

Choosing Not To Choose

Imagine this scenario: you are in your doctor's office and the doctor gives you the news – you are sick, very sick. The illness that you have is one that, five years ago, would have been fatal. But there is good news. There have been great breakthroughs in the past few years that have made this illness not only treatable, but completely curable. The doctor explains that all you have to do to be cured of this illness is to take a simple injection. That's it – a one-time injection that will cure you of a deadly disease. The choice is yours. Do you take the shot and live? Surely any of us, including those who are terrified of shots, would enthusiastically say, "Give me the shot!" No one would say, "I don't know," or "I'm going to have to think about it." And one thing about this decision – it must be made. You can't choose not to choose. If you accept the shot, you live; if you reject the shot, you die. There is no other option.

The truth of the matter is that we are all plagued by the deadly disease of sin (Rom. 3:23). Sin is fatal, but God has provided the cure (Rom. 6:23). We each have the choice to make – do we accept the cure by accepting Jesus Christ through our faith and obedience, or do we reject Him and choose another path in life? What is amazing about this real-life situation is that so many people choose not to choose. They do not want to reject Christ, but they are unwilling to totally accept Him either. They simply stand and declare that they are not ready or do not want to make the decision yet. But just like the scenario above, the choice must be made. You cannot choose not to choose. To not choose life through Christ is to choose death without Him (Luke 11:23). As Jesus describes in Matthew 7:13-14, there are only two paths in life, and we must choose one or the other. Each day that we live, we are one day closer to eternity. The only question is: which eternity are we moving toward – an eternal life with God or an eternal death without Him? And one more thing about this choice concerning Christ – it is an all-or-nothing proposition. To only choose halfway is to not choose at all (Matt. 16:24). So what choice have you made? Is it the right one?

Rusty

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
Nathan Adams..... Outreach
John Denney Education
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

Lamifications—*Andrew Lamica*

Like many people, you might have spent a considerable amount of time enjoying the 2016 Olympic Games over the past two weeks.

The Olympics are quite amazing to witness. Athletes around the world, from a wide variety of countries, spend their entire lives preparing for the Olympic games. When we consider that the event they're training for might only last a minute or less, it causes us to pause and really appreciate their dedication and commitment to their chosen sport. The fact that each of them train for such a long time and so rigorously causes the Olympic games to be very important to them. No doubt each athlete at one point or another dreams of being on the medal platform, while their country's

anthem is being played, and being crowned Olympic champion—The best in the world. All of the hard work, sacrifice, and dedication, ending with a great crescendo of celebration.

The Olympics are great and so are the accomplishments of the athletes who participate in them.

While the accomplishments of the Olympic athletes are something special, they are temporary. Yes, the argument can be made that the champions go down in history, and that is true. But it is also true that records get broken and new champions are crowned at every Olympic games. Over time, the glory fades.

As he often did, Paul talks about the Christian life while comparing it to a race in 1 Corinthians

9:24-25, "*Do you not know that in a race all runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it.*" Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to obtain a perishable wreath, but we have an imperishable. Gold medals tarnish and news headlines get lost in the shuffle, but the home we have waiting for us in heaven, is everlasting. It is easy to get caught up in day-to-day living, looking for that next physical victory, but that is not why we are here. We are here running a race, the race of the Christian life. Unlike in sporting events we are not competing against one another, instead we strive to help others be successful in their race that they too may obtain the prize of eternity in Heaven with the Father.

Tell No One About Jesus—*Nathan Adams*

We studied in class last Sunday one of the instances where Jesus told a recipient of a miracle to not tell anyone about what He had done. Such texts are interesting as we consider the possible reasons why Jesus would say that to a person He had healed. Jesus could have been concerned about the impact such proclamations would have on His ministry. He could have also been trying to protect those individuals from the wrath of the Jewish leaders (John 9:13-34). In the end though, a specific reason was not given by the Lord.

I find an even more perplexing instance of this statement in Mark 8:27-30. In that text, Jesus asked the disciples, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered that Jesus is the Christ. Immediately after that confession, our Lord warned them to tell no one about Him. Why would Jesus warn the disciples not to tell others about

Him? Wasn't their purpose to be witnesses of the reality that Jesus is the Christ?

There are a number of possible reasons that Jesus told the disciples this. I think that the most likely reason is found in the verses following Jesus' warning. In verse 31, Jesus taught the disciples very plainly about what was coming concerning His death, burial, and resurrection. Just moments after making that great confession, Peter rebuked Jesus concerning those things (v. 32). Jesus responded by telling Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's" (v. 33). It is clear that while Peter proclaimed Jesus as the Christ (Messiah), he did not understand accurately what being "the Christ" meant. Such ignorance would have been a problem for the ministry of Jesus. I can state that many in this congregation are engineers.

