

Friends,

This is a part of a sermon I planned to preach on June 27th, but changed to be used another time:

The Cross Represents Redemption. This is a picture of the market place. We have been ransomed and bought by the cross! We were once slaves to Satan and now through the blood of Jesus we have been freed from the power of sin and death. We are no longer slaves to the Evil One.

What is critically important is that we do not fall into the trap of our society who, in many cases, has “forgotten” to be thankful for anything. The reason that Memorial Day and Veteran Day celebrations are poorly attended is that many have forgotten the sacrifices that were made for them. The reason Church services are so poorly attended is some have forgotten what it cost God to establish Her.

God set us free at a terrific cost. The initial cost to Jesus was the incarnation. He gave up every benefit and privilege of heaven to come to earth and take on the form of a man and the nature of a servant and die for us!

In a day when everyone feels entitled and needs to be first and feel important, Mark’s words need to be heard: [Mark 10:45 \(ESV\)](#) 45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

In the OT, an example of this redemption was when God’s people were delivered from slavery in Egypt, exile in Babylonia, or debt and serious social situations at the cost of the blood of bulls and goats. In the NT, it is Christ who redeems us from sin, moral bondage and judgment by His blood. [I Peter 1:18-19 \(ESV\)](#) 18 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. This redemption will be fully realized when Jesus comes for His Bride, the Church. Until then, we have been given the Holy Spirit as a guarantee of that coming Day!

God owns those He has purchased. The fact that God has purchased us with his blood shows how much he values us. In his purchase He claims all rights over that which He has bought. [I Corinthians 6:19-20 \(ESV\)](#) 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

I appreciate what John Stott (p. 181) says in his book, *Cross of Christ*, at this point: “Our body has not only been created by God and will one day be resurrected by him, but it has been bought by Christ’s blood and is indwelt by his Spirit. Thus it belongs to God three times over, by creation, redemption and (His) indwelling.” Since God loves us so much that he gave His only Son for our redemption, let’s do our best to sacrifice our lives for His glory whenever and wherever we can.

Your brother in Christ,

Gary

Stewardship Statistics						Total Money And Average Attendance
	5/30/21	6/6/21	6/13/21	6/20/21		
Attendance for in-person services.	52	71	45	49		54
General Fund	\$1350.00	\$3998.00	\$1578.00	\$1500.00		\$8426.00
Weekly Budget	\$2464.71	\$2464.71	\$2464.71	\$2464.71		\$9858.84
+ or— Budget	(\$1114.71)	\$1533.29	(\$886.71)	(\$964.71)		(\$1432.84)
Designated Giving						
Birthday Money		\$805.00				\$805.00
Gala	\$30.00	\$90.00	\$60.00			\$180.00
Total Giving's	\$1380.00	\$4893.00	\$1638.00	\$1500.00		\$9411.00

Prayer List

The WORLD for racial reconciliation
 Government Leaders
 All Missionaries
 Scott Fouts (home, doing better)
 Dave Warner
 Kevin & Melissa Comstock (prayers)
 Godrick (5 yr. old with brain cancer/ still at Shriner's hospital)
 Larry Biscarner (Nancy Snyder's brother has prostate cancer)
 Duane Miller (doing better)
 Duane Rupe (stroke/prostate)
 Janet Riesenbeck (general health)
 Kim Huffman (prostate cancer treatments)
 Paula Thomas (surgery recovery)
 Skylar (good reports on health)
 Kevin Roe (another wound healing)
 Doris Rothenbuhler (cancer treatments)
 Becky Repasz (sciatic nerve pain)
 Shelly Sharp (friend of Peggy's/cancer)
 John DuBois (home healing)
 John Hice (still awaiting surgery)
 Russ Harshberger (health)
 Norm Romaker (heart surgery)
 John Gunder, Juanita Spaulding's father, (not doing well after stroke and vaccine)
 Betty Fortney (skilled nursing care)
 Tina Saylor (recovery from neck surgery)

Prayer list continued

Karen Apple (more tests)
 Family of Marcelle Hahn
 Dick Phillips (He is home now, but still recovering from COVID and new MRSA diagnosis)
 Julie Chesney (doing better, back to work, but will start chemo soon)
 Guido Ferrari (heart bypass surgery done, but not doing well)
 Family of Leonard (Pop), father of Mike Nuhfer, friend of Russ
 Family of Charlotte Travis

