

**Clarksville Church of Christ**  
 407 W Lewis & Clark Pkwy  
 Clarksville, IN 47129-1649  
 (812) 944-2305  
[www.clarksvillechurchofchrist.org](http://www.clarksvillechurchofchrist.org)

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

**Wednesdays**  
 Bible Study..... 7:30 PM

**Elders**  
 Allen L. Morris..... 812-967-4536  
 Stephen W. Nale..... 812-948-9917

**Deacons**  
 Jeffrey B. Hunt..... 502-931-5766  
 Elbert Metcalf..... 812-246-5938  
 Rondal O. Thompson Jr.... 812-944-8295

**Editor**  
 Stephen W. Nale..... 502-727-7559

**Beginning Our 66th Year Dec. 3, 2023**

Goals For 2023  
Theme  
 "Courageous Christians in 2023!"  
Attendance: Sunday Bible Study: 40:  
Sunday AM: 50  
Sunday PM: 40: Wednesday Bible Study: 30

Giving: Meet Our Yearly Budget

Invitations: 130

Every Member Committed To Daily Bible Reading

Every Member Committed To Daily Prayer

Every Member Committed To Be At Every Service

Support the Work in Vincennes, Indiana  
Hold A Men's Training Class

Hold One Gospel Meeting

-Like us on Facebook-View us on YouTube at Clarksvillechurch

**Gary Henry**  
 will be preaching today.

**We are on week # 1 of our daily Bible reading.**

**Prayer List**  
 Sharon Nale, Polly Ward, Macon Ward, Debby Spears (Roseanna's sis) Sharon Thompson, Kay Thompson Beth McFarland, Pam Caudill Brooke Thomas, Cathie Hall Debbie Lewellen, Ronnie Kahl John Kelly (Rob's brother), Pam Coffey (Elbert's sister), Peter Hunt, Capps family

**THIS MONTH: Importance & Establishing**  
**Matt. 28:18, Heb. 1:1,2**

**Who Have You Invited To Services This week?**

**Lord's Supper Reading**  
**Romans 3:21-26**

**Scripture Reading**  
 AM: Luke 5:29-32  
 PM: Rev. 22:4,5

**Encouragement Tally**  
 Invites this month  
 Invites last month: 8  
 Visitors YTD:

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Our Theme for 2024...  
**"Respecting Bible Authority"**  
 Matt. 28:18  
 Clarksville Church of Christ  
 407 W. Lewis & Clark Pkwy.  
 Clarksville, IN 47129  
**First Service December 7, 1958**

**Volume 36 Number 1**

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**Clarksville Beacon**

[www.Clarksvillechurchofchrist.org](http://www.Clarksvillechurchofchrist.org)

**Clarksville Church of Christ**



**January 7, 2024**

**Repentance**

**Welcome!**  
 If you're visiting with us today, 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 today, so that everything that we do may bring glory unto God, 1 Pet. 4:11.

**VISITORS**  
 Please fill out a visitor's card or scan the QR code below and provide the information requested.



**Text: Luke 5:32**

**Introduction**

Repentance is certainly a part of "obeying the gospel," but it's also a part of "walking in

**OUR LIFELONG NEED FOR FORGIVENESS**

Living within God's grace, with daily access to His forgiveness, the Lord's people will continue to commit sin from time to time. To say otherwise would be to deny the obvious truth - **1 Jn. 1:8-10.**

**LEARNING TO HAVE A PENITENT DISPOSITION**

As we grow in spiritual maturity, we come to have a humble disposition and a penitent attitude: the "broken and contrite heart" spoken of by David in **Psa. 51:17.** Repentance can be seen not merely as a *moment* but also a *mindset.*

Rather than being *reluctant*, we are *eager* to repent anytime we wander off the path marked out by our Father.

Knowing our hearts as He does, God knows whether our repentance is sincere. Cf. **Ac. 8:22.**

**THE COURAGE TO MAKE CORRECTIONS**

Our spiritual journey is like any other great expedition: it requires a good many *mid-course corrections.*

A friend of mine was right when he said that life in Christ is "one long session in the school of repentance."

