



Truth for Today

November 8, 2020

1500 Wellman Road | Shenandoah | 77384 | 281.367.2099

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

Submit and Honor for the Lord's Sake

by Don Hooton

I am writing this on Friday before any final announcement has been made regarding the Election results for the office of the U.S. Presidency. No matter the results, we must return to the demand of our Creator and our Savior that remain the same no matter the result. If ever there was a time for Christians to understand the importance of their actions – **it is now**. As a Christian, your power **is not** in the vote you cast – but in **the reflection of Christ that you cast**.

Paul commanded Christians to honor and submit to their governing authorities (Romans 13). Peter said to “honor the emperor” (1Peter 2:13-17) after saying that each Christian should “be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution...” Nowhere is there a suggestion that these apply when we agree with the leader’s policy or his or her selection. Nowhere is there a hint that these don’t apply when democracy is in trouble. “To place oneself under rank and obedience” (submit) and “To show esteem” (honor) are easily understood until it is not the path we want to choose in conflict. Ask any parent or husband if the way that many wag their tongue on “both sides of the aisles” (as we say in the USA) are indicative of an child “honoring” their parents and a wife “submitting” to her husband.

When we realize that Emperors acquired their rule through overt and questionable means like murder, coups, and violence, even more so should we then recognize that **the three words explaining the “why”** of this command will make sense to those who truly seek truth and the glory of God.

Certainly Christians could identify dishonesty or disingenuous processes of various people or could complain about the unfairness or undemocratic way things are alleged to be done. However, all of those things change no word of the reason behind what Peter commands Christians – in the face of their own evil tyrants who would rule the world with terror: “for the Lord’s sake...”

Our focus must be the same whether it is a monarchy, a democracy, a republic or even a tribal **chief**. Our Lord is one: Christ and Him crucified and that is all we preach for what truly unites the world and brings peace. The kingdom of God remains unscathed.

At the end of the day, whether you and I lived under corrupt Roman Emperors, Communist dictators, or a Democratic or a Republican President, our responsibility is the same: make sure that all that we do glorifies for the Lord’s sake. If your man doesn’t win – God is still king. If your group doesn’t gain the majority – God still is. If your future is scary because you don’t know what tomorrow looks like – God still holds tomorrow is His hands.

For the Lord’s sake – stop the character defamations as if somehow you think Jesus would ever talk like that. For the Lord’s sake – stop fueling the flames of fear as if the Savior of Mankind who faced death would ever do that.

For the Lord’s sake – be a Christian.

1Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. **10** Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy... **12** Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation... **13** Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, **14** or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. **15** For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. **16** Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. **17** Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

Due to Don's positive covid-19 test on Wednesday afternoon and since the elders had their meeting last Sunday night in close contact, the elders will be isolating for 10 days (per the recommendation of medical consultation). In our absence on Sunday, Craig Preuss will serve as our liaison to answer any questions you may have. Barrett Blankenship will be coordinating worship. Also, as a matter of precaution, the entire building will be treated on Saturday morning (11/7) by bioPURE which is an EPA registered hospital-grade treatment service that disinfects and shields against bacteria and viruses that include COVID-19.

NEWS & NOTES

UPDATED PRAYER LIST

- **Kathy Austin's** surgery/procedure on her knee had to be rescheduled.
- **Norman and Tricia Davis** who both tested positive for COVID on Thursday.
- **Don Hooton** tested COVID positive on Wednesday afternoon. Since he was masked at services and Tuesday class (except when preaching and teaching), the CDC's close contact rule (in contact within 6 feet and unmasked) was followed. However, **monitor yourself and watch for symptoms**. If it is deemed needed, have yourself tested if you came in contact with Don on those days.
- **Linda Peterson** is home from her surgery
- **Emma Rolak** has received a negative result on her COVID test and is home recovering.
- **Brenda Swann** welcomes both visits and phone calls.
- For those who remember **Chuck and Carol Gaines** who worshipped with us in the 90's-00's, Chuck passed away this past week from pancreatic cancer. The funeral was this week.
- **Karen Dargan's** parents' Bobby and Vera Thompson have special medical concerns and Karen has been caring for them. Pray for her and Steve who have been caring for them.
- **Cecelia Neel's** son, Will, had an accident that totaled the car – although he was relatively unharmed.
- **Morgan Potter's** mother, Jackie, was scheduled to be home Tuesday.
- **Maliissa Sam Leonard** asked prayers for his grandmother Nelima Florence who is ill and has been admitted but not in good condition.
- Roberto Tondelli asked prayers for him and Italian brethren.
- **Doug and Mary-Lou Hall, Bill Hooton, Carl & Annette Yaws**, (as well as **Maureen Chegin's** mother, **Linda Peterson, Brenda Swann, Alan Swor, Helen West and Al Williams**.

