



Truth for Today

February 23, 2020

1500 Wellman Road | Shenandoah | 77384 | 281.367.2099

Published for the members and guests of the Woodlands church of Christ

The Gospel Cure

by Don Hooton

I grew up around prejudice. It was all around me. But I was fortunate to find close friends in high school from various ethnic groups outside of my own: Indian, Hispanic and Black. That was a blessing. I knew the gospel message of God's good gift of grace was for everyone. Yet, I could not comprehend how people would see those differences in those "everyone's" as markings to hate instead of souls to love. As I entered adulthood, even though I did not consider myself prejudiced, I found myself combating cultural patterns of prejudice I did not even think I had. I tried to remain honest. I often had to apologize to people – as well as confess to God. It was – *and still remains* – a passion of mine to be to people what God has been to me. For in my mind, that is the gospel cure for our prejudicial woes.

I am glad, as Americans, that we reflect on "Black History Month." Together as a nation, we should celebrate and appreciate the many men and women of black heritages that have accomplished much among us – and inspire us – in spite of the tidal wave of obstacles they faced. The private battles in which they were engaged - many of us will never know. The public accomplishments we should applaud without the sneer that "others have done that too – why don't they get their credit?" "Honor to whom honor" is not an exhortation to follow only when the percentages are all even; Instead, it is so that the praise would come from people who know the gospel cure.

So today I write to Christians who have accepted the "gospel cure" for their salvation. If you have been washed by the blood of Jesus, then these words are for you.

If our unwillingness to forgive can prevent God from forgiving us, **how much more** our unwillingness to love the people He created in His Own image (Genesis 1:26-27)? Are these not the very same people that Paul affirmed as a Jew came from one man and from which God made *every nation* on the earth (Acts 17:26-28)? If you spread hate – you are a sinner. But if you spread the love for every individual created by God – for being a creature made by God – then you God's royal child (James 2:8)

Further, if because of "every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment" (Matthew 12:36), **how much more** will God judge us for dishonoring the creatures He made with his own hands with bigoted words and unjust actions? Further, if we have really tried to learn what pleases the Lord, then we will 'not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them... to the light... For this reason, it says, "Awake, sleeper, Arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you"' (Ephesians 5:11-14). James adds, "With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness... My brothers and sisters, this should not be" (James 3:10-11).

So, I challenge you this week – and the rest of this month – to find joy in honoring those who most certainly deserve honor. And further, hold nothing back to expose those whose own prejudicial hearts prevent the cure the gospel brings to heal them. God died *for all people*. People as ugly as I am. People as odd as I am. And people that look different, talk different and walk different – but are still *no different* before the Lord. I will hold their hand and raise mine with theirs and call out in the name of the Lord, "Heal us – for we all are sinners." Won't you join me too?

NEWS & NOTES

UPDATED PRAYER LIST

- **Tonya Clark** had gall bladder surgery on Monday and is home doing well.
- **Harvey Goble** has 2/25 appointment with his surgeon.
- **Bill Hooton** was admitted Friday to Brightpoint at Rivershire skilled nursing center after five days in the hospital after a fall. The main number is 936-494-6600.
- **Dehbrenda Preuss**, will have Crohn's related surgery at The Methodist in the Houston Medical Center on 2/28.
- **Becky Stilts** is in KY with the children to be with family die to the death of both an aunt and a cousin last week.
- **Willie and Rita Ray's** daughter, Kimberly, has received the medicine she has desperately needed to help her dealing with her MS symptoms. The Rays thank you and praise God for the answer to prayers.
- **Stacie Bohanan's** niece's husband John remains in ICU but improved.
- **Rich Shewmake's** brother-in-law, Jim Goggan, has been diagnosed with prostate cancer and will have surgery 3/3.
- **Jon Banks** is home from the hospital but still struggling.
- **Several people** are battling seasonal ailments. Prayers for wellness is appreciated.
—See *Enews* for Ongoing Prayer List

