, successfully, and happily with others!

Proof That Jesus Is the Son of God

In a sense, there are many "witnesses" who affirmed the Deity and Divinity of Jesus Christ. On two separate occasions (at his baptism and his transfiguration) our heavenly Father said concerning Jesus, "This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17; 17:5). At Jesus' death, after witnessing the amazing chain of events which then occurred in such close proximity, "the centurion and those with him . . . feared greatly, saying, 'Truly this was the Son of God!'" (Matthew 27:54). On a prior occasion, Peter, who had witnessed so many of his miracles, said to Jesus, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). After seeing the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove and remaining upon Jesus at the time of his baptism, John the Baptist "testified that this is the Son of God" (John 1:34). Yes, there are so many credible witnesses who affirmed the divine Sonship of Jesus Christ, all of whom deserve to be heard. However, for the sake of space we must reserve our further comment to three reliable and irrefutable "witnesses."

Prophecy and fulfillment

That Jesus would be the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Judah, born of a virgin, born in Bethlehem, begotten of the Holy Spirit, introduced by a harbinger, rejected by the Jews, betrayed by a friend, become a sin offering, be buried in the grave of the rich, and ascend on high had been foretold centuries in advance (Genesis 12:3; 49:10; Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2; Psalms 2:7; Isaiah 40:3; 53:3; Psalms 41:9; Isaiah 53:4,5; 53:9; Psalms 68:18). Amazingly, each of these prophecies was fulfilled in the birth, life, death, burial, and ascension of Jesus (Galatians 3:16; Hebrews 7:14; Matthew 2:1; Luke 1:35; Matthew 3:1-3; John 1:11; 13:18-30; Matthew 20:28; 27:57-60; Acts 1:9). In fact, in the birth, life, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus some 300 Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled. The mathematical improbabilities of all of these prophecies being "fulfilled" simply through a string of unplanned coincidences are simply too great for an honest, intelligent person to reach any other conclusion than this: prophetic fulfillment proves that Jesus is the Son of God!

The Miracles Jesus worked

Jesus healed the sick (Matthew 4:23,24), fed the multitudes (John 6:1-10), walked on water (Matthew 14:26), calmed the wind and the sea (Matthew 8:26), gave sight to the blind (John 9:6-9), cast out demons (Matthew 8:28-32), raised the dead (John 11:43,44), etc. His miracles were not faked; they were genuine! Even his enemies acknowledged that "this Man works many signs" (John 11:47; Acts 2:22). In fact, Jesus performed many more miracles than are recorded, but the ones that were recorded were "written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God . . ." (John 20:30,31).

His resurrection

Jesus repeatedly foretold the facts pertaining to his death, the location of his death, the persons involved, and his resurrection some three days later (John 2:19; Matthew 16:21; 17:9; 20:18,19). Even his enemies were aware of his pronouncements concerning his resurrection, so they requested Pilate to place soldiers at the tomb to prevent his disciples from coming by night and removing his body (Matthew 27:62-66). However, notwithstanding the fact that Roman guards were placed at the tomb to make sure that Jesus' body could not be removed, some three days later on the first day of the week visitors to the tomb discovered that it was empty (Matthew 28:1-6; Luke 24:1-7). Moreover, the resurrected Jesus remained on the earth for another 40 days, presenting himself "alive . . . by many infallible proofs" (Acts 1:3), was seen by Peter, then "by the twelve," by over 500 "brethren at once," by James, and last of all by Paul (I Corinthians 15:4-8). In view of the fact that all the remaining apostles, save John, reportedly died a martyr's death for their declarations concerning the resurrected Jesus, then you can be sure that all the ones closest to Jesus knew that he is the Son of God! They never wavered in their testimony as to the divine Sonship of Jesus Christ.

Conclusion

Jesus Christ is the Son of God! But, with reference to our salvation, he is more than that! He is the "author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2). He is our Teacher and has all power to instruct us in the moral and spiritual realms (Matthew 7:28, 29). He is our Redeemer, who shed his blood for our salvation (Ephesians 1:7; I Peter 1:18, 19). He is our King (I Timothy 6:14, 15), and has "all authority" (Matthew 28:18) to reign in our hearts and lives (Ephesians 1:20-23). Having conquered death himself (John 10:18), he has power to raise us from the dead (John 5:28,29), and to judge us by his word (John 12:48). He is our "High Priest" (Hebrews 3:1), and upon the merits of his own shed blood he has the authority to forgive our sins against God (Luke 24:46,47).

