

The Beauty of Imperfection

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." These familiar words from Romans 3:23 are words that we know well and feel the effects of every day. Most of us are well aware of our imperfections and shortcomings. We struggle with them. We deplore them. We wish that we could overcome them once and for all. And yet, regrettably, we know that they are a constant and unavoidable part of our lives.

But just for a moment, I want you to think about your imperfections in a different light. Though we all wish that we could be better, stronger, more like Christ, our imperfections provide some very good things in our lives—things that we might miss out on if we were to be able to accomplish perfection. Think with me about a couple of these things:

1. Our imperfections cause us to need and to depend upon God. Without shortcomings, we would have no sin. Without sin, we would have no need for God and the redeeming blood of His Son. The imperfections in our lives cause us to come to God for mercy, grace, and forgiveness. We depend on Him and look to Him for the righteousness that we can not attain on our own (2 Corinthians 5:21).
2. Our imperfections allow the strength of God to work in us. Just like Paul (2 Corinthians 12:7-10), when we are weak, then we are strong because it is in those times, the times of our failures and infirmities, that the strength of the Lord is made perfect in us. If we could depend on our own strength and perfection, we would have no need for God.

Certainly, this is not to suggest that we should simply accept our sinfulness and revel in it so that we might bask in the glory of God's grace and mercy. The Scriptures warn about such a dangerous attitude (Romans 6:1-2). However, we should be encouraged to know that our weaknesses and failures do not have to define us and bring about the downfall of our spiritual lives and hope of eternal salvation. In essence, the same shortcomings that have the potential to take us away from God, if we allow them to, also have the ability to make our relationship with God closer, stronger, and better. It all depends on how we handle our failures and imperfections. How are you handling yours?

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

Pat Cowden ...Evangelism Minister

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 SavkovskyUkraine

Barton Kizer..... Peru

Dewayne Tapscott..... Southwest

Lamications—*Andrew Lamica*

“They won’t ever obey the gospel.” “They will never be willing to walk away from the life-style they are involved in.” “I just don’t think they will ever believe.”

If you have been a Christian any length of time, there is a good possibility that you have thought, or maybe even vocalized some of these very sentiments. We are called to be a people who are interested in the souls of those around us. Not only are we called to be interested in the souls of others, but we are to be a people who crave opportunities to tell others about Jesus, regardless of what their reaction might be. “*Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation*” (Mark 16:15).

Imagine what the number might be, if one was putting a percentage on the chance that Saul would

convert to Christianity. Saul was a persecutor of the church, and he was very good at what he did! He was a rising star so to speak, in the Jewish faith. Saul was, in no way, someone that you might consider an ideal candidate to convert to Christianity, but he did! Later, Paul would call himself the chief, or foremost, sinner (1 Timothy 1:15). Imagine that! Paul laid claim that in his former life, he held the title of the worst of the worst sinner. What power the truth of Jesus Christ holds!

Too often the fear of rejection keeps God’s people from doing what we know we ought to be doing, spreading the good news of Jesus Christ to the world around us. We allow the fear of being told “no,” to prevent us from sharing the soul saving information about Jesus

that we have! While it is true that many in the world around us will not be willing to obey the gospel (Matthew 7:14), we ought not let that hinder us from continuing to share it. As God’s people, if we don’t share the gospel, nobody will! There are lost and dying people all around us who are depending on people like you and me to share with them the avenue by which their soul can be saved from eternal damnation!

Christians, it is far too easy to come up with excuses about why we decide not to share the gospel with someone. I want to challenge you today to have a different mindset. Instead of looking for reasons not to share the gospel, search out opportunities to share the gospel and then do it!

Outreach News—*Pat Cowden*

I am excited to share with you some thoughts about outreach in the local setting.

First, nearly every congregation’s leadership would say that local outreach to convert people to Christ is their weakest ministry. Most congregations, even those who have organized local efforts, would say they do better with foreign missions, youth activities, and benevolence (all of which are important).

Second, we know that Christ would be glorified and pleased with our efforts to win souls for Him. It is therefore a reasonable request (Romans 12:1) to give some of our discretionary time and effort to that which pleases Him most, the saving of souls (1 Timothy 2:4).

Third, some Christians would be involved in local outreach but are

not really sure what to do. It is my experience that often we do not share our faith because we are afraid of failing in some way. We do not know if the people will get angry? We do not know if we will lose a friendship? We do not think we know what to say or how to answer questions?

