



THE MESSENGER

JULY 3, 2022

NEWS AND NOTES

Congregational Meeting
TBD

Weekly Bible Studies
Tuesdays at 10 on Zoom
Friday's at 12 on Zoom
Saturday, 10, Panera
(Georgetown)

Times of Service
Sunday

Bible study: 9:45 AM
Worship: 10:45 AM; 6 PM

Wednesday

Bible study: 7:30 PM
(Immediately followed by a short worship service)

First Friday of Month

Singing
March 4, 7:30

Address and Contact
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MORE THAN MANAGEMENT

Someone asked if there is anything we can learn today from Jesus' words in Luke 11:24-26? The passage says, "*When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, "I will return to my house from which I came." And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first.*"

One person responded that a good application would be those who focus primarily upon "sin management" without thinking much of the positive, good works Christ desires in his people. I think there is much to commend in that response.

Being a Christian is not just, or even primarily, an emptying act. It is a filling one. There is far more than seeking to empty one's life of sin, "managing" it, in being a child of God. That dead thing immersed into the blood of Jesus Christ was resurrected there, vibrant and alive, filled with the Spirit, ready and devoted to every good work. (Romans 6; Colossians 3:1-4; Acts 5:32; Titus 3:1-8)

I am saddened when I hear fallen Christians claim that being a Christian "is only about keeping rules." That is so far from the truth! Sin does exist, it does create a separation between man and God, and it must be avoided. (Isaiah 59:1-2) Jesus' sacrifice was specifically designed to pay the debt for sin. (John 1:29) May we praise him eternally for that!

The result of that cleansing is a new life. *Life* is the key. Living, active, energized, transformed. As a result of Christ's

Members Needing Our Prayers

Taya Martin, Gary Brown, Joyce Bolton, Julie Patton, Rick Small, Benny Poynter, Richard and Janet Brundige, Karen Spivey, Rhonda Boyd, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson

Others Needing Prayers

Ernestine Byers, Glen Perkins, Allison Walker, Dwight Antle, Randy Cates, Larry McTeer, Charlene Michael, Ann Little, Mary Jean Snyder, Mark Nickles, Adam Fusco Duane Harrod, Grace Meyer, Meredith Nicholson, Alice and Lonnie Anderson, Glen Perkins, Ethan Shelton, Terry Daniels, Leroy Weatherholt, Robert Brundige, John Blessing, William Roberts, Paul and Marrian Lyda, Dana and her children, Shane (a relative of Cindi), Ron Harmon

To Our Guests

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sacrifice, our having been washed in his blood, and moving forward in trusting faith, we are equipped to finally be what God intended his people to be from the very start—true image bearers reflecting his glory into the world and sending praise directly to his throne, the only place worthy of it.

God is honored when we avoid sin, yet even more so when we fill our lives with the good works prepared before the creation of the world. (Ephesians 2:10) May God open the eyes of those poor Christians who imagine being in Christ is little more than a matter of *Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch.* (Colossians 2:20-23) *Of course* such Christians will grow discouraged and frustrated. How could they not?

The true power of the Christ-transformed life is seen in its energy. It is worshipful, joyful, faithful, prayerful, loving, compassionate, service oriented, and filled with grace. It is bold *and* gentle, courageous *and* merciful. It looks like Jesus, and he is about so much more than “sin management.” AL

Elders	Deacons	Evangelist
Troy Antle	Richard Brundige	Adam Litmer
David Collins	Adam Daniels	
	Marcus Lake	
	Adam Litmer	
	Frank Patton	
	Jamie Powell	
	Pat Seabolt	
	Matt Thompson	
	James Weatherholt	

