

MESSINGER

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JULY 23, 2017

It is the spirit...

Recently, Kerry Richardson brought us an excellent message from John 6 in response to the Lord's question posed to His followers. Those who were followers of Christ had reached a decision point. Were they truly committed to Jesus as the Christ, the Messiah? As we see from the context of John 6, many of His disciples chose to turn away. Fortunately for the Way, the twelve disciples remained faithful.

Our Lord made this statement as He reasoned with the disciples before they departed, **"It is the spirit that giveth life; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I have spoken unto you are spirit, and are life"** (John 6:63). As there was for this gathering of disciples, there is a choice placed before each of us. It is basically a choice between the things of this physical world and those things which are of the spiritual world; the flesh or the spiritual.

From long ago, we have the noble words of Joshua as he addressed God's people: *"...choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve Jehovah."* (Joshua 24:15) Again, their choice was of the flesh (kingdoms and gods of this world) or the spiritual (Jehovah God Almighty).

Satan's temptations thrown at us can only be "of this world," fleshly. Consider 1 John 2:16, *"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the vain glory of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."* Compare the ways Satan tried and failed in his temptations of Jesus to turn his faithful obedience to God's will.

In John 6:63 Christ states the reality of our choice clearly. It is not that there are not things of this world that can be obtained, nor that they do not have some value in this life. The emphasis is upon "life." There is, at the heart of Holy Scripture, the realization of life after physical death, an eternal realm. Our eternal destiny depends upon our faithful obedience to God's will. As we face Satan's temptations, may we always recall the Lord's words, **"It is the spirit that giveth life, the flesh profiteth nothing."**

Take heart in our Lord's statement in John 10:10, **"I came that they may have life, and may have it abundantly."**

Your Elders

To Our Guests

We are so pleased and honored that you have chosen to visit with us today! Chase Park is a wonderful Christian family, devoted to serving God through our lives and work. We are excited to share our love for Christ with others and we are thankful to have the opportunity to meet you and to have you join us for worship.

As we worship together today, our desire is to worship God according to the New Testament pattern and in a way that is pleasing and acceptable to Him. It is also our prayer that our time together is uplifting to those who are here including you, our guest. If you have any questions about anything that you see or hear today, please ask us. We would love to speak with you about those things and help you in any way that we can.



Chase Park Church of Christ

Ministers

Rusty Hills Pulpit

Andrew Lamica..... Youth Minister

Elders

John Denney

Curtis Hill

Sam Kachelman

Dennis Lawson

Greg Parker

Barry Todd

Missionaries

Jaime Mendoza Chalco, Mexico

Liborio Encarnacion. Ecatepec, Mexico

Slava Savkovsky Ukraine

Barton Kizer..... Peru

Dewayne Tapscott..... Southwest

Lamications—*Andrew Lamica*

If you have lived any length of time, chances are you have experienced a life changing event on one level or another. Maybe it was the birth of a child or the loss of a job. Perhaps it was the death of someone you hold dear. For all of us, at one point or another something happens that completely changes the course of our life.

A life changing event happened in the lives of Simon and Andrew while they were fishing on the Sea of Galilee for they were fisherman. Jesus was walking beside that sea when He called out to them saying *"Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men"* (Matthew 4:19). What happened next is truly remarkable. The Bible records that the men immediately left their nets to follow Jesus.

This is a truly life changing event! While it may not seem like too big of

a deal to walk away from fishing nets, once we realize what it meant, we see the true magnitude of the decision! When Simon and Andrew left their nets to follow Jesus, they were leaving their lives behind! Their nets equaled their livelihood. It was how they supported themselves. They were willing to make such a decision because they had found something greater!

After Jesus called these men, He continued and found two brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother in the boat with their father. Jesus called them to follow Him as well! The Bible records that they immediately left their nets, their boat, and their father to follow Him. Another life changing experience! Not only did James and John leave their occupation but they left their families to follow Jesus!

Most of the time when we think of

a life changing experience, we think of it as a negative. These life changing experiences recorded in Matthew 4 were for the better! These men made the decision to follow the Son of God and share His love with the world around them!

If you are a Christian, you too have had a life changing experience. You died to sin (Romans 6:1-4), to live for Christ! You made the decision to no longer live for self but to live for Christ!

If you are not a Christian, you still have the opportunity to experience a truly life changing event by being baptized into the family of God. There is no greater life changing experience that one can have!

Make A List Of Souls You Would Like To See Taught The Gospel

Making a "list" may not seem important, but it is as we look to increase our opportunities to share the Gospel! It utilizes a very helpful technique used by people successful in all walks of life (i.e., having a "things to do" list). For us, it helps to focus our attention upon those we hope to reach for the Lord, and not neglect them.

In making up this list, we should observe the following suggestions: First, **START WITH THOSE WHO ARE CLOSE TO YOU AND WORK OUTWARDLY: FAMILY, FRIENDS, CO-WORKERS, NEIGHBORS, RELATIVES OF FELLOW CHURCH MEMBERS, REGULAR VISITORS TO THE SERVICES OF THE CHURCH, AND CASUAL AQUAINTANCES (MAILMAN, STORE CLERK, ETC.).** We would need to limit this list to five or eight souls (a list

with too many and you will not be able to focus your efforts effectively). Give priority to those who are the "unchurched." That is, those who are not active members of any denomination or particular religion. Those who are active members of a denomination or religion are often very satisfied with their human traditions and are not as receptive to the pure and simple gospel of Christ. Husbands and wives should probably have one list (as the suggestions to follow will require their joint cooperation).

Second, **KEEP THIS LIST WHERE YOU WILL SEE IT DAILY.** This will help you to be constantly reminded of these people and thereby more likely to do the things mentioned next.

