

Life In The Body

News and Notes for the :
Shelbyville
Church of Christ

March 31, 2019

Take Up Your Cross

Everyone knew where Jesus was heading when he was being led through the streets of Jerusalem carrying his own cross. Everyone knew he was heading for Golgotha (the place of the Skull - *John 19:17*) where criminals were crucified. Carrying a cross for all to see was a part of the cruelty of a crucifixion. It not only was painfully exhausting, it was also an intentional public humiliation. People watched and pointed. People yelled things that were harsh and heartless. Carrying your cross to your crucifixion was never intended to be something done privately. It was out in the open for all to see.

Likewise, Christianity was never intended to be something kept secret. Jesus said, *"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23)*. To *"take up his cross"* meant a public execution to those who heard Jesus speak these words. To be crucified with Christ was not intended to be kept within the safe confines of a church building or a friendly church environment. No, to take up your cross and follow Jesus means to openly acknowledge Jesus as your savior and as your life. Jesus also said, *"I tell you, whoever acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man will also acknowledge him before the angels of God. But he who disowns me before men will be disowned before the angels of God" (Luk 12:8-9)*.

To acknowledge Jesus before men means much more than our confession of faith before baptism. It certainly includes that, but to acknowledge Jesus means that our lives are lived openly for the public to see our faith. It means we are to let our lives be like a light to the world, not hidden under a bowl, but up high for all to see (*Matthew 5:14-16*). It doesn't matter if they point and stare. It doesn't matter if they do not understand or agree. It doesn't matter if they speak ruthlessly, or even physically persecute us. It doesn't matter because we have died to ourselves. We no longer live. Christ is now living in us (*Galatians 2:20*), openly for all to see. We have taken up our cross and followed Jesus

When people became Christians in the first century, they didn't go into hiding; they didn't retreat into communes or monasteries. They openly took up their own cross and followed Jesus! Jack Graham has said, "*While salvation is intensely personal, it is never private; it is always public!*" Everyone knew where Jesus was going when he carried his cross. Do people know where you are going when you take up your cross?

— Joe Chesser

Reach Out to Someone

Please come as soon as you can.

— 2 Timothy 4:9

The Apostle Paul's last New Testament letter was addressed to his protégé, Timothy. He urged him to come for a visit before winter set in. All but one of his companions had moved on to other demands, and Paul was lonely. "Please come as soon as you can," he wrote.

Technology engenders isolation. We shop on the internet and communicate by email and texting; machines answer our phones and spit out our money at ATMs. There's not much eyeball-to-eyeball interaction. We become distant and detached.

Machines don't give a rip about people: they don't hug, empathize, or encourage.

There's someone of your acquaintance who feels that no one cares about them; someone who feels isolated and unwanted; someone who's not okay. Reach out.

Technology gives us the tools to communicate with people, but not the heart to feel their hurt.

—Joe Barnett

The man who does things makes many mistakes, but he who never makes a mistake makes the biggest mistake of all – doing nothing.

— Ben Franklin

Upcoming Events :

Gospel Meeting : There will be a gospel meeting at the Collinsville Church of Christ (near St. Louis) at 7:00 each evening April 8-10. Theme : “The Family of God” Speaker : Westley Hazel phd. The flyer is on the board.

4th Area-Wide Singing : on Saturday April 6. 3:00 til' 5:00 p.m. Paris Church of Christ Church of Christ, 704 Alexander St, For more info call Curtis Vaughn(217) 275-3708 **They attend our singing so we should be sure to attend theirs.**

Lady's Day : on Saturday April 27 at the Paris Church of Christ in Paris, Illinois. Registration / Continental breakfast 8:00 til' 8:30. Speaker: Leanna Coats. Program: 8:30 til' 11:30 Theme: “Bee Attitudes” Flyer on Bulletin Board

Pride Packages For Soldiers: We rotate the items that we bring in so there will be a variety of items available for Pat to send to our soldiers. For the next two weeks we'll be bringing: Feminine hygiene products, Men's boxer shorts, dark colors, M, L, XL ; Women's cotton regular underwear in dark colors, S,M,L , Men and Women's White OR black crew socks (plain, no design or other colors on them)

Birthday : Mike Nichols April 2

Reading : John13: 34-35 ; I John 4: 7 – 5: 4

NEXT WEEK : (April 7, 2019)

Song Leader : Delmar

Scripture Reader : Butch

Table & Announcements : Jonathan

Prayer List :

Mike Nichols : Mike got a new brace which was supposed to help him walk, but is unable to get it on by himself and it has not proven to be very helpful. .

Stanley Rich : He has finished his chemo and radiation treatments, Await CT scan to result. Shingles much improved.

Larry Bales : The 87 yr old stepfather of Rosanne has 75% blockage in his carotid artery. He will have surgery to install a stint tomorrow, April 1. Prayers will be much appreciated.

Those with ongoing need of prayer :

Those with age related issues :

Ruby, Mary, Doris, Delores, Marge, Betty, Pete & Hazel,

Others with ongoing issues :

Doris Faulkner : Her condition is advancing more rapidly.

Madonna : Her biweekly chemo will continue indefinitely.

Nancy Miller : Parkinson's Disease

Robin Shumard : Due to neurological issues which are secondary to diabetes, Robin is confined to a wheelchair.

Brenda Stevens : Ongoing severe painful back issues

Wayne : Ongoing issues related to stroke recovery

Butch Reynolds : Heart condition and back issues

Jerry Rankin : Heart Issues

Bill Livesay : Bill is recovering well from kidney transplant
Glenda Hyneman : Multiple recurring issues, some serious
Bruce Miller: Madonna's brother-in-law is holding his own.
Dan Luidhardt : Wayne's friend has severe kidney failure due to diabetes. His condition is slowly deteriorating.

*** Each day as you pray for those on this list,
always include our congregation and her elders**

"Be of good courage."
Psalms 31:24

*Visitors are always welcomed.
We invite you to visit our assemblies.*

Schedule of Services :

Sunday Morning : Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:20 a.m.

Sunday Evening : Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday : Bible Study 7:00 p.m.



Ya'll Come !