

CHASE PARK MESSENGER

Free Indeed

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, 'You will be made free'?"

Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

John 8:31-36

This week, our nation will celebrate its birthday and the freedom that came with its declaration of independence from British rule in 1776. As Americans, freedom is one of our most treasured possessions and one of the things that has long made us the envy of the world. We celebrate freedom, we value freedom, and we honor the great price that was and continues to be paid to provide and maintain freedom. As Americans, may we never forget or take for granted the great blessing of freedom that we enjoy.

There are different kinds of freedom, some of which are of even greater importance than the physical freedom such as we enjoy as Americans. Unfortunately, our view of freedom can be narrowed or skewed to the point that we can perceive that we are free when, in fact, we are enslaved. We certainly see this in our world, where so many revel in the freedom to live their lives however they choose and without restraint, and fail to understand that, in so doing, they have made themselves slaves to sin and Satan. This is the point that Jesus is trying to make and that is being misunderstood by his audience in the passage above. These believing Jews, jumping immediately in their minds to a physical understanding of freedom, are offended by Jesus' suggestion that they are not free. As children of Abraham, they argued that they had never been in bondage to anyone (apparently they had forgotten about the 450 years spent in Egyptian bondage, the Babylonian captivity, and the fact that, at that very moment they were ruled by and living under the heavy hand of the Roman Empire). Jesus, however, was not referring to physical bondage but spiritual. Sin enslaves us, but Jesus offers freedom—true freedom from sin that allows us to, once and for all escape that bondage and become children of God instead. Praise God for His grace and mercy in allowing us, through the power of Jesus' atoning sacrifice, to be free indeed!

Rusty

Welcome, Guests

We are honored that you have chosen to visit with us today! Our time of worship together on the Lord's Day is one of the highlights of each week and we are thrilled to be able to share this special time with you.

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



Ministers

Rusty Hills Pulpit
Pat Cowden Evangelism
Andrew Lamica Youth

Elders

Curtis Hill Dennis Lawson
Sam Kachelman Greg Parker
Barry Todd

Missionaries

Jaime Mendoza Chalco, Mexico
Liborio Encarnacion. Ecatepec, Mexico
Slava Savkovsky Ukraine
Barton Kizer Peru
Isai Cuamba Ensenada, Mexico
Dewayne Tapscott Southwest

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cpcofc.org

2018 THEME:

I AM THE CHURCH



Lamifications—*Andrew Lamica*

As hard as it might be to believe, we are already approaching the 4th of July holiday. The 4th of July is a special time for Americans. It is on this day we celebrate the independence of our nation. The freedoms that come with being an American citizen are wonderful blessings. I am thankful that God allowed me to live in a nation which enjoys such wonderful freedoms.

As Americans, we still enjoy the freedom of religion. This means we have the ability to worship our God without fear of government interference. What a blessing it is to know that each time we assemble together as the church, we have no reason to fear someone coming and dragging us off into prison or before a court. Christians, may we be reminded that this freedom is not

enjoyed in every corner of the world in which we live. There are still places in this world which the government does not allow the freedom of religion for its citizens. Our response to this should be gratefulness and a zeal to assemble with the church as often as we have opportunity.

While July 4th is a great reminder of our freedoms as American citizens, there is an even greater freedom that we enjoy as citizens of the Kingdom of God. As Christians we enjoy freedom from sin. *“But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of the teaching to which you were committed, and, having been **set free from sin**, have become slaves of righteousness.”*

Being free from sin does not mean you will live a sinless life, none of us do! Being free from sin means you no longer live a lifestyle of serving sin. Instead, we as Christians, now serve God and reap the benefits of being one of His children. Instead of serving sin which leads to death, Christians have been set free from sin and its penalty! Is there a greater freedom than the one which leads to eternal life in Christ Jesus? Not a chance!

I am so thankful for the freedom which is found in Christ Jesus. Being an American citizen is a wonderful blessing from God. Far greater is the blessing to be called a citizen of Heaven! Sweet Christians, let each of us be thankful for our freedom from sin each and every day!

Outreach News—*Pat Cowden*

Good Lord’s Day morning! The summer has really kicked in here in Alabama. I love the heat (perhaps a holdover from living in Saipan...). This is a great time of year to spend time outdoors and get to know your neighbors which is vital to having a thriving local evangelism program. The more time we spend with people away from the church building, the better chance we have of seeing them in the church building!