In God's Hands

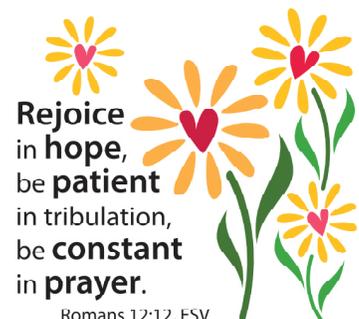
In Keep a Quiet Heart, Christian missionary Elisabeth Elliot ponders the faith implications of fretting about days to come. "Today is mine; tomorrow is none of my business," she writes. "If I peer anxiously into the fog of the future, I will strain my spiritual eyes so that I will not see clearly what is required of me now."
 And what's the alternative? Instead of dwelling on times to come, which we can't change anyway, Elliot recommends; "Leave it all in the hands that were wounded for you."

Remember our Shut-ins

Joanne Lehman - Wood Haven, Rm 106
 May Ann Hillier - B.G. Manor
 Tom Hillier - B.G. Manor

Those in Service

Krause's-Australia/Philippines
 Lt. Col. Elijah Ward – Fort Sill, OK.
 Ron Burkhardt - Stateside
 Jon Walker - 180th TFW Active duty
 Michelle Metzger - Army Nat'l Guard
 Daryl Trail - U.S. Navy
 Austin Varela - Marines/Stateside
 Luke Millican - USAF
 Gavin Varela - Marines/Hawaii
 Walker Polsinelli - Pakistan
 Gunnar Bontjes - Army National Guard/
 being deployed for a year



**B O A R D
MEETING**

Tuesday, July 6 @ 7:30pm

Small Group Bible Study
Wednesdays at 7:00pm
We'll continue studying of Hebrews.

- VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**
- Greeter**
 - Fellowship Break**
 - Pre-School**
 - Junior Church**
 - Food Pantry**
 - Facebook**
 - Sound**

FAMILY FUN NIGHTS

GAMES - FOOD - FELLOWSHIP

Bring finger food to share.

Games are provided, but feel free to bring your own.




<u>July Sermons</u>		
July 4	Reactions to the Promises of God	Romans 4:16-25
July 11	Jesus Offers Hope	Isaiah 40:28-31; Romans 5:1-5
July 18	Reconciliation: A Result of God's Power	Romans 5:1-11
July 25	Jesus: An Intentional Life	Romans 5:12-21

Sunday, July 4
Mission Moment with John McKenzie
Pacific Rim Ministries (Darryl and Carol Krause)

Following is an excerpt from an email Darryl sent on June 19, 2021:

Our world continues to slowly work to end the impact of the Covid pandemic. In some countries it is fast as far as vaccinations go, but for most of the world the process is very slow and life seems to go in and out of lockdowns and other related issues. As Christians we believe that God is in control and eventually these very difficult days will get better.

We hope that as the year goes on, we may have better days and better times as this pandemic is wiped out. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement and financial support. It means a lot to Carol and me and we trust that God will continue to bless us all as we look forward to His Spirit to guide and direct our paths in the months to come.

Food Pantry Update:

The Weston Church of Christ Community Food Pantry is planning to open to the public on September 4th at 10:00am – 12:00noon. We intend to be open, every 1st and 3rd Saturday, starting in September. Game Night is done on the 2nd and 4th Fridays from 6:30-9:00pm. Our Pantry is to serve Wood County residents only. We have over 15 people who are already on board to volunteer with this ministry. And we can still use you if God so leads you. Not all work will be done on the Saturdays the Food Pantry is open. There is a job description sheet available that can inform you of the many areas open to you if you want to join us.

At the Church on July 11th, at noon, bring some food to share of your liking (drinks furnished), and we will be going through the job descriptions further and handing out assignments. We will talk through what we plan to do and how. Then on August 28th at 10:00am we will do a run-through as if we had people arriving to get food.

We already have shelving units to receive your donations of dry goods and canned goods starting in August. August we will begin using our in-house donations of food here, rather than taking them to the Otsego Food Pantry. Also starting in August, we will be receiving food from Bowling Green Christian Food Pantry and entering into an informal partnership with them.

We hope this ministry will serve a real need and promote Jesus in our cultural surroundings. Please be praying.

Gary Wackler, Minister





PROVERBS 15:1, NIV

As it does this year, July 4 fell on Sunday in 1937. While Pastor Eldred Johnston led worship that morning in Paulding, Ohio, local kids set off firecrackers nearby (restrictions were rare back then). Realizing he needed to act, the pastor slipped outside during a hymn and found the revelers.

