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# The Community Beacon

www.Clarkvillechurchofchrist.org

Clarksville Church of Christ  
407 W. Lewis & Clark Pkwy.  
Clarksville, IN 47129

Volume 4 Issue 1

Clarksville Church of Christ

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## Looking At The Cross

If you visit with us, we want you to feel welcome and we want you to feel like our honored guest! We also want you to know that all we're interested in here at the Clarksville Church of Christ is the Truth. Jesus said, "*You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*" **John 8:32.** The truth He's talking about is God's word. Jesus said, "*Sanctify them by thy truth, Thy word is truth.*" **John 17:17.** Therefore we hope you'll appreciate that we'll give you book, chapter and verse from the Bible, the word of God, for everything that we say or do here, so that everything that we do may bring glory unto God,  
**I Pet. 4:11.**

The way Christians look at the cross of Jesus is vastly different from the way the ungodly look at it. Paul sums it all up in these words, "It pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For the Jews request a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness" (1 Cor. 1:21-23). This is so far removed from the way saints see the cross.

**Pagans look at the cross.** Every god of every pagan was powerful—more powerful than any man. The very concept of deity being killed by mortals was beyond comprehension. As the early church brought the message of the cross to the entire world, it was foolishness.

**Jews look at the cross.** They were expecting the coming of the Messiah. Those who understood could see that God had promised to someday send a prophet, priest and king to live among them. With their view of the Messiah, the cross became a stumbling block. One does not have to submit to a king who is so helpless or listen to a mortal who claims to be a prophet. Jesus may have said, "You have heard that it was said, but I say to you....," but who cares what Jesus said, for he is just a man claiming to be someone great. One cannot put their trust in a priest like Jesus to save them. What was said at the cross sums it up: "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God" (Luke 23:35).

**Christians look at the cross.** Read the rest of the words of Paul to the Corinthians. "We preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God." It is truly amazing how differently a pagan, a Jew and a Christian would hear the same sermon. What is the right view? Look at the cross through the eyes of God.

Built within God's eternal plan is a weekly communion with Jesus at His table. As you remember Him every week, make sure you truly see who He is. Remember His body and His blood. As you remember Him every week, look at yourself—let a man examine himself. As you remember Him every week, see the future—proclaim His death until He comes.

God has no other message for mankind. The Jews asked for a sign and the only sign given was the cross. The Greeks sought wisdom, but the only wisdom God had for them was Christ crucified. We must never forget the cross and what happened there. A failure to look at the cross, to remember what happened for us, will result in us being "barren and unfruitful and blind" (2 Pet. 1:8-9). See the cross like God sees it!

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### Sundays

Bible Study..... 9:30 AM  
Worship.....10:30 AM  
Worship.....6:00 PM

### Wednesdays

Bible Study.....7:30 PM

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### Goals For 2020

#### A Church with 20/20 Vision

Paul in Romans 1:20 stated "For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse." The Elders have given us this theme this year to remind us that we must see things clearly, and that we must see things as they truly are. Each month we're looking at a specific spiritual item and looking to the word of God to see the truth regarding it more clearly. Paul again stated in II Cor. 4:4 "In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." We don't wish to be blind, we want to clearly see. Come and be with us and let us see clearly together the truths of God's word.

#### Attendance

We have attendance goals that we're attempting to achieve for every service. We're encouraging our members to be consistent with their attendance and we want you to come visit with us. A growing church is a strong vibrant church, and we wish to grow and bring forth much fruit for the Lord.

#### Giving:

The work of the Lord's church is completely funded by the freewill offerings of its members. We have set goals for ourselves so that the efforts we wish to make in 2020 can be funded financially. If you visit with us, you will NOT be asked for any financial contribution.

#### Invitations: 130

We have set a goal to extend 130 invitations a month to the community to visit with us during our worship services or bible studies. Please consider this an invitation to come to any or all of our services!

#### Bible Classes For All Ages

We can provide bible classes for all age groups. Bring the entire family and study the word of God.

#### Every Member Committed to daily Prayer, Bible Reading and Personal Study

Every Body is only as strong as its individual parts. Each member is being asked to dedicate time each day in prayer, reading the bible, and choosing a specific bible book, character or subject to learn more in 2020.

-Like us on Facebook. View us on YouTube at [Clarkvillechurch](https://www.youtube.com/Clarkvillechurch)

-Visit us on the web at [www.clarkvillechurchofChrist.org](http://www.clarkvillechurchofChrist.org)

## A Look At The Church

It is always helpful to have an example or pattern to follow when making something. Thankfully, God did not leave us up to our own devices and wisdom when creating the church. The New Testament is full of examples and commands for us to follow. We “serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things” (Heb. 8:5). We have a pattern in those that have lived faithfully before us (1 Tim. 1:16). If Christ intends to present to Himself a glorious church, then the question should be asked, “What makes it glorious?” “That He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless” (Eph. 5:26-27). The “Jerusalem church” was a glorious church and worthy of our consideration. We all share the same goal: That is, to be the church that God wants us to be!

There are several attributes of the Jerusalem church that should be named among us. The church was a learning church. “They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching” (Acts 2:42). It was a church that fellowshiped (Acts 2:42). It was a church that continued in prayer (Acts 2:42). They were in a sense of awe over how God was working among them (Acts 2:43). It was an active church (Acts 2:43). It was a sharing church (Acts 2:44-45). It was a unified church (Acts 2:46). It was a worshiping church (Acts 2:46). It was a happy church (Acts 2:46). It was a church admired by all (Acts 2:47). It was a growing church (Acts 2:47). It was a church comprised of only Christians. “They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved” (Acts 2:42-47).

With this and other examples in place, it is clear what is expected of us. If we are to be the church that glorifies God and the One who purchased it, then we should be doing our best to adhere to that pattern. God in Christ has done everything to make His church glorious. We need to do our part in keeping the church as He intended.

## A Look At God

An absolute truth is an anchor, something that never changes despite the circumstances. God has made our world with millions of constants on which we depend, principles that science later established as laws. The Psalms talk about the Sun always passes in its orbit, and the stars, that man has depended on for thousands of years for travel, have never changed (Psa. 19:4). It would be horrible to imagine living in a world where every day the rules changed. One day there was gravity and the next there was not. One day a boat would float and the next it wouldn’t. One minute a plane could fly, the next it couldn’t. We would live in terror and confusion. We overlook a blessing of God that everyone shares. God does not change. His world He made does not change. God makes a statement concerning His immutability: “I, the Lord, do not change” (Mal. 3:6). The next verse He says, “From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My statutes and have not kept them” (Mal. 3:7). God says that we are the ones that change. I am thankful that “God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?” (Num. 23:19).

We can take comfort in the constant nature of God. We can trust that He will always be just. “Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you, and therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; how blessed are all those who long for Him” (Isa. 30:18). “For the LORD loves justice and does not forsake His godly ones; They are preserved forever, but the descendants of the wicked will be cut off” (Psa. 37:28).

We can trust in His faithfulness. “If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself” (2 Tim. 2:13). “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful” (Heb. 10:23).

We can trust in His Holiness. “For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, ‘I dwell on a high and holy place, and also with the contrite and lowly of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite’” (Isa. 57:15). “You shall be holy, for I Am holy” (1 Pet. 1:16).

It is possible for this list to continue. The heart can take comfort in our God that doesn’t change. He works with His creation with impartiality (1 Pet. 1:17)—an overlooked blessing in the lives of His saints and in sinners. All of creation receives this blessing from God. He is an anchor, an absolute in the world of men that wish to change, corrupt, and redefine all that God has set in motion.