Fourth, the answer to those fears is to have a comprehensive plan that incorporates everyone in one way or another. This requires training to make sure everyone knows their role and what success in that role looks like. Paul’s description of how the church is supposed to work in unison from 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, is directly applicable to local evangelism. Not everyone has the same role to fill. In the coming weeks we will begin exploring those differing roles.

For now, I would like every

Christian at Chase Park to become a partner with me in praying for the lost. Specifically I want you to do these two things:

#1 By the end of October (sooner is better), send me (privately) the name of the one person/family you know who is not in Christ that you believe might be receptive to the gospel.

Email patcowden@cpcofc.org
text 907-885-1058 or write me a note and give it to me.

#2 Commit to praying for that person daily. You and I together will pray that this person will have an open heart to the gospel. We believe fervently in the power of prayer, don’t we! (James 5:16)

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

News Of Interest

Sick

Huntsville Hospital Main

Janet Lawson,

Regency Healthcare and Rehab

Edna Crowe,

Home: Kaye Hill

Sympathy

We express sympathy to the family of **Ophelia Fulton Nance** in her death.

Also, to **Ron Whisenant** and **Patsy Sexton** (former members) in the death of Betty Whisenant (his wife and her sister, respectively).

Directory Deletion: **Don** and **Diane Cox** are moving to Tennessee. We will sure miss them.

Membership

Greg and Terri Emerson are placing membership with us today. They have been worshipping at Plainview Church of Christ. Greg is in Sales Management with DEMCO Mfg.; Terri is a full-time nanny to her grandchildren in Birmingham and she also owns a small hair bow business (Nana's Boutique). Their work takes them out of town all week but they will be attending Chase Park on Sunday. Be sure to meet Greg and Terri and welcome them to our church family!

Today and Upcoming at Chase Park

Family Care Meeting

C and F meet today, potluck. C Leaders: **Champion, Landman; F Leaders: Gransky, Heady, McCreless, Olbricht.** D and G meet Sunday, October 22, for potluck. D Leaders: **Brown, Sims; G Leaders: Zlatovich, Emerson, Walker.**

Regency Retirement Service

Today: 1:30 p.m.

Speaker: **Gregg Crabtree**

Song Leader: **Jerry Johnston**

Bridal Shower

Ladies are invited to a bridal shower today honoring **Emma Bartz** and **Jonathan Brothers**, 1:30—3:30 p.m., fellowship hall.

Balance Class: Tues., Oct. 17; Thurs., Oct 19; 1:30 p.m.

Super Seniors

Wednesday, Oct. 18, potluck lunch.

Regency Retirement Village Singing

Thursday, October 19, 6:00 p.m.

Girl's Purity Day

Saturday, October 28, 9:00—12:30 p.m. "Perfectly Designed by Him" (I Corinthians 6:19-20). Speaker: Celine Sparks. Girls 10 and older are encouraged to attend. 10 and 11 year olds need to be accompanied by a female adult. Lunch is provided. Also, all ladies of the congregation are invited for this special day to gather and spend time in worship to God. For more info, see **Michelle Heady** or **Farrah Clark**.

Pantry Item: Boxed mac and cheese.

Worship Participants

SUNDAY AM October 22, 2017	
READING	Tyler Hills
F PRAYER.....	Eric Corder
LS PRAYER.....	John Denney
C PRAYER.....	Dennis Lawson

SUNDAY PM October 22, 2017	
READING	Blake Gustin
F PRAYER.....	Randal Jennings
C PRAYER.....	Andrew Corder

Thank You

"Our family would like to thank the Chase Park Church of Christ family for the flowers and the meal following the service of George Landman. You reached out to family and friends and provided fellowship at a time so needed! Your prayers and continued support is also a blessing! Your support for Mac, Sheila, and Lindsay Landman is so needed. God bless you all at Chase Park Church of Christ"

Edith Landman

CHASE PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST
PRESENTS

The Wild West Festival



**FREE
GAMES**

**FREE
FOOD**

**FREE
TRAIN RIDES**

SATURDAY, OCT. 21ST 10:00 – 2:00

Everyone is invited

Statistics

Sunday, October 8, 2017

AM Worship	325
Month Average	348
Bible Class	273
PM Worship	NC
Wed., Oct. 11, Bible Classes	276
Regency Ret. Worship	41
Offering	\$14,178.87
Budget	\$18,000
Average '17	\$17,830
Under Budget for year	-\$6,976
Building Fund	\$51.00

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.cpcofc.org/home-bible-studies>

(Lesson 1 Link)

The Bible—God's Holy Word

MESSENGER is published weekly 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