MEETINGS, EVENTS, SINGINGS & STUDIES

- **WINTER ADULT CLASSES**
 - **ROMANS** | SUNDAY in the Auditorium

- **THE MESSIAH'S MISFITS** | SUNDAY in Classroom #5
- **INTRODUCING THE PSALMS** | WEDNESDAY in the Auditorium
- **UPCOMING SPRING ADULT CLASSES**, begins 3/1
 - **ROMANS** | SUNDAY in the Auditorium
 - **TURNING POINT** | SUNDAY in Classroom #5
 - **THEN SINGS MY SOUL - PSALMS TO SING TODAY** | WEDNESDAY
- **TUESDAY CLASS (LUKE)** | 10:30 am, class # 5.
- **OUTREACH MEETUP** | Mondays, Panera Bread, 7 pm.
- **BUILDING A GODLY HOME** | 3/1, 4 pm., auditorium
- **2:52 Kids Class [2-12]** | 3/1, 4:00 pm. classroom #9
- **TEENS STUDY [13-18]** | 3/1, 4:00 pm. class #5
- **BARNABAS GROUP** | See Leo Betancourt
- **SONG LEADER TRAINING** | 2/23*, 4:00 pm.
- **YOUNG ADULTS** | Fri., 3/20, 6:30 pm. (Potters)
- **TEEN DEVO [12-18]** | 3/21, TBD, 6:00 pm.
- **ADULT STUDY [30/40]** | 3/28, 6 p.m., C/T Chapman's.
- **SINGING** | Sat., 3/7, 5:00 p.m.
- **VBS** | FOCUS ON FAITH | Mon-Thurs., 6/22-25, registration opens March 15.
- **YOUTH LECTURES** | Sat-Sun, 8/8-9
- **MEETING** | with Ben Hall 9/13-16/2020
- **LADIES DAY** with Sarah Lyon | Sat., 10/10, 10-noon.
- **MENS DAY** with David McClister | Sat., 11/7, 10-noon.

AREA EVENTS

- **MEETING** | New Caney church of Christ | New Caney | 2/23-28
- **MEETING** | Spring Woods church of Christ | Houston | 3/13-15

DIRECTORY UPDATES

- **PHOTO DIRECTORIES** The most recent printed directory is in the foyer for members. Changes? See Brian Clark for any corrections or changes.
- **We would like all families** to update their information and ALL worship leaders to do the same. If you have any questions about the DIRECTORY application of our website, be sure to see Brian Clark.
- See *Enews* for new address for the **Barkohs**.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

- **VOLUNTEER SIGN UPS for 2020**, including Communion Prep, visitor greeting and bimonthly building lockup.
- **DO YOU EXCEL in SOCIAL MEDIA?** Don is looking for some volunteers to co-manage the INSTAGRAM and TWITTER accounts with him. If you are interested, be sure to message Don or text him.

Attendance	Last Month Avg	Last Week
Sunday Bible Class	112	104
Sunday Worship AM	180	158
Sunday Worship PM	97	93
Wednesday PM	84	76

Sunday AM Worship	2/23/2020	3/1/2020	Communion Preparation
Song Leader	Norman Davis	Dwight Haas	February — Preuss
1st prayer	Brian Clark	Hayden Clark	Visitor Hospitality
Scripture Reading	Al Suarez — 1Sam. 2:1-10	Craig Preuss — Acts 6:1-7	February — Suarez
Lord Supper Lead	Stuart Jones	Dwight Osteen	Elders
Bread	Cody Betton	Keith Arrants	Keith Arrants 936.582.1244
Fruit of Vine	Adam Bohanan	Mitch Harvey	George Chapman 281.298.1303
Offering	Chris Chapman	Michael Henss	Norman Davis 832.326.2966
Helper	Dwight Osteen	Joshua Suarez	Don Hooton 936.443.6230
Helper	John Chegin	Michael Harvey	Deacons
Preaching	Don Hooton	Don Hooton	John Beighle 806.367.3389
Usher	Clint Ford	Kaku Barkoh	Adam Bohanan 281.798.1093
Closing Prayer	Jacob Cowart	Gerald Hodges	Brian Clark 281.513.0706
Announcements	Dwight Osteen	Trent Williams	Gary LeBlanc 281.292.0262
Sunday PM Worship	2/23/2020	3/1/2020	Craig Preuss 832.477.0578
Song Leader	Jonathan Chandler	Don Hooton	Evangelists
1st prayer	Gary LeBlanc	Cody Betton	Don Hooton 936.443.6230
Scripture Reading	Stuart Jones — Jer. 10:23-24	Paul Harshman — 2 John	You can also find us here...  WOODLANDSCHURCHOFCHRIST.org  facebook.com/woodlandschurchofchrist  @woodlandscc  woodlandschurchofchrist  woodlandschurchofchrist
Lord Supper	Adam Bohanan	Trent Williams	
Preaching	Don Hooton	Singing	
Closing Prayer	Chris Latson	Mitch Harvey	
Wednesday	2/26/2020	3/4/2020	
Song Leader	Alan Stilts	Dwight Osteen	SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Worship Assemblies Sundays at 10:20 am & 5:00 pm Bible Classes for All Ages Sundays 9:30 am & Wednesdays 7:00 pm
Invitation	Hayden Clark	Norman Davis	
Closing Prayer	Norman Davis	Barrett Blankenship	
Announcements	Keith Arrants	Adam Bohanan	