- Congratulations to our past summer preacher intern, **Caleb Dunn and his wife Kaylee**, who have just become proud parents of their third child, Ava Joy.
- Congratulations to the **Davis'** in the birth of their first grandchild to Danni and Dustin McCormick on Thursday, 11/5. Little Rayleigh Ruth is good and mom is too.

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—TODAY, 11/1** 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) POSTPONED
- **SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASSES, Beginning 12/6, 9:00 AM.**
 - We will resume Bible Classes for all ages on Sundays on 12/6 at 9:00 a.m. Our new schedule will be 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. (worship) on Sundays.

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] | 12/6 4:00 p.m. (classroom 9)
- **TEEN BIBLE CLASS** [12-18] | Bible Class on First Sundays | 12/6, 4:00 p.m. (classroom 5)
- **BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES** Bible Class on first Sundays | 12/6, 4:00 p.m. (auditorium)

- **TEEN HOME DEVO** [12-18] | Sat., 11/21, TBA at the Suarez's.
- **YOUNG ADULTS STUDY** | Fri, 11/15, 4:00 p.m. at the Hooton's.
- **ADULTS STUDY** [30/40] | (TBA)
- **CANCELLED MEN'S DAY** with David McClister | 11/7.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

- 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.
- **Willing to TEACH?** We now need teachers for Spring quarter. **Please contact Don Hooton if you are willing to teach.**
- **WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE?** See Leo Betancourt.

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

- Week Forty-five** (beginning 11/8)
- READ Psalm 44, 94, 144
 - MEMORIZE Psalm 94:12-14

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	121	50	126	29
Tuesday Adult Class	10	23	11	7
Sunday Worship PM	n/a	n	n/a	n/a
Wednesday PM	59	30	56	16

SUNDAYS	10:00 AM 11/8	10:00 AM 11/15	CONTACT INFORMATION
Foyer 1-Welcome	TBD	Stuart Jones	<i>Elders</i>
Foyer 2-Ushering	Nathan Shows	Ross Randow	Keith Arrants 936.582.1244
SongLeading	Dwight Haas	Alan Stilts	George Chapman 281.298.1303
1 st Prayer	TBD	Adam Bohanan	Norman Davis 832.326.2966
Scripture	Ethan Dulin	Cameron French	Don Hooton 936.443.6230
Scripture Reading	Acts 13:43-52	1Chronicles 29:11-15	<i>Deacons</i>
Communion_Lead	Mickey Chandler	Keith Arrants	Adam Bohanan 281.798.1093
Preaching	Hayden Clark	Don Hooton	Brian Clark 281.513.0706
2 nd Prayer	Jay Dulin	Michael Henss	Gary LeBlanc 281.292.0262
Announcements	Craig Preuss	Norman Davis	Craig Preuss 832.477.0578
Sanitize-Bathrooms After	TBD	C&T Chapman	<i>Evangelists</i>
Sanitize-Pews After	Chandlers	Randows	Don Hooton 936.443.6230
Building Open/Lockup	TBD	Haas	<i>Website</i>
Sound 1	TBD	Chris Latson	www.woodlandschurchofchrist.org
Communion Prep	Chris & Tracey Chapman	G&L Chapman	<i>Office Phone</i>
Counting Contribution	Craig Preuss - Granville Betton	Keith Arrants - Barrett Blankenship	281.367.2099
WEDNESDAYS	7:00 PM 11/11	7:00 PM 11/18	Church Email
SongLeading	Keith Arrants	Adam Bohanan	woodlandschurchofchrist@gmail.com
Invitation/Talk	Granville Betton	Hayden Clark	
Prayer	Troy French	Nathan Shows	
Announcements	Keith Arrants	Norman Davis	