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(un-denominational)
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First Christian Church - Memphis, Missouri
EVANGEL

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www.fccmemphis.org

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Dear Ones,

"And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." Luke 2:52 (NASB)

"Jesus kept increasing ... in favor with God." To be favored, what might that mean? When I think of being a "favorite," or being in one's "favor," I often think of being privileged or blessed. I may be chosen by a friend to be on his team. I may be privileged by an employer to be given a bonus. When we are "favored by God," does that mean we receive extra special treatment? When troubles come, does that mean we've fallen from God's favor?" Maybe my idea of "favor" may be a bit lacking.

I read of Noah who found grace (or favor) in the eyes of the Lord. (Ge. 6:8) The Apostle Peter says Noah was mocked as a result of his preaching. Can you imagine what folk in his day thought of him? He's building this huge structure. He's calling for rain. He doesn't change his routines for 120 years. People must have thought him crazy and a poor weatherman to boot.

I read of Mary, the mother of Jesus who was favored by God. (Lk. 1:28-30) She would be "with child" before marriage. She would face a fiancé who knew he was not the father. Her reputation would be ruined in her neighborhood. She would have her life threatened because the law of the land could require her to be stoned.

Both of these accounts have common points, more than I have space to mention. They were invited to be part of God's eternal plan. They were not spared difficulty. They Trusted God. They obeyed God.

God has invited us into His eternal plan. We, too will have difficulties along the way. Let us respond to God's invitation by trusting His plans and Obeying His Word. Please look up, read and memorize Proverbs 3:5, 6. We too, will "keep increasing in favor with God."

Lord Bless, *Preacher Jack*

Youth Preacher's Post

Melanie and I had the privilege of taking 9 students to Snow Day at Central Christian College of the Bible on Saturday. This year's theme was "Marvelous Light" and it was based off of 1 Peter 2:9. "But you are a CHOSEN RACE, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR GOD'S OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of **DARKNESS** into **HIS MARVELOUS LIGHT**" (1 Peter 2:9 (NASB). The speaker told us that the only person that can penetrate sin (darkness) is God (light).

Look at what it says in John 1:4-5 (NIV), "In him was life, and that life was the **LIGHT OF ALL MANKIND**. The **LIGHT SHINES** in the **DARKNESS**, and the **DARKNESS** has not **OVERCOME** it." In John's Gospel we find Jesus described as the **LIGHT** bearing word of life. For those who would really listen, there's an illumination of truth.

While this may seem confusing, the idea of Jesus being the "Word" may be understood as the One who brings understanding (light) and fulfillment for eternity. If you knew someone had this ability, wouldn't you pay attention to what He had to say? Look closely at John 1:4-5. Do you see yourself there? Jesus is described as the **LIGHT** to all **MANKIND**. No one is ever outside the light change available in God's love, light, and life. Shrinking away from that LIGHT is as much a personal choice as accepting the truth about Jesus, and everyone gets to choose.

In Christ, *Josiah Holloway*

Prayer Requests:

Please Pray For...

John Wheeler
 Jim Kratzer
 Ron Alexander
 Sam Berkowitz
 Stephanie Sumption
 Georgia Couch
 Wayne Durham
 Donna Sanders

Shut-In:

Dixie Drummond
 Roberta Small
 Roberta Beckert
 Jean "Effie" Allen
 Viola Heiner
 Georganna Lister

Hospital:

Charles Hammock—SCMH

Church Family Residing At:

Scotland Co. C C & R.C.F.

Donna Meeks
 Bette Herbert
 Donna Wheeler

Schuyler County N.H.

Marietta Garrison



January Book of Month

Matthew

STATISTICS

January 22, 2016

Sunday School...
 Worship...93
 General Fund.....\$1,637.00

BUDGET (To Date)

Weekly Needs.....\$3,242.00
 Budget needs.....\$12,968.00
 Gifts.....\$6,641.75

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Men's Leadership Study

Men's Leadership Study
 Sundays,
 NOW thru Feb 26th
 1pm @ the church building

Women's Bible Study
 Sundays,
 NOW thru Feb 26th
 1-2pm church basement



CCCB Day/Mid-Winter Cookout

*February 12th
 Memphis First Christian Church*

Central Christian College of the Bible will be sending representatives to lead our services. Following the service we will have our annual cookout. Please bring your appetite and a side dish.

BABY BOTTLES

Pick your baby bottle up to help out the Memphis Area Pregnancy Care Center in either foyer. Your spare change can make a big difference in our community.



Help Wanted:

There are a variety of opportunities to use your talents at *FCC Memphis*. We need people to minister in the church and the community. Please contact the church office for details...660-465-7751

*I Peter 4:10
 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*

Let's Stay Connected!!
 Are you a member of our Facebook group?
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/254548849131/>
 Sign up there or contact the church office!

Sunday Services

Sunday School.....9:20 AM
 Worship.....10:30 AM
 Junior Worship (Ages 3 to 5yrs).10:30 AM
 Super Church (Grades K—6th).....During sermon

Church Staff

Jack Sumption.....Preacher
 Josiah Holloway.....Youth Minister
 Kelly Cochran.....Secretary

Reminder January 29, 2017

West Greeter.....Terry McDougall
 West Usher.....Mike Aylward
 East Greeter.....Maurine Robinson
 Sunday School at SCCC.....Mike Cantril
 SCCC Pianist.....Jana Muntz
 Nursery.....Patricia & Katie Miller
 January Bus Driver.....Paul Campbell

660-328-6329 or 660-341-9979