Announcements and Church News Our Stek AGUNUTURS

Cyndi Emery- in Gulfport Rehab, Rm 214; Carol Untied-upcoming tests; Ronnie Sommerville & Teresa Broyles cancer treatment; Joyce Stanley, Kim Tavlor, Guerv & Nancy VanWinkle health issues.

PRAYER REOUESTS FOR FAMILY/FRIENDS:

Dianne Stewart's brother Bobby Goodfield for hiatal hernia and upcoming procedure; Carol Untied's- nephew Spencer/injuries from car accident; Ron Sommerville's- brother Troy/health issues; Eve Chandler's-son Donovan/upcoming procedure and friend Kiki's husband and daughter/health issues; Marta Core's- sister's biopsy of nodules waiting for results; The Herman's-sis-inlaw Carol not well; Molly Burgess's-daughter, Carrie/kidney transplant; Dottie Curls- son Douglas/serious health issues; Jackie Clark's mother Dorothy & grandmother Gayle health issues; Patrick Pinto's-father not doing well; Lexi Cahill'sbrother Jacob; The Stewart's-bro-in-law Russell Holt: The Kozola's son Tim: Van Stewart's -aunt. Linda Parsons; Dianne Stewart's-brother, Bobby Goodfield; The Stingles'-niece's baby; Paula Davis'-niece/lupus: Darrell Broking-health issues. **PRAYERS FOR CANCER:**

Marta Core's -sister for kidney cancer; Lexi Cahill's-grandfather; Penny Bevagua's- sister Patricia; Deb Methvin's-cousin Melissa Clark; Charlotte Bytheway's cousin Janet Chaney; Tim Martin of Pinellas Park church of Christ; Dvianna *Thompson's* brother-in-law, Rodney; *Ranny* Reeves neighbor, Linda Wall; Linda Hadsock's niece, June McCray; Carol Untied's stepmother Emily; Van Stewart's sister Tracey and cousin Paula; Sandy Caldwell's bro-in-law Larry; Kay Jessup's friend Marie Woleck.

INMATES: Antwaun Thompson, Willie Newton & Tom George.

OUR SERVICE MEN: Austin Reves (Marine) Matthew Holleran (Army)

SHUT INS: Wayne Bishop (Coral Oaks), Delia Schlachter, Joyce Stanley and Guery & Nancy VanWinkle

NEXT LADIES BIBLE CLASS- Tuesday, May 7th at 10:00am. All ladies are welcome.

NEXT MEN'S BIBLE CLASS- Thursday, May 9th at 6:30pm.

LADIES LUNCH—All ladies are welcome to meet at the Wildflower Café at 1465 S. Fort Harrison Ave. #105, Clearwater on Saturday, April 27th at 11:00am. A sign up sheet is in the foyer.

WEEKI WACHEE YOUTH RETREAT—Hosted by Orange Street church of Christ from May 3rd to the 5th for ages 13-18. Flyers in the foyer.

BAPTIZED—On Monday, April 15th John Sellars put on the Lord in baptism. John is Penny Bevaqua's father. Please add to your directory: 1535 Lemon St. Clearwater, FL 33756-2342; Phone: 781-249-4524. Sonia Boring was baptized on Thursday the 18th for remission of sins.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP- We extend a warm welcome to Geneva Gaston (William McRoy's mother) Please add to your directory: The Care Center at Pinellas Park, Rm 325-West Bed 2, 8701 49th St N, Pinellas Park FL 33782; Phone: 727-549-2681.

We also welcome, Adam Kinser to our family at Central. His phone number is 727-336-7070.

Responded- Eve Chandler came forward needing the prayers of the church.

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Greeters- Debbie Adams/Paula Davis Announcements—James George Song Leaders—James George/Joe Bonelli Scripture Readers-John Core/Bob Hadsock Opening Prayer—Mark Bernhardt/James George Lord's Table—Van Stewart Closing Praver—John Benson/David Jones BirthdaysThis Week Ranny Reeves—April 24th AnniversariesThis Week Charles and Teresa Broyles—April 21st



Preacher: Charles Broyles Office: 727-446-4808 Cell #: 423-240-9075

VouTube @centralcofc-clearwater

From the Preacher's Pen



"JUST AS LONG AS YOU ARE SINCERE..."

