

“TRUTH”

“The ideals which have lighted my way, and time after time have given me new courage to face life cheerfully, have been kindness, beauty and truth” – Albert Einstein.

TRUTH IS NOT A FIGMENT OF WEAK PEOPLE’S IMAGINATIONS; IT’S A STRONG AND NOBLE REALITY. Many of those who today think it’s intellectually unsophisticated to talk about truth wouldn’t be qualified to carry the briefcase of a man like Einstein, who not only talked about it, but honored it, sought it, and used it to noble ends. We may as well admit it: we fight hopelessly if we fight against truth. Reality is unassailable. Yes, in the short term we may get away with operating on the basis of falsehood, but eventually the truth will assert itself. As Edgar J. Mohn colorfully said it, “A lie has speed, but truth has endurance.” So philosophically, we ought to avoid untruth. But not only philosophically, we ought to avoid untruth *personally*. It simply does no good to deal in deceit. “Every time you try to smother a truth, two others get their breath” (Bill Copeland). So it seems smart to go ahead and commit ourselves to truth.

Doing that, however, requires more of us than we might think. Truth is not always easy to find, and the reason is one we may not like to confront. “We do not err because truth is difficult to see. It is visible at a glance. We err because this is more comfortable” (Alexander Solzhenitsyn). For every time when we haven’t looked hard enough for the truth, there are hundreds of times when we’ve run away from truth that was in plain view. Our difficulty is not so much ignorance as it is cowardice. So a commitment to truth is a test of our bravery. A fearless commitment to truth is one of the great components of moral human character. As far as I can see, it might even be the greatest of all. No matter what other virtues may adorn us, without a commitment to truth, everything else turns to the dust of death. But we don’t honor truth by paying lip service to it; we do it by submitting to it. That means that we must follow it, rather than try to lead it. There’s just no calculating the good that can happen when we expend our energies in the service of truth – or the damage that can be done when we employ our powers trying to subvert the truth. **“You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free”** – Jesus. **DP**

SERMON PREVIEW:

March 27	<i>Wilderness Developments</i>	April 17	<i>Guest Speaker, Jerry Brewer</i>
April 3	<i>Drawing Power of the Cross</i>	April 24	<i>You Could See it in His Face</i>
April 10	<i>Sharing Christ, For Christ</i>	May 1	<i>Why Acapella Music?</i>

GOSPEL MEETING APRIL 17 – 20
Sunday 10 AM & Mon. – Wed 7 PM

ETERNITY! ARE YOU READY?
“Return to Me and I will return to you”- God!

The Salisbury Beacon

Salisbury Church of Christ

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Douglas Post, Minister

410-742-4831

Office Hours: Tues–Thurs. 10AM–2PM

March 20, 2016

WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY

Dear friends – we appreciate your willingness to worship God with us this Lord’s Day! If you would like more information about the Church of Christ, or if we may assist you in other ways, please let us know. **BE A PART OF OUR FAMILY – the Salisbury Church of Christ.** ****Please fill out a Visitor’s Card and place it in the collection plate****

ORDER OF OUR WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPENING PRAYER

SONG # 579 MY JESUS, I LOVE THEE

SONG # 680 BE WITH ME LORD

PRAYER

SCRIPTURE – Mark 6:1-3

SONG # 310 KNEEL AT THE CROSS

LORD’S SUPPER

CONTRIBUTION

SONG # 231 FAIREST LORD JESUS

SERMON: “WHAT THE CARPENTER BUILT”

SONG # 856 THERE’S A FOUNTAIN FREE

SONG # 286..... WHERE HE LEADS ME

CLOSING PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAYERS, & CONCERNS

LET US PRAY FOR: Church Growth: Pray for both spiritual and numerical growth of our church. Debbie Post, Stella Reidy, Jack Callaway, Katie Gray, Flossie Hull, Barbara Kuykendall, John Tillman, Paul Marchesault, Marilyn Artis, Linda Alaban, Florence Tucker, the Jones/Dale family, the Gibson family, Larry Laten, Prince Ituen and all missionaries and military personnel serving overseas.