Third, **PRAY FOR THESE SOULS ON YOUR LIST DAILY.** Why pray? First, that God will

work together with you to give you "opportunities" to do good for them (1Cor. 3:5-7; Col. 4:3); to give you the "wisdom" to make the most of those opportunities (Col.4:4-6); to give you "boldness" to say what needs to be said (Eph. 6:18-20). Also, that those on your list will have the opportunity to hear the truth and have honest hearts to be open and receptive to the truth.

Remember, it is GOD who gives the increase when it comes to evangelism. We are but servants whom God can use in His providential workings. So though we may work as though it all depends upon us, let us pray as though it all depends upon God!

Your Elders

News Of Interest

Sick

HealthSouth Rehab

Steve Bradford

Home

Barry Todd and Sarah Irwin

Congratulations

To **Micah** and **Valerie Horst Matheny** in the birth of a boy, **Maxwell James**, born, Monday, July 17, in Nashville, TN. He weighed 8 lbs., 5 ozs., 21.5 inches long. The proud grandparents are **Derek** and **Lisa Horst** and the great-grandparents are **Max** and **Colene Horst**.

Bridal Shower

Ladies are invited to a come-and-go bridal shower honoring **Haileigh Stiegler**, and **Grant Purvis**, today, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m., fellowship hall.

Registered at Bed Bath & Beyond, Target, and Amazon.

Ladies Night Out

Tomorrow night, 6:00 p.m., at home of **Judy Deck**. Don't bring anything; just pay Judy \$5.00 Sign-up sheet at Hospitality Desk.

5th Sunday Special Contribution

July 30 (5th Sunday) is our second planned Special Contribution for 2017. It will be for our Mortgage Reduction Plan. Our Goal is \$25,000. There will be two collections that Sunday, one for our regular weekly contribution, and a separate one for the Mortgage Reduction. For those who use the envelope system, please use your envelopes for both contributions.

Pantry Item

Chef Boy Ar Dee Spaghetti, etc.

Today and Upcoming at Chase Park

Family Care Program

Teams **A** and **I** will meet today for potluck lunch. Team **A** Leaders: **Andrew Lamica**, **Wesley McDonald**, **Tim Row**, **Stephen Trammell**; Team **I** Leaders: **John Adams**, **Brian Peacock**, **Tom Pond**.

Regency Retirement Service

Today: 1:30 p.m.

Speaker: **Ron McCall**

Song leader: **Jerry Wilhoite**

Hospital Visitation

Team **#4 (McCall)**, please pick up your assignments today after evening service.

Children's Ministry Devotional

Today, after p.m. service, dining room/fellowship hall.

Telephone Directory (Update) Printing

We are printing an updated telephone directory. Find your information on the foyer tables and update as needed. "OK" if no changes needed.

Ladies Bible Class

Tuesday, July 25, 10:00 a.m.

Balance Class

Tues., July 25;; Thurs., July 27; 1:30 p.m.

Super Seniors

Wednesday, July 26. No lunch.

Back-To-School Prayer Devotional

Sunday p.m., July 30.

Friend's Day

Sunday, August 27.

Chase Park Singing
Today, 5:00 p.m.
Various Song Leaders

Fall Financial Peace University (FPU)

Tuesday nights, 6:00 p.m., starting September 12. The course is 9 weeks and offers a common-sense plan to get control of your finances and allow you to achieve financial peace in your life. The cost for the class is \$95.00 and the class will be limited to the first 20 families to sign up and pay. This class will be open to the public, so register soon to reserve your spot. Contact **Ken McGee** (256-552-2309) or the church office to sign up. Additionally, if you know any business owners in the Chase Park neighborhood that would allow us to post flyers about the upcoming class, please let Ken McGee or the church office know so we can get some flyers out.

Questions from the Master Teacher

2017 Midweek Summer Series

July 26

“Do You Believe This?”

John 11:26

A question about our confidence in the promises of God

Guest Speaker:
Mason Cothren



Foote Street Church of Christ
Corinth, Mississippi

This question is asked of Martha, the friend of Jesus, on the occasion of the death of her brother, Lazarus. At a time when her thoughts are dominated by death and she is overwhelmed with sorrow, Jesus talks to her about life and resurrection and an existence without death. It is about these subjects that He asks the question, “Do you believe this?” It is often during the most trying times of our lives, those times when we need the assurance of God’s presence and care the most, that we face the greatest struggle in believing and trusting in God’s promises. It’s not that we doubt His power or love, it’s just that we are blinded by the difficulty of the trial so that we cannot see the loving hand of God at work to accomplish His will in our lives. But God is a powerful, a merciful, and a faithful God. His promises are sure and His love is never-ending. So, when we consider the question “Do you believe this?” with regard to the promises of God, our answer should be a resounding, “Yes!” I hope that you will be here on Wednesday night as Mason Cothren leads us in a study of this important question and topic.

Statistics

Sunday, July 16, 2017

AM Worship	325
Month Average	347
Bible Class	267
PM Worship	214
Wed., July 19 Bible Classes	236
Regency Ret. Worship	37
Offering	\$16,134.13
Budget	\$18,000
Average ‘17	\$17,861
Under Budget for year	-\$4,045
Building Fund	\$235.00

Services

Sunday

Worship	9:00 a.m.
Bible Class	10:15 a.m.
Worship	5:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Super Seniors	10:00 a.m.
Bible Class	6:30 p.m.

Web Site Home Bible Studies

<https://www.epcofc.org/home-bible-studies>

(Lesson 1 Link)

The Bible—God’s Holy Word

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