



# Truth for Today

October 25, 2020

1500 Wellman Road | Shenandoah | 77384 | 281.367.2099

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

## The Media: are you consuming or being consumed? by Joe Works

In layman's terms, a consumer is generally viewed as someone who purchases a product for use. I am fearful that many people think they are the consumer instead of the product when it comes to the news.

Who is it who is purchasing something from the news media? Generally speaking it is not us. It is the companies that buy commercial time, and the people who are paying the media in other ways.

Understanding this idea helps us to see that we are indeed the product, and not the consumer. Please remember that the news organizations are businesses intent on making a profit. You, and your hits to their sites, are the product they are selling to other businesses.

The more stirred up they can keep us, and the more they keep us coming back, the more money they will make for the hits to their sites.

If you're on the right and can see the left doing this, please know the right does it also. If you're on the left and can see the right doing this, please know the left does it also.

This should serve as a warning to all of us to be careful how we are being used, consumed.

Don't allow the media to stir us up to fear and hatred, let us instead "stir one another up to love and good works".

## Moral Excellence by Jamey Hinds

Reading Romans 1:18–32 without any context of knowing that it comes from the Bible, we might think it is commentary for our day and time. And in some ways it is commentary for our day and time; except that it was actually divine commentary for the first century. This demonstrates that mankind has not changed much at all as the centuries have gone on.

When the apostle Peter addressed first century Christians, he wanted to remind them of who they were supposed to be, and the eternal reward awaiting them— *"Seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust"* (2Pet 1:3–4).

God has provided for us all a divine direction to be with Him forever. His grace provides the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6) in the face of Jesus (1:9–10, 14, 18). God's grace saves us and redeems us from all our sins (Titus 3:4–7; Eph 2:1–10; 1John 2:1–2), but we must receive him (John 1:11; 1Cor 2:12–16). Jesus said, "Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven" (Matt 10:32–33).

We love to sing "This World Is Not My Home," but do we mean it? It's the only world we know, and it's corrupt because of sin (Gen 3:17–18; Rom 8:19–22). What are we to do? *"Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever"* (1John 2:15–17).

When the apostle Peter urges us to supply in our faith moral excellence, he means that we are to live virtuous lives. Jesus said: *"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven"* (Matt 5:14–16).

We are living in a world dominated by sin—people who choose to lie, gossip and steal; people who are greedy and ungrateful, delighting in flaunting their sinfulness: *"For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things"* (Phil 3:18–19; cf. Rom 1:29–32; Gal 5:19–21; Phil 3:1; Rev 21:8; 22:14–15). *Therefore, I tell you and insist on in the Lord not to live any longer like the gentiles live, thinking worthless thoughts. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of their ignorance and hardness of heart. Since they have lost all sense of shame, they have abandoned themselves to sensuality and practice every kind of perversion without restraint"* (Eph 4:17–19).

*"You must realize, however, that in the last days difficult times will come. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, unfeeling, uncooperative, slanderous, degenerate, brutal, hateful of what is good, traitors, reckless, conceited, and lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. They will hold to an outward form of godliness but deny its power. Stay away from such people"* (2Tim 3:1–5).

We need to strive for moral excellence in our lives: to actually put an effort into it because, as Christians, we're supposed to be better. We know Christians aren't perfect, but too often we might be using that as an excuse to be sorry and to continue living in sin (Rom 6:1–2; 2Cor 7:10–11; Col 3:1–5; 1John 3:4–6).

We belong to Jesus—we are His possession (Titus 2:14)—and so we should strive every day to live for Him in every part of our lives: at home, work, on vacation, etc. We have been purchased by the blood of the Lamb of God—the most precious sacrifice beyond our full comprehension and appreciation (Acts 20:28; Rev 5:9; 1Pet 1:6–9, 18–19; 2:9–12)—and we need to show it by our moral excellence. Our striving for moral excellence focuses others on Jesus. *"We exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory"* (1Thes 2:12; and Eph 4:1–3; Col 1:10).

# NEWS & NOTES

## UPDATED PRAYER LIST

- Kathy Austin began stronger medication for a lifelong AFIB condition that has returned. Hopes are for an ablation procedure later once the medication normalizes her condition.
- John Chegin had successful nasal surgery on Wednesday. He is home.
- Linda Peterson will have an inguinal hernia surgery, 10/29, at Memorial Hermann The Woodlands.
- Brenda Swann is home recovering and loves visitors. Her family has asked that you wear a mask while visiting.

**IN-PERSON SCHEDULE** (*Seating is based on pew capacities to maintain safe seating distances. Please follow recommended wearing of face masks, especially when singing.*)

- **ONE SUNDAY SERVICE** begins **TODAY, 10/18** at 10:00 a.m. (Lord willing).
- **WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS, 7:00 PM.** Adult class is "BECOMING MORE LIKE JESUS" and children classes will meet in their rooms to resume the curriculum series.
- **TUESDAY CLASS, 10:30 AM.** "FROM BONDAGE TO FREEDOM: the story of Israel (from Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers) and will meet in the auditorium". ZOOM available.