However, that does not mean I understand what they do on a daily basis. From the text, it seems that Jesus did not want the disciples teaching about Him being the Christ because they did not understand what that truly meant.

Today, we must be diligent in the study of God's word in order to present Jesus in a manner that is accurate and true. People have many strange thoughts regarding who Jesus is and what He expects of us. It is damaging to the cause of Christ when people speak incorrectly about Jesus. There is a pertinent question for each of us. Based on our individual understanding of Christ, would He say to us, "Go and tell" or "don't tell anyone?" May we truly know who Jesus is so that we may go and proclaim Him accurately.

News Of Interest

Sick

Huntsville Hospital

Margaret Reeves

Home: Robb Walker and Diane Cox.

Sympathy

We express sympathy to the family of **Monty Kilpatrick** in her death.

Congratulations

To **Willie** and **Juliana Maddox** on the birth of a daughter, **Olivia Leona-Rae**, born Friday, August 12, weighing 7 lbs., 9 ozs., 20 inches long. The proud grandmother is **Dianne Maddox**.

Ladies Night Out

Monday, August 22, 6:00 p.m., Chase Park dining room. Menu: Salads and desserts. Sign-up sheet at Hospitality Desk.

Balance Class

Tuesday, Aug. 23; Thursday, Aug 25; 1:30 p.m.

Pantry item:

Pork and beans.

Today and Upcoming at Chase Park

Regency Retirement Service

Today: 1:30 p.m.

Speaker: **Andrew Lamica**

Song leader: **Jon Rosenblum**

Hospital Visitation

Team #3 (**Cain**), please pick up your assignments today following evening worship.

Ladies Bible Class

Tuesday, August 23, 10:00 a.m.

Super Seniors

Wednesday, August 24. No lunch.

Summer Series

Wednesday, August 24. **Nathan Adams**, our Outreach Minister, will be speaking.

Saturday For The Savior

Saturday, August 27. 9:30—12:00 noon.

Chase Servant United Appeal Fund Contribution

Sunday, September 11, will be the date for this special contribution. There will be two separate contributions that day (our regular contribution and then a separate one for the fund). Please make checks for the benevolence contribution to “**Chase Servant United Appeal Fund.**”

Quarterly Meal

Wednesday, September 7, 5:00 p.m. Cost: \$4.00 adult; \$1.00 child under 12 years of age. Will begin collecting Wednesday, August 24.

FRIENDS DAY

Sunday, August 28

Morning Worship

9:00 a.m.

Potluck Lunch

11:00 a.m.

**Plan to attend
and bring a friend!**

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

Family Ties/Teens

Set up tables and chairs (Wednesday before)

G.O.S.P.E.L. Class

Receive food

Ladies Class

Small Auditorium

Set out food

Keepers/Providers

Drinks

A.C.T.S./Life Class

Clean up

Foundations

Young Pros Class

Take down tables and chairs

Weekly Bible Reading

Reading for August 21-27: Philippians 1-4

“The epistle of joy.” It is an interesting descriptor for this book considering the circumstances under which it was written. From the uncomfortable confines of a Roman prison, with his physical fate hanging in the balance, Paul, by inspiration, writes a letter about the joy that is to be found in a relationship with God through Christ. What an encouraging and, at the same time, challenging letter! As you read and study this week, consider these thoughts:

- *What was the key to Paul’s joy despite his trials and hardships? How can we find that same joy?*
- *For you personally, what is the most meaningful lesson that you learn from the Philippian letter?*

VERSES TO REMEMBER:

Philippians 3:13-14

“Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

MESENSENGER is published weekly except the last week of December and the first week of January by the Chase Park Church of Christ, 1640 Winchester Road, N.E.; Huntsville, AL 35811; (256) 852-3801. Send address changes to Messenger, 1640 Winchester Road, N.E.; Huntsville, AL 35811

Statistics

Sunday, August 14, 2016

AM Worship	373
Month Average	375
Bible Class	301
PM Worship	269
Wed., Aug. 17 Bible Classes.....	308
Regency Ret. Worship	33
Offering.....	\$17,323.13
Budget.....	\$18,300
Average '16	\$18,170
Under Budget for year.....	-\$4,295
Building Fund	\$90.00

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

<http://bible.us/e/Hdj>
(Lesson 1 Link)
The Bible—God’s Holy Word

Chase Park Newsline
256-319-5625