



# The Grapevine

## Home Church

This month marks a new era at CW Church. Over the past year we have been “live-streaming” our worship services and now, we’re reaching out into a community near you. That’s right, there’s a Home Church just around the corner from you. “What’s a Home Church?” you ask. Well, it is network of a community of believers who are studying the Word of God together. Then, they will come together as one large group to celebrate what the Lord is doing in their separate groups. Here’s been the big question on everyone’s mind, “will there still be Sunday Morning Worship?” The answer is a resounding, “YES!” We will still be having in-person and live-stream worship on Sundays. The great thing is that Pastor Rob will be sharing from the same passage of Scripture that the Home Church has been studying during the week. We’ll all be learning together, God’s Word. Check out a Home Church with Courtney Come, Dawn O’Keefe, Ken Neff, or Pastor Watts. Call the church office for more information.



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Over the past couple of months, we’ve been talking about getting a “fresh start.” We’ve been looking in Ephesians 3:4-6 and what Paul has to say there. Last time we ended talking about how Paul trusted in his SINCERITY to gain God’s approval. In our discussion we learned that it is possible to be sincere but be sincerely wrong.

I’d like for us to move on in v. 6 where Paul said that he relied on his PERSONAL RIGHTEOUSNESS to get him into heaven, “the righteousness which is the law, blameless...” To get to heaven, God is not interested in OUR righteousness. **Isaiah 64:6** says, “all our righteousness is as filth rags.” Paul says in **Titus 3:5** “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost.”

In v. 7-8, Paul tells how he came to see the worthlessness of these things to gain God’s approval, and he threw them to the four winds so that he could win Christ, “But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.” Paul discovered the truth to how to get to God and obtain eternal life in heaven. He realized that the righteousness required to get to heaven is not self-generated; it is bestowed by God. We can see that in v. 9, “And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.”

Pastor Rob

## Ignite the Fire

May 20-23, we have a unique opportunity to join with our brothers and sisters in the Lord in “Igniting the Fire” in our lives. Several of the local congregations surrounding our church will be joining for a virtual “revival” that week leading up to Pentecost Sunday. You are invited to join us here, in-person, at the church each night at 7 p.m. We will be live streaming the services from the other locations and be hosting the service on Friday evening. Pastor Rob will be preaching on Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup> to kick off the revival. So, mark the dates, clear the time, and let’s gather for a great time of worship with our brothers and sisters in the Lord. Let’s “Ignite the Fire” of God in our lives.



## The MS Walk

Each year we have gathered to help raise awareness and funds for research to find a cure for MS. For several years we’ve gathered at the Columbus Zoo for this awesome event. However, due to COVID the even last year was canceled. We’re back this year. Although, there is a small change to the venue, again due to COVID. Instead of gathering at the Zoo, we’ll be gathering on Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at Prairie Oaks Park. We’ll be gathering at 10:00 a.m. and taking a leisurely stroll on one of the trails through the park and then heading to Eagle’s Nest for a picnic lunch.

MS is a neurological disease that affects many people in a lot of different ways. Some lose their mobility, function of their hands and arms, speech, but the main hindrance of the disease is fatigue and cognitive issues. There are a multiple of symptoms that plague those with the disease and there is no cure. There are only medicines that will help deal with the symptoms and help control the progression of the disease. Because this is a neurological disease, someone with MS can look like they feel fine, but be in extreme pain, have numbness, or not feel “right.”

We would love to have everyone come out and join us on the walk. If you’d like to donate to Pastor Rob’s team to help “stamp” out MS, here’s the link you can go to make that donation, [https://secure.nationalmssociety.org/site/Donation2?idb=57855076&64296.donation=form1&df\\_id=64296&FR\\_ID=31701&mfc\\_pref=T&PROXY\\_ID=14960677&PROXY\\_TYPE=20&amp;df\\_id=64296&amp;:64296.donation=root&idb=627253554&amp;FR\\_ID=31701&amp;PROXY\\_ID=14960677&amp;PROXY\\_TYPE=20&amp;mfc\\_pref=T](https://secure.nationalmssociety.org/site/Donation2?idb=57855076&64296.donation=form1&df_id=64296&FR_ID=31701&mfc_pref=T&PROXY_ID=14960677&PROXY_TYPE=20&amp;df_id=64296&amp;:64296.donation=root&idb=627253554&amp;FR_ID=31701&amp;PROXY_ID=14960677&amp;PROXY_TYPE=20&amp;mfc_pref=T).

Thank you.

‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’—*Jeremiah 29:11* *This for a long time has been a favorite scripture of mine. The reminder that IN ALL THINGS, God is in control. Even in our unprecedented times, GOD is in control. I am reminded of a book I read a LONG time ago, The Power of Positive Thinking, Peale* Especially during 2020, I have tried to see life with these ideas in mind.

