

BERKSHIRE COUNTY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BULLETIN

03/17/2024

Faith Worthy of Following



“What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you” (Pph. 4:8-9). Paul’s words are striking because they are something we should all purposely say to anyone we know. But what would the point be if we don’t exemplify what we want them to follow our

lead in? This man who had once persecuted the church was now a changed man—so changed, in fact, that he could confidently tell people to imitate Him. When reading this, one may be tempted to think this is the only time he utters those words, but that is not the case. Paul did so in his epistle to the troubled church in Corinth. **1Co. 11:1**, *“Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.”*

To the church in Thessalonica, he said the following: *“And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit” (1Th. 1:6).* In this verse, Paul commends the Thessalonians for imitating him and the Lord in their faithfulness despite facing affliction. In his second epistle to that church, he reminds them to continue to follow his example of hard work and self-sufficiency. **2Th. 3:7-9**, *“For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone’s bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you.”* Paul reminds the Thessalonians of his example of hard work and self-sufficiency, which they should emulate.

Even the Philippian church heard those words in **Php. 3:17**, *“Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.”* Notice that in the last example, Paul includes other people who are similarly excellent examples. We are surrounded by people who live their Christian lives in accordance with the scriptures. They display all the characteristics we all should strive to follow. But, we ourselves should be the epitome of Godly living for others to follow. Is it easy to do that? Absolutely not! But is it worth it? Absolutely! Our behavior could easily affect the mood of those around us.

Imitate Paul as he imitates Christ, and peace and harmony will surely follow. But, if we do not exemplify Christian living, we depress the harmony and invite disunity into the fellowship. We don’t want to be known as “that” person—the one no one wants to be around because they act more like the world than Christ. When we are not in their company, do they have good things to say about us? Things like, “Don’t you think they are a Christian example to others? I never leave his presence without feeling encouraged and motivated to do better myself.” Or do they say something like, “Wow, hard to believe they are a Christian? Their pretend act is so easy to see through.

At least we know how not to be. In **Mat. 5:16**, we are told the following, “...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” When we think of Paul, there is no doubt in our minds that he did precisely that—not only him but all the faithful apostles of the New Testament. Those are the faithful servants of Christ we are called upon to imitate: them and the people around us who already do so. If you are still unsure about what exactly Paul and the other examples produce in their lives that we are supposed to emulate, read the previous verse to our selection today.

Php. 4:8, “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” Don’t just read and learn the teachings of the Bible. Put them into practice in tangible ways that will glorify God. Let your speech and conduct be active, not passive faith; then the peace of God will be with you and those who follow your example.

<u>AM ORDER OF WORSHIP</u>	<u>PM ORDER OF WORSHIP</u>
<u>ANNOUNCEMENTS</u> - Bill Joy	<u>ANNOUNCEMENT</u> - Bill Joy
<u>SONG</u> - 850 - Father, I Adore You	<u>SONG</u> - 9 - A Wonderful Savior 1,2,4
<u>PRAYER</u> - Proverbs 3:5-6 Bill Joy	<u>PRAYER</u> - Bill Joy
<u>SONG</u> - 950 - Lamb of God	<u>SONG</u> - 19 - All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name 1,2,4
<u>COMMUNION</u> - Mark 14:22-25 Dylan Stafford	<u>SERMON</u> - Devo
<u>SONG</u> - 874 - Jesus Is Lord	<u>SONG</u> - 23 - All Things are Ready 1,2,4
<u>SERMON</u> -	<u>COMMUNION</u> - Jeffery Tarmey
<u>INV SONG</u> - 873 - Love, Love	<u>INV SONG</u> - 29 - All to Jesus I Surrender
<u>CLOSING PRAYER</u> - Emmanuel Twumasi	<u>CLOSING PRAYER</u> - Cleve Stafford



ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS

Please silence your phone by placing it in airport mode.



We ask all visitors to please pick up a visitors card and fill it in.

- Bulletins are on the fireplace table and sermon notes are inside when available.
- Please put your offering in the provided envelope (don't write anything on it)..
- If you look on the back of the visitors card you will see space to right a prayer request if you have one - feel free to do that and hand it in to us so we can pray about it.
- Our next potluck meal will be next week following morning service. Please invite someone and bring a dish to share (about 12 servings)
- There is a sign up sheet on the back table.
- The 11 students of Freed Hardeman will arrive next Saturday.
- Ladies breakfasts is cancelled till further notice.



PRAYER REQUESTS



- Continued Prayers for Cleve's dad Edgar Stafford for continued health issues.
- For all our service people wherever in the world they have been deployed to.
- Prayers for Melinda's mom Isabel du Toit, her cancer has spread to her brain and the dr's have given her 3 months at most, but with God all things are possible.
- Safe travels for Melinda who is Flying to South Africa.

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

- Praise God for our sponsors.
- Praise God for the privilege to worship in safety
- Praise God for the measure of health and wealth we enjoy

BIRTHDAYS / SPECIAL OCCASIONS



March Birthdays

3 - Gershon Agbemenyah

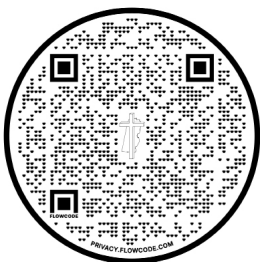
7 - Matt Brinckerhoff

16 - Albert Twumasi

Sunday morning Bible Class - 9:00AM
Wednesday Evening Bible Study - 7:00PM
Personal Bible Study (Convenient time)



Web Page



WiFi



Facebook

Word Search



Word List

- | | | | |
|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| ABRAHAM | BIBLE | DELIVERED | EAR |
| EYE | FATHERS | FEAR | GLORY |
| GOD | HARRY | HATED | HEART |
| LOVE | PLANS | POTTER | PREPARE |
| SCRIPTURE | SEEN | SINNERS | WELFARE |
| WORD | | | |