

THE BULLETIN

THIS WEEK:

Sunday:
Bible Study & Worship
Monday:
Fl. School of Preaching Class
Wednesday:
Bible Study

UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 20th –
Teen Devotional
March 27th –
Fellowship Meal
Teen Event Afterwards
March 29th –
Teen Trip to Weeki Wachee
April 1st –
Teen Trip to St. Aug. Beach

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE:

Month of March

Announcements:
Luther Honey

Singing:
a.m. – Jon Thompson
p.m. – John Loanzon
Wed. –Luther Honey

Prayer:
Tommy Mikell

Bible Reading:

Preaching:
Doug Frazier

Lord's Supper:
Ray Cauthen
Ben Stokes
Tim Stanley
Cliff Jones

Prepare communion
Mary Pahman

4th Sunday Fellowship:
March
Angie Stokes
Cathy Hitchcock
Cindy Burgett

Super Full Moon

If the moon looked a little bit bigger and brighter this weekend, there's a reason.

Saturday's full moon was called a Super Full Moon. NASA news stated that "It's a super "perigee moon"--the biggest in almost 20 years."

The full moon will occur while the moon is at its closest point, 212,000 miles, to Earth in almost 20 years. NASA says the moon will appear to be much larger than usual and will bring larger than normal tides.

The moon is a natural satellite of Earth. The moon's shine is produced by the reflection of sunlight. It is the second brightest object in the sky after the Sun.

As the light of the moon is a reflection of the sun, christians can only shine as they become a reflection of the Son.

Let Your Light Shine

By Jason Jackson

Christ is the sole light that radiates divine truth and sustains life. He declared, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). True to Messianic prediction, the gospel message of Christ glows, shining forth into the world (Isaiah 49:6; Acts 13:47). He is the true light that enlightens men (John 1:9).

Significantly, the Lord described his followers as "the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14-16). As the moon reflects the sun's glory, so Christians derive their radiance from Christ. With a grammatical emphasis on "you," the Lord of Glory affirmed, "You alone of all men" are the light of the world (R.C.H. Lenski, **Commentary on the New Testament: Matthew**, Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2001, p. 201).

"Light" and "darkness" frequently are used in Scripture as symbols of good and evil. D.A. Carson explains, "In the OT as in the NT, it most frequently symbolizes purity as opposed to filth, truth or knowledge as opposed to error or ignorance, and divine revelation and presence as opposed to reprobations and abandonment by God" (**Expositor's Bible Commentary**, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984, Vol. 8, p. 139).

As a city on a hill cannot be hidden, and as a lamp is lit to provide illumination for the house, so Christians are to let their lights shine in the world. They must convey moral purity and divine truth through their lives to a watching world. Implicitly, Christ noted that his disciples may hide their lamps under baskets. This possibility, however, is incongruous with the nature and purpose of Christianity.

Observe some potential “baskets.”

Fear may dim the positive influence of Christians. If Christ’s followers live in bondage because of the world’s intimidation, they allow Satan to extinguish the message of hope of which they are custodians.

The Christian presence is compromised by worldliness, by negativism, superficial judging, and hypercriticism (1 John 2:15; Matthew 7:1-5).

It is diminished on account of irresponsible social interaction — rudeness, arrogance, strife, and selfishness. The Christian light is likewise hidden through immaturity (Hebrews 5:11-14).

When Christ sends his followers into the world, he does recognize their human weaknesses. They do commit sins, but their lives no longer should be characterized by the *habitual* practice of sin (1 John 1:5-9). They must elevate their words and deeds in such a way that, more often than not, the world sees Christ in them. While devout Christians recognize their own fallibility, they sincerely strive “to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age” (Titus 2:12). Such brings glory to God.

Effective shining, however, is not merely moral restraint. Jesus explained the metaphor by saying that their brightness was equivalent to their good works that men behold. Therefore, their positive Christian actions shine forth into a world of darkness. Lenski elaborated:

“In our day of humanitarian works and ‘charity’ and ‘a moral life’ without Christ the chief works by which the faith of Christ’s disciples shines out and must shine out deserve especial attention: the acts of true Christian worship, the support of gospel preaching and teaching at home and afar, the stand against error and all anti-Christian and unchristian religious forces, the fearless confession of the divine truth, the loyalty to the principles of this truth under all circumstances, the readiness to bear ridicule, slander, loss and persecution of all kinds for the sake of the faith and the truth of the Word” (p. 203).

By reflecting the influence of Christ in their lives, Christians lead others to glorify their Father who is in heaven. Barnes observed, “If we have no other way of doing good — if we are poor, and unlearned, and unknown — yet we may do good by our lives. No sincere and humble Christian lives in vain. The feeblest light at midnight is of use” (Albert Barnes, **Barnes’ Notes on the New Testament**, Unabridged Ed., Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1962, p. 22).

For this reason, Christians are sent forth to shine in the world. They need to shine in their families, in the congregation, in the work place, at play, and in everything they do. By their good works, they can guide, lead, and warn those within their circle of influence. The essence of life is summed up in these memorable words of Jesus: “Let your light so shine.”