- God is in control. No matter what happens, this is our Father’s world. God is STILL sovereign.
- God allows all things—even those that are ugly or unpleasant—into our lives for our good. As Romans 8:28 says, “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” If we truly believe this, then our outlook on suffering must ultimately be positive, even though the pain is real. While we should never minimize or deny our suffering or that of others, we mustn’t allow it to get the last word.
- Even if the worst happens to us (and sometimes it does), the eternal life that Christ provides more than compensates. Heartache, depression, bereavement, and grief are sometimes our lot. Paul suffered many things for the gospel, including stoning, shipwreck, and betrayal. Yet he could say, “For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.”
- A positive Christian attitude, rather than a sour “realism,” is attractive. We Christians say, rightly, that our Lord is the source of all true life, love, and joy. Perhaps our neighbors would be more interested in our faith if we acted as if we really believed it. And doesn’t the God who saved us at such a great cost *deserve* to see us happy about it?
- We can *choose* to be positive Christian thinkers. Peale was right when he said, “When you get up in the morning, you have two choices—either to be happy or to be unhappy. Just choose to be happy.”
- Positive Christian thinking often leads to positive results. So, win or lose, be positive. God is with you.

2020 has certainly been a challenging year for CW Church...we have seen many, many changes and circumstances that we didn’t know which way to turn, how were we going to make budget, grow the Kingdom, reach our neighbors...the list goes on and on, yet we have seen CW Church strive forward and grow and change and venture out in new avenues that we might NOT have seen without the challenges of 2020. I am excited to report that we have rented out our building several times and even though we are still working out some kinks, we are ready to let others know CW Church is open and waiting to schedule other events/meetings. Please have any prospective renters/groups/family contact CW Church @ 614-868-6806. The Building Usage-Maintenance email is not up and running as of yet, but it will be shortly. Some other updates; We have a new furnace and a fixed furnace. We have been warm and are ready for the AC to be cranked up for the summer! We are also working on some upkeep projects/cleaning projects as well. MANY, MANY thanks for all those who came out for the Church Work Day. The work that was accomplished was INCREDIBLE!! We have another work day scheduled for May 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you are able to come out that day and help...many hands make light work!

Blessing to you all,

Dawn E Watts

Building Usage-Maintenance Coordinator

## Work as Worship Conference

After being off for a year, the conference is back. The date for the conference this year is May 14<sup>th</sup> and there are some awesome speakers lined up. John Maxwell, Loie Giglio, Jon Acuff, and many others. It is going to be a great day of being challenged, inspired, and growing in your faith in the Lord and workplace. The cost is \$50 per person which includes lunch. What a deal!!!! All you have to do is go to <https://events.rightnowmedia.org/attendee/site/4145> to register for the event. Register today before they close registration.







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The difference between blind fear and wise caution is spiritual perception. Who increased his faith and spiritual perception and was able to make a bold decision while those around him hesitated in fear?

William Tyndale, one of England's leading reformers, was approached one day by a sincere-looking young man who offered to help him. In reality, the young man was a spy. Employed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Tyndale, one of the first men to translate the Bible into English, was arrested, tried for heresy, and on October 6, 1536, was strangled and burned at the stake.

In A.D. 37, one of the early Church leaders was approached by a sincere-looking man who offered to help him and the other Christians. Most of the Christians, however, were in hiding from this very man!

Burning, with hatred, he had dedicated himself to one cause—the destruction of anyone who followed Christ. He regarded them as politically and spiritually dangerous. His unrelenting persecution had already resulted in the murder of one Christian and the imprisonment of many others.

Armed with new authority from the religious leaders of his day, he traveled from city to city to broaden his attack against the followers of Christ.

This was the background of the man who now offered to help the people he had so recently persecuted. Little wonder that all the Church leaders had fled from him. All, except for one man.

This leader was a man of Godly reputation. He had been a wealthy landowner on the island of Cyprus, who after believing had totally dedicated himself and all his possessions to the Lord. That complete dedication included selling his land and giving the money to the Apostles to sustain needy Christians. In return God gave him a greater faith which increased his ability to discern the motives of others.

The leader cautiously listened as the man who had so oppressed the believers told how God had struck him and his companions to the ground with a brilliant light. The man also revealed that he had heard the voice of Christ from heaven asking why he was persecuting Him. This experience, claimed the man, had brought him to repentance. He himself was now a follower of Christ.

As the respected leader listened, he perceived a spirit like his own, the spirit of one totally dedicated to the Lord. With confidence he brought the man to the Apostles and introduced him as a new brother in Christ.

Because God had provided Barnabas with special wisdom and insight, he was able to open the door of fellowship to a new convert. He later helped open the Mediterranean world to the Gospel during missionary journeys with this same man—the Apostle Paul.

When Barnabas kindly received Paul as a brother in the Lord, he demonstrated his confidence in the Lord to protect him from a possible trap. This spiritual discernment was a God-given resource that would continue to benefit him and Paul throughout their missionary journeys.

From Acts 4:36-37; 9:26-31