But instead of scolding or shouting, Johnston stayed calm. "I used to enjoy shooting fireworks too," he said, adding that he knew it was a fun way to celebrate. "But many in this town are gathered in worship, and the noise is very distracting. All I'm asking is that you wait until church services are over — about noon — and then shoot firecrackers all you want." The pastor smiled at each youth and returned to church.

Recounting that experience in *Liberty* magazine, Johnston said he half-expected to hear defiant explosions. Instead, the kids waited respectfully until worship was over. When conflicts loom, may we heed that example — and this advice from Proverbs: "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger" (15:1, NIV).

The Newsletter Newsletter®

Living Out Scripture

When Texas suffered an uncharacteristic winter storm in February, one couple's act of kindness toward a stranger demonstrated the power of living by the Golden Rule.

Chelsea Timmons, a grocery store delivery driver, got stuck in the ice-covered driveway of customers Doug Condon and Nina Richardson. Because towing companies were inundated, the couple invited her to stay with them — which she ended up doing for five nights! The three shared meals and conversation, and Chelsea baked them a cake and befriended their dogs. In short, Nina and Doug say, she became "part of the family."

"Do to others what you would have them do to you," says Jesus (Matthew 7:12, NIV). Doug echoes Jesus closely when he explains one reason behind their actions: "We have daughters, and we hope if they were ever in a situation like this that there would be someone who would open their house and help them."

Perhaps Doug and Nina also experienced the delight of another Bible verse: "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares" (Hebrews 13:2, ESV).

—Heidi Hyland Mann



Saved from Sinking

For Michael Phelps, the most decorated Olympian of all time, fame and gold medals weren't enough to shore up a drowning self-esteem. The U.S. swimmer, who faced legal trouble and ended up in rehab, contemplated suicide during the prime of his sports career. "I thought the world would just be better off without me," Phelps told ESPN.

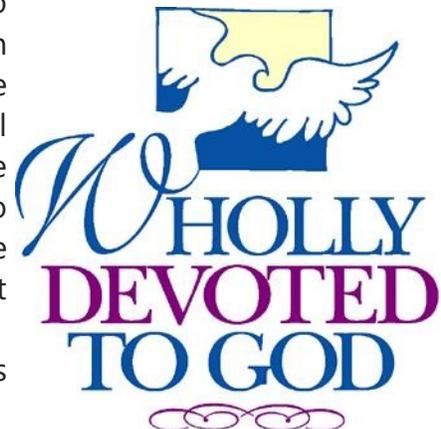
Then a friend, NFL star Ray Lewis, sent Phelps a copy of Rick Warren's bestseller *The Purpose Driven Life*. The book made such an impact on Phelps that he read excerpts aloud to fellow rehab-clinic patients, who dubbed him Preacher Mike. "It's turned me into believing there is a power greater than myself, and there is a purpose for me on this planet," Phelps says. "It helped me when I was in a place where I needed the most help." The swimmer's message to Lewis? By extending a hand and sharing the gospel's message of hope, "You saved my life."

The Newsletter®

Completely Devoted

Beware of anything that competes with your loyalty to Jesus Christ. The greatest competitor of true devotion to Jesus is the service we do for Him. It is easier to serve than to pour out our lives completely for Him. The goal of the call of God is his satisfaction, not simply that we should do something *for* Him. We are not sent to do battle for God, but to be used by God in His battles. Are we more devoted to service than we are to Jesus Christ himself?

—Oswald Chambers



A SWEET TREAT



Make this refreshing treat on a hot summer day.

What you need:

- Baking sheet
- Parchment paper
- 1 cup plain Greek yogurt
- 2 Tbsp. honey
- ¼ cup granola or cereal

What you do:

1. On a baking sheet covered with parchment paper, spread yogurt in a thin layer, about ½-inch thick.
2. Drizzle honey evenly over yogurt. Sprinkle granola (or cereal) on top.
3. Freeze about 30 minutes, or until firm.
4. Crack frozen yogurt into pieces and peel away paper. Enjoy!

PUZZLE



As sweet as honey

Honey is both a sweetener and a medicine. How can our words be used in the same ways?

Directions: Use the hexagon key to fill in the missing vowels and complete Proverbs 16:24, NIV.