Robert Louis Stevenson made this diary entry: “I have been to church today, and am not depressed” (William Barclay, **The Gospel of Matthew**, Philadelphia: Westminster, 1975, Vol. 1, p. 121).

May the Lord help us to have a positive influence on those around us, and we pray that God will help us blaze a trail of optimism and hope — the hope of heaven.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JAPAN:

The following is some information that we received this past week concerning Esther Palmer's daughter who lives in Japan. It is my understanding that she did arrive in Osaka safely.

My dear church friends and family,

As many of you are aware, my 27 year old daughter Dana is an English teacher in Japan. She fared well in last week's devastating events. Now, however, the conditions are worsening, with water in grave shortage, and threats of exposure to radiation mounting. She has made arrangement tonight to leave her home and travel west to stay with friends on the west side of Japan. I would like to ask if everyone could please remember my daughter in your prayers, that she have safe passage to Osaka, Japan, and eventually home to America. Please also remember the people of Japan who are currently under such dire conditions. I thank you in advance for your prayers. If anyone wishes to call me, please use my home # 386-418-0184, as I need to leave my cell # open for communication from Dana.

Thanks again,
Esther Palmer

There are many others who are in dire conditions and many who have been lost. There was a story on TV this past week about a teacher who was teaching English in Japan as was Dana. When the earthquake struck, she and the other teachers took their children to safety outside. A handful of children's parents had not come to get their children so this teacher stayed with a few of the children until their parents came to get them. The last that was seen of her was as she was riding her bike home. Then the tsunami struck.

TRAVELERS:

Many have been traveling this past week. We are thankful that all have returned home safely.

TEEN DEVOTIONAL: We will be having a teen devotional next Sunday following our PM worship service. The devotional will be held at the Frazier's house. We hope that all of the teens will be able to stay for this.

SICK AND/OR INJURED:

- Della Brunson continues to make improvements.
- Rhonda Howe has been undergoing some additional tests this week with her doctors. Her lungs are not functioning as they should so they have given her some medication to help with this.
- Randy Adams was admitted to the hospital on Friday night due to chest pains and headaches. He was released on Saturday. The doctors said that it was not his heart that was causing the pains.
- Continue to remember Shirley Rogers, Jean Gause, Carl Lee, Sherrelle Kendirck, Randy Howe's mother, Linda Martin, Tommy Mikell, Della Brunson, Ann Ewing, Diane Jones, Terry Dickerson (nephew of Ruth Gufford), Betty Hitchcock, Mike Elledge, Shirley Kirby, Carolyn Canady (Rhonda's Mom), James Harrison, Edward Brown (cancer building at Shands).

Please keep these loved ones in your prayers. Many of those who have chronic conditions suffer from day to day. Those that are confined need not only our prayers but visits, calls, cards or letters.

4th SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP: Next Sunday is our 4th Sunday Fellowship.

TEEN EVENTS SCHEDULED FOR THE WEEK OF SPRING BREAK:

- **March 27, 2011** we will be doing an event following the 4th Sunday Fellowship Meal.
- **March 29, 2011** we will be going to Weeki Wachee Springs. The cost for the park is \$8.50 per person. The kids will also need money for food throughout the day.
- **April 1, 2011** we will be going to St Augustine Beach.
More details will be in next week's bulletin. If you have any questions please see Jessica.

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Meeting Times:
Sunday Morning
Bible Study: 9:30
Worship: 10:30

Sunday Evening
Worship: 5:30

Mid-Week Bible Study
Wednesday 6:30

“THE GOSPEL”

- A. The gospel is the most important message that anyone will ever hear.
- B. Gospel means good news.
- C. What the gospel is to the world?
 1. **The gospel is a saving gospel to a lost world.**
 - i. There are many in this world that are lost because they are traveling on the wrong _____.
 - ii. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the only gospel that can save.
 - iii. Those that are lost must _____ the gospel in order to be saved.
 2. **The gospel is the healing medicine for a sin sick world.**
 - i. If you are sick with sin there is only one pill you can take that can help you with that sickness and that is the GOSPEL.
 - ii. The gospel is the cure for the sin sick world and _____ is the _____.
 3. **The gospel is a message of love.**
 - i. In I Corinthians 15:1-4 Paul said that Jesus died for our sins and that He was buried and that He rose the third day.
 - ii. The story of the _____ savior and Him rising from the dead is truly the greatest _____ story.
 4. **The gospel is a _____ for a drowning world.**
 - i. There are many in the world who are drowning in the sea of _____.
 - ii. The gospel is a _____.

We're on the Web!

alachuachurchofchrist.org

TO OUR VISITORS

It is our sincere desire to help all men and women understand what God's will is for their life. Here at the Alachua Church of Christ, we stand ready and willing to help you with any needs you may have. Here are just a few of the services we offer: Marriage Counseling, Family Counseling and Addiction Counseling, free audiotapes of any lesson and In-home Bible Study. Feel free to make your request know. Ask any member of the congregation.