Lord willing, we will have had another meeting of Monday Night for the Master last Monday night, the 25th. This type of activity is also vital in the development of a local evangelistic effort. The more people we involve the more evident the results of our activities will be, it is purely a result of the law of averages. The more evangelistic we are, the more people will be interested. The more people that are interested, the more people will visit. The more people that visit, the more people will be interested in bible study. The more people who will study the bible with us, the more people who will obey the gospel, being added to the church (Acts 2:47) by the Lord when they are saved. If you are not already involved in this work, please give it a try, I believe you will be glad you did.

There are several people who are either holding studies or working on having studies with people through developing relationships and having spiritually related conversations with others. Please pray for these efforts that they will soften hearts and interest minds in the good news of Jesus Christ.

Evangelism challenge:

- My email at Chase Park is patcowden@cpcofc.org. I would appreciate it if you have a family member or friend that you would like for me to pray for, that you would send me their name privately and I will add them to my daily prayer list. Prayer is powerful and God works in the hearts of folks who are wanting to do right.

Remember, I love you in the Lord and want to go to heaven with you.



Think Souls First

News Of Interest

Sick

Regency Nursing Home

Don Kimery

Home: Jerry Johnston, Leo Johnson, Curtis Hill, Barbara Riddick.

Balance Class

Tues., July 3, Thurs., July 5; 1:30 p.m.

Church Offices Closed

Wednesday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.



Pantry Item

Canned tomatoes.

Thank You

Colene Horst has recently prepared three notebooks of information that she has been collecting about the history of Memorial Parkway/Chase Park since its beginning. The notebooks are located in the library and present information about Memorial Parkway from 1956-2009 and Chase Park from 2009-2017. Included is history and background information, lists of members, deaths, baptisms for each year. Also included is lists of ministers, elders, deacons, secretaries as well as services offered for each year. Another notebook includes history of Super Senior Class. Colene has spent many hours compiling all of this information and presenting it in a very helpful and professional way. Thank you, Colene, for compiling this information for Chase Park.

Today and Upcoming at Chase Park

Family Care Meeting

G and I meet today for potluck lunch. **G Leaders: Zlatovich, Emerson, Walker: I Leaders: Adams, Peacock, Pond.** Visitors are invited.

H and J meet Sunday, July 8. **H Leaders: Jennings, Lambrecht, McCall; J Leader: Cothren.**

Regency Retirement Service

Today: 1:30 p.m.

Speaker: **Michael Sims**

Song leader: **Rick Rosenblum**

Hospital Visitation

Team #1 (Atchley), please pick up your assignments today after p.m. service.

Ice cream Fellowship

Sunday, July 22, after p.m. service, honoring **Andrew and Candy Lamica and family.** Please bring homemade ice cream and homemade cookies.

NO SUPER SENIOR CLASS WEDNESDAY, JULY 4.

Worship Participants

| SUNDAY AM JULY 8, 2018 | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| READING | Philip Williams |
| F PRAYER..... | Stephen Trammell |
| LS PRAYER..... | Mike Crawford |
| C PRAYER..... | Bob Williams |

| SUNDAY PM JULY 8, 2018 | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| READING | Lincoln MacLean |
| F PRAYER..... | Jim MacLean |
| C PRAYER..... | Andrew Lamica |

Thank you

“Thanks to the Chase Park family for the cards and prayers during my surgery and recovery. A special thanks to those who sat with our family at the hospital. The well wishes are so encouraging. In Christian love,”

Richard Franklin

Focus For
JULY - AUGUST

*I Am An Ambassador
for Christ*

I AM THE CHURCH



Chase Park
CHURCH of CHRIST

Wednesday Night Summer Series

“I AM THE CHURCH”

Come support and learn from some of our own men as they lead our study on Scriptures that teach us what it means to be the Lord’s church.

Schedule of Upcoming Speakers:

| | | |
|----------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>July 4</i> | <i>Andrew Lamica</i> | <i>2 Corinthians 6:16</i> |
| <i>July 11</i> | <i>Barry Todd</i> | <i>2 Timothy 1:12</i> |
| <i>July 18</i> | <i>Ron McCall</i> | <i>2 Corinthians 12:10</i> |
| <i>July 25</i> | <i>Dennis Lawson</i> | <i>1 Corinthians 12:27</i> |

Statistics

Sunday, May June 24, 2018

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| AM Worship | 366 |
| Month Average | 369 |
| Bible Class | 284 |
| PM Worship | NC |
| Wed., June 27, Bible Classes | NC |
| Regency Ret. Worship | NC |
| Offering..... | \$17,965.99 |
| Budget..... | \$18,000 |
| Average ‘18 | \$18,582 |
| Over Budget for year | +\$14,556 |
| Building Fund | \$225.00 |

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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