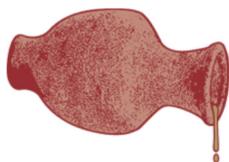


Grocooos words
oro o honooocomb,
 swoot to tho sooo
ond hooolong 
 to tho bonos.

 PROVERBS 16:24, NIV

Answer: Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones. Proverbs 16:24, NIV

Christian Symbol

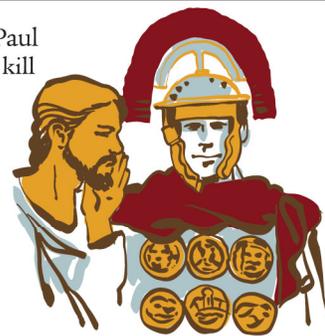


OIL—In the Old Testament, oil symbolized consecration to God. The temple altar and king's heads were anointed with oil to set them apart as holy. In the New Testament, oil often represented the Holy Spirit. Jesus and his followers were anointed for their ministries (see Luke 4:18 and Acts 10:38).

Bible Quiz

?? ? ? ?

An unnamed relative of Paul obstructed a conspiracy to kill the apostle. What was this rescuer's relation to Paul?



- A. nephew
- B. niece
- C. brother
- D. sister

Answer: A (See Acts 23:12-22, esp. v. 16.)



4 Gary L. Wackler	20 Patsy Harshberger
7 Jane Spoerl	21 Robert Walker III
8 Samantha Walker	25 Sherry Murphy
12 Taylor Tolles	25 Amber Saylor
15 Bud Brown	29 Abigail Murphy
16 Amy Murphy	31 Jan Zulch

11 Tim & Julia McKenzie
16 16 Bud & Kay Roe
17 Duane & Sandy Miller
20 Gene & Sue Mazey
20 Russ & Patsy Harshberger

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

*A prominent pastor announced he was giving up sports.
Want to know why?*

1. Every time I went, they asked me for money.
2. The people with whom I had to sit didn't seem very friendly.
3. The seats were too hard and not all comfortable.
4. I went to many games, but the coach never came to call on me.
5. The referee made a decision I could not agree with.
6. I suspected I was sitting with some hypocrites - they came to see what their friends were wearing rather than to see the game.
7. Some games went into overtime and I was getting home too late.
8. The band played some numbers I never heard before.
9. It seems that the games are all scheduled at times when I have something else to do.
10. I was taken to too many games by my parents when I was growing up.
11. I recently read a book on sports and now I know more than the coaches.

I've heard many church members use these reasons for quitting church. Guess it would be all right if I would use them to quit sports...How silly they sound to the secular world but an accepted list of excuses for one to use to quit church...Have you ever used one of these?

First Church Marion, FOCUS

JULY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
				7:00 Let It Rise Band Practice		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:30am Worship Fellowship Break Feed His Sheep 11:00am Adult S.S. Mission Moment Pacific Rim Ministries with John McKenzie		board meeting Board Meeting 7:30pm	7:00pm AA Group 7:00pm Small Group at the church.	7:00 Let It Rise Band Practice	 Family Fun Night Games-Food-Fun 6:30 - 9:00pm	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:30am Worship 11:00am Adult S.S. Food Pantry Meeting 12:00pm (Bring food to share)		Elders Meeting 6:00pm	7:00pm AA Group 7:00pm Small Group at the church	7:00pm Let It Rise Band Practice		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:30am Worship 11:00am Adult S.S.		August Newsletter articles due	7:00pm AA Group 7:00pm Small Group at the church	7:00pm Let It Rise Band Practice	 Family Fun Night Games-Food-Fun 6:30 - 9:00pm	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
9:30am Worship 11:00am Adult S.S.			7:00pm AA Group 7:00pm Small Group at the church	7:00pm Let It Rise Band Practice		



Happy Birthday Gary



Weston Church of Christ
PO Box 344
13355 Center Street
Weston, Ohio 43569



August newsletter articles due July 20

Sunday Worship Times

9:30am Worship Service
11:00am Sunday School



Weston Witness

Minister: Gary L. Wackler, 336-280-5311
Elders: Ed Tolles, 419-409-1622;
John McKenzie, 419-806-5775
Bob Walker, 419-262-8006
Email us at: church@westonchurchofchrist.org
Website: westonchurchofchrist.org
Check us out on Facebook

July 2021
Pat Higley, Editor
Church: 419-669-3895

**The purpose of the Weston Church of Christ is to glorify God by reaching the lost,
strengthening the saved and serving as one body for Jesus Christ our Lord.**