

Service Opportunities

Announcements: Ted Wheeler
Usher: Delbert Leavens

RECORD

Attendance: **80**

Contribution: \$ 1835.00

Weekly Budget: \$ **2820.00**

Thought for The Day

"A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds."

BACON

Church of Christ of Venice

4301 SR 776
Venice, FL 34293

MORNING SERVICES

Opening Prayer: Bill Burnside
Songs: Mike Weber
Sermon: Ted Wheeler
Closing Prayer: Marvin DeMeester

EVENING SERVICES

Opening Prayer: Wayne Vowell
Songs: Mike Weber
Sermon: Ted Wheeler
Closing Prayer: Joe Austin

COMMUNION

Tim Simmons Chris Dorris
Kaden Simmons Troy Wheeler

Church of Christ of Venice

"A friendly church, proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ"

April 22 2007

Volume 17, Number 16

Elders

Delbert Leavens
Wayne Vowell
Ted Wheeler

Minister

Ted Wheeler

Sunday Services

Bible Study-10:00 am
Worship-11:00 am
Evening Worship-6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 pm.

Church of Christ

4301 Highway 776
Venice, FL 34293
USA

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941-493-2403

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mail@venicechurchofchrist.com

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Outreach:



I want to be a Worker for the Lord

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)

Staying busy is hardly a problem in our society - the difficulty lies in focusing our efforts in the right direction. "It is not enough to be busy. The question is: what are we busy about?" (Thoreau) Being actively involved in the Lord's work ought to be a top priority. *"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."* (1 Corinthians 15:58)
We ought to want to be workers for the Lord.

THE WORK OF THE LORD IS THE GREATEST WORK WE MAY DO

Just as marriage requires a "leaving" and a "cleaving" (cf. Gen. 2:24), so the Lord's work often requires a "leaving" of the good and the better in order to devote attention to the best. Compare Matthew 4:18-22.

Being workers for the Lord involves a decision to devote relatively less attention to other concerns. There are simply not enough hours in a week for us to do the Lord's work and also pursue temporal ends as fully as the world pursues them. We simply have to "let go" of some things that we would ordinarily be able to do.

Whether we truly want to be workers for the Lord is manifested by the choices we make. (Luke 9:57-62)

Making the right choice to devote ourselves to the Lord's work is easy when we begin to glimpse the greatness of the work.

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!

Please fill out a blue visitor card so that we might have a record of your visit. If needed, there is a **nursery** available at the rear of the auditorium. **Bible classes** for all ages are available Sundays at 10:00 am and Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. We hope that you will join us for these studies. Please come and worship with us again soon.

Participating in the Lord's work is worth whatever it may ever cost: "Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation: because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me." (Philippians 2:29-30) It is worth being "addicted" to: "I urge you, brethren - you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves (addicted themselves, KJV) to the ministry of the saints." (1 Corinthians 16:15)

It is a privilege to be a part of the Lord's work, even in the most "insignificant" of ways. "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me." (1 Corinthians 15:10) "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry." (1 Timothy 1:12)

4 PRIMARY PROBLEMS HINDER OUR WORK IN THE LORD

1. The postponement of effort may be our number one problem. One of the greatest of today's labor-saving inventions is a thing called "tomorrow." "He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap." (Ecclesiastes 11:4)
2. We may be too picky about our assignment. ("Your assignment, should you choose to accept it...!?!")
3. Then, in the actual doing of the Lord's work, we may put forth only a minimal effort. There may be a lack of "pride," diligence, etc. in our work. "But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another." (Galatians 6:4) "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)
4. Finally, when we quit the work prematurely, we detract from the work that needs to be done. Short of "disability," there is no "retirement plan" for the Lord's workers. As long as we live and are able, there is work for us to do. "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap of we do not lose heart." (Galatians 6:9) "And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises." (Hebrews 6:11-12)

IF WE TRULY WANT TO BE WORKERS THE LORD WILL MAKE WORKERS OF US

Whatever problems may hinder us, it is possible to overcome them - we can be vessels "for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work." (2 Timothy 2:21)

God is willing to make us servants through whom He can do His work. "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10) "For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure." (Philippians 2:13) "Now may the God of peace...make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen." (Hebrews 13:20-21) "If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be

glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen." (1 Peter 4:11)

He will do so, however, only if we will make a commitment that is consistent with the importance of the work - wanting to be a worker for the Lord must be more than a whim.

It takes work to become a worker! We must develop the kind of commitment that views the work of the Father as more important than life itself: "Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.'" (John 4:34) We must be willing to "spend and be spent" (2 Corinthians 12:15) in the work.

Diligence and devotion to the Scriptures will make us worthy workmen, thoroughly equipped for every good work. "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15) "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

If we give ourselves entirely to the things of God, our progress will be evident: "Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you." (1 Timothy 4:15-16)

The Lord needs every one of His people to be workers: "Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest is truly plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.'" (Matthew 9:37-38)

The time to be workers for the Lord is now: Jesus said, "I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work." (John 9:4)

No joy in the world compares with the joy that comes from being a worker for the Lord. "So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us." (1 Thessalonians 2:8) "For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?" (1 Thessalonians 2:19-20)

"Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes." (Luke 12:43)

Our Deepest Sympathy

To Emma Jean Law and her family at the passing of her brother, **John Columbus**, on Saturday. Cards can be sent to:

Emma Jean Law
6 South Marina Plaza
Englewood, FL 342231



Remember in Prayer

JEANNE SHERMAN
DORIS WHITE
CLARENCE RIGGENBACH
FRANK SMALL
IVA & LEM TURNER
PATRICIA FORD

Mark Your Calendars

- ✓ Apr 29: Song Service @ 6 pm
- ✓ May 4-6: Youth Retreat @ WeekiWachee
- ✓ May 6: Fellowship @ 6 pm
- ✓ May 27: Song Service @ 6 pm
- ✓ Jun 3-9: Bible Camp @ WeekiWachee
- ✓ Jun 14-Jul 9: Ghana Campaign 2007