**Conclusion**

Repentance, then, is an **ongoing process**, a transformation of our hearts - **2 Cor. 4:16.** Our lives in Christ are not a mere dalliance with morality but a serious commitment to continual improvement.

*Gary Henry*

## LIVING ETERNALLY IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

### Introduction

Text: [Rev. 22:4,5](#).

Heaven is beyond our greatest dreams. God is there in all His glory — *we shall see His face*.

### LONGING FOR A PERFECT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Right now, our character leaves much to be desired — our greatest need is for spiritual growth! Cf. [Eph. 4:15](#).

“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, *are being transformed* into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord” ([2 Cor. 3:18](#)).

“Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us *a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory*” ([2 Cor. 4:16,17](#)).

We ought not to be satisfied with the relationship with God we have right now! Cf. [2 Cor. 5:1,2](#); [Phil. 1:21-23](#).

We should long for the *perfect relationship with God* we'll enjoy in heaven — that's why we want to go there.

### VICTORY OVER SIN AND DEATH

Having separated ourselves from our Creator, *we stand amazed at the very thought of reconciliation*: those who accept His salvation obediently and faithfully will enjoy the full, direct presence of God in eternity.

“And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him” ([Hb. 5:9](#)).

Restoration of man's perfect relationship with God is the highest hope to which a human heart can aspire.

“I shall not live ‘till I see God; and when I have seen Him, I shall never die” (John Donne).

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me *the crown of righteousness*, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing” ([2 Tim. 4:7,8](#)).

In Christ, we can “fight the good fight” with *courage* and *confidence*. Cf. [Jn. 10:28,29](#); [Rom. 13:11](#).

In the end, Satan will have been crushed, and the “crown of life” ([Rev. 2:10](#)) will be ours, finally and forevermore.

“Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

And thus we shall always be with the Lord” ([1 Thess. 4:17](#)). Cf. [Jn. 14:1-3](#); [1 Jn. 3:2](#).

### Conclusion

In Christ, we must do our daily work, but we must work with *a longing for heaven* in our hearts - [1 Pt. 1:3-9](#).

“Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and *rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ*” ([1 Pt. 1:13](#)). Cf. [Tit. 2:13](#); [2 Pt. 3:12](#).

## AUTHORITY

“He who overcomes by force, hath overcome but half his foe” (John Milton).

**LIKE EVERY OTHER MEANS OF ACCOMPLISHING OUR OBJECTIVES, AUTHORITY IS A TOOL THAT HAS SOME INHERENT LIMITATIONS.** It is always sad to see a person become frustrated trying to reach a complicated goal and begin flailing away at it with nothing more than the force of his or her authority. To be sure, there are times when authority has to be exercised, but as Milton suggests in the quotation above, if we do no more than require someone to submit to our will because we have the power to do so, we have not accomplished anywhere near all that needs to be done.

To say that authority has limitations, however, is not to say that it is not good. There is no tool in the world that is capable of doing every single job all by itself. So let's not forget the tremendous value of authority. We must understand its limits (and even its dangers), but we shouldn't go to the opposite extreme of throwing it away completely. Authority happens to be a very good idea — it is necessary to the functioning of human society. So we're not thinking wisely if we think of authority as an evil thing that is always to be avoided.

Authority is subject to the law of diminishing returns. It must be used sparingly because the more it is used, the less effective it becomes. “Nothing more impairs authority than a too-frequent or indiscreet use of it. If thunder itself was to be continual, it would excite no more terror than the noise of a mill” (John Barnard).

Yet for every person who fails to *exercise* authority rightly there are probably more of us who don't *submit* to it as we should. Authority is, after all, a two-way street. Those who are our leaders in various situations would be very grateful if we decided to respect their authority in a more constructive and cooperative manner.

As anyone knows who has ever been asked to be a leader: it is a very hard thing to do. It's doubtful whether any part of life is more challenging. So when it comes our time to lead others in one of life's relationships — and authority is given to us to get the job done — let us be aware that we're being tested. The responsibility will call for the highest and best that is within us. Let us decide to pass the test.

“There is no stronger test of a man's character than power and authority” (Plutarch).

Gary Henry — [WordPoints.com](#) + [AreYouaChristian.com](#)