Dan Jenkins

We live in a day where so many have decided that all that matters in being right with God is to fervently serve Him. They feel that the way you serve Him is different for every person and it matters little how that

devotion is shown. This widespread belief is the underlying basis as to why there are thousands and thousands of denominations in our land. What does God reveal about this spiritual concept?

Think about how religious the Jews were when Jesus came to the earth. The apostle Paul said, "I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God" (Rom. 10:2). They were by far the one nation that worshiped God. The first century world was divided into pagan "denominations," and in the midst of paganism, the Jews assembled every Sabbath day to read and study the Bible and pray fervently to God.

The New Testament describes the devotion of the Jews. They prayed long prayers and were not ashamed to do it publicly (Matt. 6:5; 23:14). They gave great attention to making sure that God received ten percent (a tithe) of everything they had. In fact, they even counted the number of leaves on their mint bushes and gave Him a tenth of them (Matt. 23:23). Many of them fasted twice each week (Matt. 6:16; Luke 18:12).

Jesus described how zealously evangelistic they were when he told how they would travel across both land and sea (perhaps indicating the Mediterranean Sea) just to convert one Gentile to God (Matt. 23:15). Were they right with God because of what they were doing? Jesus came to seek and save those who were lost, and He came to this nation who fervently served God in their own way. They were lost!

Many of the Jews' religious leaders in that day were hypocritical in their devotion, but look at one example that shows even those who were honestly serving God still had not found Him. The apostle Paul always followed his conscience (Acts 23:1). He said, "I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and man" (Acts 24:16). The Hebrews were the most devout nation, and Paul was the most devout Hebrew (Phil. 3:5). What was his relation with God? He was chief of sinners (1 Tim. 1:15)!

They were lost because zeal without knowledge does not save. Paul says, "They being ignorant of God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own righteousness have not submitted to the righteousness of God" (Rom. 10:3). Consider these words carefully from Jesus, especially if you think that it makes little difference. "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will My Father in heaven" (Matt. 7:21). No one is saved without zeal, but zeal without obedience cannot bring salvation.

Wise men lay up knowledge: But the mouth of the foolish is near destruction (Pro. 10:14)

WHO IS MORE POWERFUL, THE DEVIL OR GOD?

Todd Clippard

While it would seem that it is perfectly obvious that God is much more powerful than the devil, in practice it often seems otherwise because the devil, or Satan, wields so much power today. Since our world is filled with pain and violence, He often seems to have more followers working actively for him. If the devil is not more powerful, he frequently seems as powerful as God, and definitely more popular.

The Scriptures warn us that we must be on guard against Satan. In his warning about false teachers, Paul said that Satan is transformed into an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14). The devil is so deceptive that he may appear to be as beautiful as an angel of light. Peter warned, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8). Satan, whose very name means the Accuser, seduced Eve in the Garden, tormented Job, and even tempted Jesus to worship him. John called the devil that old serpent which deceives the whole world (Revelation 12:9). The devil is powerful, and hurtful to God's children, but his power comes only as God has allowed him to have power.

Satan is not deity or a god. He is not omnipotent. When he tested Job, God limited what he could do. First he could not touch Job's body: "Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand" (Job 1:12). Second, he could not take Job's life: "Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life" (Job 2:6). When he is finally cast into hell, he will be powerless to resist. "The devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever" (Revelation 20:10). Our Lord created the world, and all things that are in it. "For by him [Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him" (Colossians 1:16). Satan, God's creation, rebelled against God. "The great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him" (Revelation 12:9).

James commands: "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). This should encourage us to resist the devil, and help us to realize that Satan's power is limited. John the apostle gives wonderful encouragement to Christians concerning the battle with Satan. He writes: "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he [the Lord] that is in you, than he [the devil] that is in the world" (1 John 4:4). Our Lord is much more powerful than the devil, and when we rely on Him, we can stand against Satan. We must be ever watchful, however, because our adversary is walking about like a roaring lion, seeking to devour us. Although he can make good appear evil, and evil appear good, he will flee from us when we resist him and stand in the Lord.