## VIRTUAL SCHEDULE

- LiveStream events are still InPerson events and replayable on our YouTube Channel*
- **Worship** | Sundays, 10:00 a.m.
  - **Adult Class** | Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.
  - **Adult Class** | Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

## MEETINGS, EVENTS, SINGINGS & STUDIES

- **2:52 Kids Class** on first Sundays[2-12] | 11/1 4:00 p.m. (classroom 9)
- **BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES Bible Class** on first Sundays | 11/1 4:00 p.m. (auditorium)
- **MEN'S DAY** with David McClister | 11/7.

Posters available on the member table. Look for social media notifications.

- **TEEN DEVO** [12-18] | (TBA)
- **YOUNG ADULTS STUDY** | (TBA)
- **ADULTS STUDY** [30/40] | (TBA)

## DIRECTORY UPDATES

- Welcome to Troy and Jane French, along with their son, Cameron! See the Enews for contact info.
- Contact Brian with updates or if you need a PDF of the directory.

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

- **VOLUNTEER SIGN-UPS** See the Monthly Assignments and let Barrett, Al, or Nathan know if you cannot fulfill an assignment.
- **TEACH?** We now need teachers for Winter quarter classes. **Please contact Don Hooton if you are willing to teach.**
- **TEACHERS STILL NEEDED:** Sundays for Cradle (12m-18m) and PreK (3-4 YO).
- **WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE?** See Leo Betancourt about getting involved in Barnabus Group.
- **HOSPITALITY?** Maureen Chegin and Cecelia Neel are coordinating food for members who need assistance after a surgery, during an extended recovery, or after a funeral.

## ENCOURAGE AND PRAY FOR THE MEN WE SUPPORT:

- Santiago Acosta, East Conroe
- Okello Ambrose Bob, Uganda
- Edward Brand
- Brent Forsyth, Brea, CA
- Aaron Kemple, Casco, MI
- Sam Leonard Mallisa, Uganda
- Robert Raif, Corrigan/Huntsville prisons
- Roberto Tondelli, Italy

## WEEKLY BIBLE READING

- Week Forty-two** (beginning 10/25)
- READ Psalm 42, 92, 142
  - MEMORIZE Psalm 42:1-3

Attendance	InPerson Average Last-Month	Virtual Average Last-Month	InPerson Last Week	Virtual Views Last Week
Sunday Adult Class	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sunday Worship AM	<b>102</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>64</b>
Tuesday Adult Class	n/a	n/a	<b>11</b>	<b>51</b>
Sunday Worship PM	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wednesday PM	<b>62</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>50</b>

SUNDAYS	10:00 AM   10/25	10:00 AM   11/1	CONTACT INFORMATION
Foyer 1-Welcome	Stuart Jones	Craig Preuss	<b>Elders</b>
Foyer 2-Ushering	Ross Randow	Adam Bohanan	Keith Arrants   936.582.1244
SongLeading	Alan Stilts	Dwight Haas	George Chapman   281.298.1303
1 <sup>st</sup> Prayer	Granville Betton	Gary LeBlanc	Norman Davis   832.326.2966
Scripture	Carson French	Clint Ford	Don Hooton   936.443.6230
Scripture Reading	Hebrews 1:1-4	1Peter 4:12-19	<b>Deacons</b>
Communion_Lead	Brian Clark	Hayden Clark	Adam Bohanan   281.798.1093
Preaching	Don Hooton	Don Hooton	Brian Clark   281.513.0706
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prayer	Michael Henss	Al Suarez	Gary LeBlanc   281.292.0262
Announcements	Don Hooton	Don Hooton	Craig Preuss   832.477.0578
Sanitize-Bathrooms After	D&T Hooton	Blankenships	<b>Evangelists</b>
Sanitize-Pews After	C&L Ford	Boniche	Don Hooton   936.443.6230
Building Open/Lockup	Dwight Haas	Preuss	<b>Website</b>
Sound 1	Chris Latson	Chris Latson	www.woodlandschurchofchrist.org
Communion Prep	G&L Chapman	G&L Chapman	<b>Office Phone</b>
Counting Contribution	Norman Davis - Timothy Chandler	George Chapman -- Hayden Clark	281.367.2099
<b>WEDNESDAYS</b>	<b>7:00 PM   10/28</b>	<b>7:00 PM   11/4</b>	<b>Church Email</b>
SongLeading	Keith Arrants	Hayden Clark	woodlandschurchofchrist@gmail.com
Invitation/Talk	Dwight Haas	Barrett Blankenship	
Prayer	Gerald Hodges	Lyn Ray	
Announcements	Don Hooton	George Chapman	