Yes, what a wonderful Savior is Jesus our Lord! However, he does not save man apart from man's ready, obedient response to his revealed will. Jesus is the "author of eternal salvation to all who obey him" (Hebrews 5:9). In New Testament days, he saved those believers (John 8:24) who repented of their sins (Acts 17:30), who confessed their faith in him as the Son of God (Acts 8:37), and who were baptized "into" him "for the remission of sins" (Galatians 3:27; Acts 2:38). Upon so doing, such people constituted the "saved" whom God "added" to his church (Acts 2:47), and who then had the obligation to be "faithful unto death" (Revelation 2:20). Dear reader, do you have a deep and an abiding faith in Jesus as the Son of God, and have you exerted your faith in scriptural obedience to his saving gospel? Consider ye well!

CONGRATULATIONS

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

New Address

The new address for-
Ron, Julie, and Spencer Harlow
is on the bulletin board in the hallway.

*Merry
Christmas*

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

Help Wanted

2017 Volunteer sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board
in the hallway.

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: 75-76

75. I know, O Lord, that Your judgements are right,

And that in faithfulness You have afflicted me.

76. Let, I pray, Your merciful kindness be for my comfort,

According to Your word to Your servant.

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

Bruce House's Mother
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
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 25	January 1
Announcements	Bill Morgan	Bill Morgan
Opening Prayer	Bob Warmack	JD Martin
Song Leader	Carl Power	Randy Johnson
Communion	Art Green	Carl Power
Serve	Mark Walker	Daniel House
Serve	Nathan Bowling	Dan Brown
Serve	Dan Brown	Jerry Gorman
Serve	Wyatt Robbins	Kyle Strasser
Serve	Steve Thomas	Matthew Hallmark
Serve	Clint Green	Bobby Lemay
Scripture Reading <i>Matthew 1: 18-25</i>	Dave Moster	Jerry Gorman
Sermon	Bruce House	Bruce House
<i>The Significance of Jesus' Birth</i>		
Closing Prayer	Matthew Hallmark	Mark Walker

Serving in PM Worship

Announcements	NO	Art Green
Opening Prayer	EVENING	Bobby Lemay
Song Leader	SERVICE	Randy Johnson
Communion		Carl Power
Sermon		Bruce House
Closing Prayer		Wyatt Robbins

Wednesday

	December 28	January 4
Song Leader	Jesse Black	Jesse Black
Invitation	Bruce House	Bruce House
Closing Prayer	Bobby Lemay	Dan Brown
Announcements	Art Green	Art Green

Communion Prep

December	Dan Brown
January	Communion Prep needed

Greeters

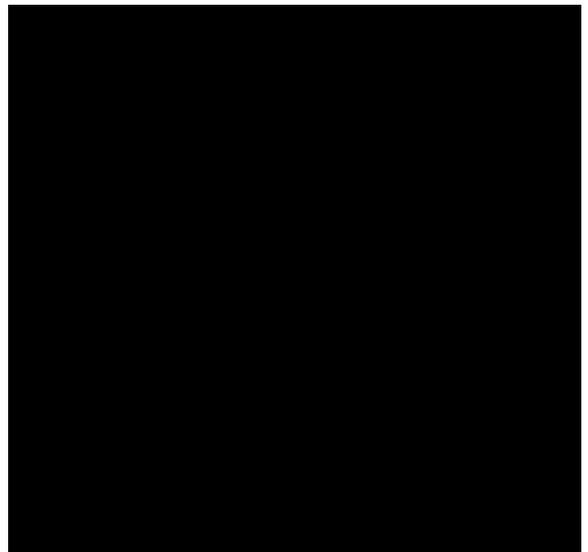
December	Greeters Needed
January	Greeters Needed

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



Mark Your Calendar

Dec	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	Potluck
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
1141 Boone Aire Road
Florence, KY 41042