- **Elaine Bradley** said her son, Bruce Lauder, who is dealing with addiction issues, is also having seizures. Please keep Bruce in your prayers.
- **Bob & Diane** ask for our prayers for their neighbor's son, Jimmy McMillion, who has leukemia, which has returned for the 4th time. He is 43 years old and raising 2 teenage girls and other children. He has been fighting this for 20 years. Also please pray for Bob & Diane as they travel.
- **Herman & Wilma Duke** are in Kentucky to be with Wilma's 100 year old mother after she fell, breaking her hip last week. Please keep Wilma & Herman and her mother in your prayers.
- **Debbie Post** is currently feeling the effects of her chemo treatment. She wishes she was able to be more social with her brethren but her health is keeping from such things. Please keep her in your prayers.
- **Gospel Meeting (28 more days and counting). Please pray for a successful gospel meeting. May those in need of the saving gospel message of Jesus Christ come and hear it preached and obey it Please pray for our speaker, Jerry Brewer, for boldness and clarity.**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

March 20 (Sunday) Evangelism Committee Meeting

April 2 (Saturday) Ladies Bible Class

April 9 (Saturday) Work Day here at the building. Bring tools and wear your work clothes.

April 15 (Friday) Men's Meeting (Laurel COC, DEL)

April 16 (Saturday) Men's Day (Laurel COC, DEL)

April 17 (Sunday - Wednesday) Gospel Meeting with Jerry Brewer & Song Service

April 18, 19, 20 (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) Gospel Meeting

April 23, 2016 (Saturday) – Ladies Day, Laurel, Maryland Church of Christ

**** The Potluck for April will be on April 17, the opening of our Gospel Meeting ****

“CONVERSION”

Dub McClish Denton, Texas

Jesus said: “*Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven*” (Mat. 18:3, KJV). It is thus imperative that we comprehend and fulfill the requirements of conversion to Christ. Convert is from a Greek word that means to change, to turn from one way to another. It involves acting rather than passively waiting to be acted upon. The New Testament reveals three distinct areas of change and three distinct behaviors that produce them in Gospel conversion:

1. Faith changes one's conviction. Consider an unbeliever who has given little or no thought to the existence of God or to the claims of Christ. He knows that his car, house, watch, and computer are all products of careful and intelligent design, engineering, and production. He thinks of his own body and the universe and applies the same correct reasoning concerning them. He begins reading the Bible and sees it saying, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Gen. 1:1). He reads in the Gospel accounts of Jesus' amazing miracles and is convinced that He is the Son of God (John 20:30–31). His faith takes deep root as he continues to read (Rom. 10:17); his conviction has turned from unbelief to faith. This step is the necessary beginning of conversion, and only when it is present in the heart will one be prompted to continue down the road to conversion. It is not possible to please God apart from faith (Heb. 11:6). However, there is no real conversion apart from a change of life: “even so faith apart from works is dead” (Jam. 2:26b), which “works” include repentance. The one who truly believes will not be ashamed to confess His faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God (Rom. 10:9–10).

2. Repentance changes one's mind and life. Repentance refers to a change of mind and will—a decision to change directions. This life-change is not repentance, but the natural fruit of the sincere change of the mind and will. Real faith produces real repentance, which produces change of behavior. The aforesaid believer reads of God's goodness and weeps over his own godless life (Rom. 2:5; 2 Cor. 7:10). This stirs his determination to cease all sinful behavior and live so as to please God. He begins to “Bring forth...fruit worthy of repentance” (Mat. 3:8). Repentance is essential in conversion, for without it one will perish (Luke 13:3). However, the guilt of one's past sins still separate him from God at this point.

3. Baptism changes one's relationship with God. Peter commanded believers on Pentecost, “repent ye and be baptized ...unto the remission of your sins” (Acts 2:37–38, ASV). Until they did so the guilt of their sins still separated them from God. Baptism is necessary because Christ ordained it as the act in which His sin-cleansing blood washes the sinner of his guilt (Acts 22:16; Rom. 6:3; Heb. 9:22; Rev. 7:14). Only after baptism is one saved and fully converted (Mark 16:16; John 3:5; Acts 22:16). When one is thus converted, the Lord saves him and adds him to His church (Acts 2:47). These constitute the elements of conversion to Christ for all mankind since Jesus' death on the cross. Any claimed “conversion” apart from them is

counterfeit, regardless of the sincerity of the “convert.” Let us herald this message of salvation to all the world.

WHEN THE SAINTS MEET HERE IN SALISBURY

Sunday Bible Study – 9:30 AM Sunday Worship – 10:30 AM

Wednesday Bible Study – 6pm