

Family Information

Sermon Series Title

Calling All Sinners

Sermon Passage

Mark 2:13-17

Thoughts to Consider

- 1) Who do you know who needs to follow Jesus?
- 2) What prompted you to take Jesus as your Savior?
- 3) How judgmental do you think Christians should be?

February Challenge: Communicate with 1 person this week that you didn't connect with last month.

VBS

VBS week is Monday June 22- Thursday June 25th. The next VBS meeting is Sunday March 15th after church services. Any questions, see Josh Evans.

He Is With Thee

He is with thee, with thee always,
All the nights and all the days;
Never failing, never frowning,
With His loving-kindness crowning,
Tuning all thy life to praise.

He is with thee, thine own master,
Leading, loving to the end;
Brightening joy and lightening sorrow,
All today, yet more tomorrow,
King and Savior, Lord and friend.

- Frances R. Havergal
(1836-1879)

Services

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am
Sunday Ghana Bible Study 9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
Sunday Ghana Worship Service 10:30 am
Sunday Spanish Worship 3:00 pm
Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm

Minister: Caleb Dillinger
Elders: Roy Estep, Mike Evans, Jeff McVicker, Jim Robbins
Deacons: Lynn Champney, Perry Coate, Glenn Culler, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, John Lindsay, Don Milnor, Art Silva
Spanish Ministry: Elmer Renderos

Calendar

February

5 Singing At willow Brook Home 10:30am
7 Teen Game Night 6:30-9:00
9 Single Sisters Lunch
9 Services At Willow Brook
14-16 Winterfest

Contribution Statements

Contribution statements for 2019 are available in the church office. See Pam Estep or Glenn Culler to pick up your statement.

For The Month of February

Invitation/ Responses: Jim Evans

Foyer Duty: Joshua Evans

Greeters: Jeff and Robbie McVicker

Announcements: Mike Evans

Communion Servers

Jack Evans	Josh Evans
Michael Evans	Mike Evans
John Lindsay	Frank Rynearson
Paul Silva	Yaw Tiekou

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$5015	\$4977
Designated:	\$100	\$175



**4581 Cleveland Ave.
Columbus, Ohio 43231
(614) 410-5860**

Website
ncocfamily.org

February 2, 2020
Volume 29, Number 5

Our Hope Is In God

(Learning From "Lazarus Species")

Do any of the worthless idols of the nations bring rain? Do the skies themselves send down showers? No, it is you, Lord our God. Therefore our hope is in you, for you are the one who does all this. - Jeremiah 14:22

The Lord alone is God, and he gives us life and breath and everything we need and everything we have. Our hope is in God, who sustains us every step; our hope is in Jesus, who gives us an enduring hope in eternal things. This world gives us false hope, while God's words give us a lasting hope in spiritual things that will never fade or disappear - *When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, Lord God Almighty. - Jeremiah 15:16*

When an animal or a plant is declared extinct, and is then rediscovered, biologists call it a "Lazarus species". This doesn't happen often, yet when it does it brings hope for other living things that are presumed to have disappeared forever. Likewise, sometimes we may lose hope because God doesn't seem to hear us or because we cannot see him at work in our lives. Yet our Heavenly Father is always with us, and he works in ways that we can see with the eyes of our hearts.

The best-known example of a Lazarus species is the coelacanth, a fish that was considered a fossil, a species that had died off long ago. Then, in the 1930's museum curator Marjorie Latimer thought she saw one as she looked at some fish a friend had caught. She notified some biologists, whose analysis showed that indeed coelacanths were alive. They looked for more of them, and they found that coelacanths prefer living in underwater caves and crevices, making them harder to notice.

As they learned about the coelacanth, they began finding them in other places as well. Likewise, as we learn about God's nature, he will show us the unseen ways he cares for us and gives us grace and help even when we don't even realize it. As we understand what matters to God, we will see the many ways he nourishes us with spiritual food and with the living water that gives life - *Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. - Jeremiah 17:7-8*

Like the coelacanth, the Metasequoia was long considered to be a fossil, a large tree that went extinct in a distant time. Then in the 1940's, a group of observant Chinese botanists realized that they were alive, overlooked because they grew nearby similar, better-known trees. The Metasequoia is now called the dawn redwood, and they are now grown in several countries.

Similarly, God's acts of kindness and his acts of grace have always been there for us, waiting patiently like redwoods, ready to give us hope when we seek God humbly and open our hearts to him. God and his compassion will endure forever.

- Mark Garner

Studying Scriptures With . . .

From time to time, we're talking with some of our brothers and sisters about the scriptures they've been reading. Today, we are talking with **Renée Jackson**.

Q: Hi Renée, what scriptures have you been reading?

Renée: I've been studying 1 John, and I'm in the middle of chapter 2 now. 1 John helps us understand that since we're in the Lord, we can and should walk with him; and when we love God, we can and should love one another, as it says, *If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin (1 John 1:7)*. Fellowship means a lot more than having meals together; it means sharing in one another's struggles and to have spiritual 'meals' together, to help one another believe in God and what he says. And, *God is light; in him there is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5)*

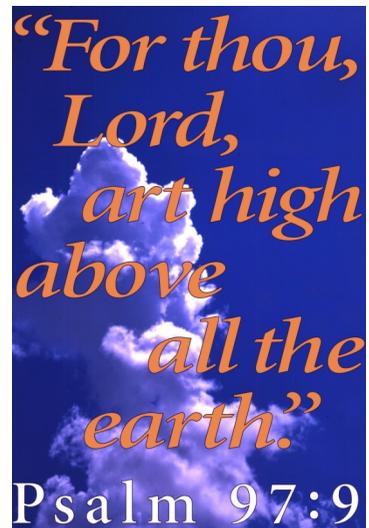
Q: Very good thoughts. How has it helped you to think about "God is light"?

Renée: By nature light shines, it exposes everything and helps us see everything. God's light helps us see his perfection and his holiness. It also helps us realize that God knows everything about us and he sees our needs better than we do, and this also helps us learn patience. Chapter 2 is kind of a 'wake-up call', *We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands (1 John 2:3)*. This also encourages us to seek forgiveness from God, since there are many distractions in the world.

Q: Very true. How has this helped you in your walk with God?

Renée: It is also a good reminder to read God's words every day, so that we remember that this world is not our home. *Everything in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever (1 John 2:16-17)*. In this world, there will always be good things and bad things, yet we can't begin to imagine what heaven will be like. It is quite a motivation to realize that in heaven there will be no more fears or sorrows, and we'll be able to praise God all the time.

Thank you, Renée!



We Would See Jesus

We would see Jesus; earth is grand,
Flowing out from her Creator's hand.
Like one who tracks his steps with light,
His footsteps ever greet our sight;
The earth below, the sky above,
Are full of tokens of his love;
But 'mid the fairest scenes we've sighed –
Our hearts are still unsatisfied.

We would see Jesus; we have heard
Tidings our inmost souls have stirred,
How, from their chambers full of night,
The darkened eyes receive the light;
How, at the music of his voice,
The lame do leap, the dumb rejoice.
Anxious we'll wait until we've seen
The good and gracious Nazarene.

- Frances Ellen Watkins Harper (1824-1911)

I Can Trust

When darkest clouds my sky o'er hang,
And sadness seems to fill the land,
I calmly trust His promise sweet,
And cling to his ne'er failing hand,
And, in life's darkest hour, I'll just
Look up and trust.

I know my life with Him is safe,
And all things still must work for good
To those who love and serve our God,
And lean on Him as children should,
Though hopes decay and turn to dust,
I still will trust.

- Daniel Webster Davis (1862-1913)