

SOUNDS OF SALEM

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SALEM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VENEDOCIA, OHIO

Volume 19 Issue 1

January 2017



Pastor's Thoughts

For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it (Luke 9:24 NKJV).

It is interesting to note that with the recent November election, both candidates held out that they were Christians. They publicly attended churches with much press coverage and met with notable Christian leaders for their endorsements in their quest to lead the most powerful nation in the world. It seems more like a public relations ploy necessity to be known as a Christian as opposed to being accountable to their living out their faith in both their public and private lives. The public is so tired of hypocrisy that

they generally give politicians a pass; they expect them to be untruthful.

Matthew 16:26 (NLT) tells us "And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?" But who truly is a Christian? Certainly, it is not someone who merely says that they are.

Jesus would hold that those who want to preserve their worldly lifestyles, no longer hold Christ as their Lord, and instead want to use Christ to fulfill their desires. Jesus would call this a tradeoff of eternal life for a fleeting gain in a short-lived life.

Christ called on us to joyfully trade a self-focused life for the eternity offered by Christ. We are to die to our own desires and to live for Christ's desires. You know Christ's desires by studying God's Word, the Bible. We are to focus on the significance of following Christ. When you give up your life to follow Christ, you are eternally saving your life. Why not live fully for Christ?

Pastor Tom

Money or Heaven?

By Rev. Thomas Emery

A forty-something stock broker was working a 12-hour day on the phone, making prospect calls. He was well compensated and had the rare and prestigious comforts of this world. But on this particular day, during one of his calls, a man in glowing brilliant whiteness appeared before him suddenly.

Dropping his phone, he asked the man where he came from, and the answer was "from

heaven." The stockbroker asked the man, "what's heaven like?"

The man described it as a place beyond imagination with streets made of gold and walls made of precious stones. By the river of life, the trees which lined it had leaves that would be for the healing of the nations.

The stockbroker asked, "Is there money there?" "Of course, not," said the man glowing in white. So, as the stockbroker continued to dial the phone calls, and he said, "You can take your heaven, what I want is money."

Many people of every job vocation whether church or not, will turn their back on heaven and seek earthly money. They will sacrifice their marriage, family, and their all, in search of more money. Far ahead they will learn too late that they also forfeited their future eternal heaven. Are you prepared to live for Christ who is the only path to heaven? What are you truly living for? ▲



New Year's Resolutions

By Carol Emery

New Year's Resolutions... What's yours? What even is a New Year's resolution? Well it's what we do on New Year's Day of course! We resolve or promise ourselves to do better. Have you resolved to lose weight, exercise, eat healthier, stop smoking, etc. Some of you may resolve to be a better person - a better Christian. How about this one? "I resolve to keep the 10 commandments." Now *that's* a New Year's resolution! In fact, before I was born again that was mine for several years. If only I could keep the 10 commandments and stop sinning, I'd be a good Christian and worthy enough to go to Heaven. Heaven is the *ultimate* goal is it not? It's where I want to spend eternity.

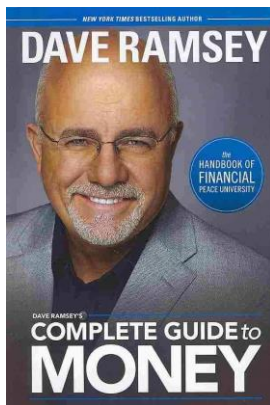
Let's take a look at them *shall* we?

1. You shall have no other gods before Me.
2. You shall not make for yourselves an idol, nor bow down and worship anything other than Me.
3. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
4. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it Holy.
5. Honor your father and mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not lie.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife nor possessions.

God demands perfection. His standard is high - higher than just keeping most of these most of the time. That's why year after year I failed. I have to admit, I used to skip a Sunday service if I found something better to do or just wanted to "take a day of rest"; #4 - broken.

New Class to Begin

A new Sunday School class series is about to begin! Based on the book, **Dave Ramsey's Complete Guide to Money**, the hour long adult class will look at how to budget, save, get rid of debt, and invest. You'll also learn about insurance, mortgage options, marketing, bargain hunting, and the most important element of all — giving. This book will be the foundation to a **nine week Adult Sunday School Class** beginning on January 8, 10:45 am.



For a sampling of the class visit: <https://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/preview/>

Then there's the times I may have exaggerated a fact or two to make myself look a little better; #9 - broken. Oh, and once I took a few post-it notes home from work with me, because they are just so handy; #8 - broken. And what better way to express excitement, disgust or anger than the popular "Oh my G...!"; #3 - broken. As I said, I failed year after year, day after day. I remained a hopeless sinner.

News Flash...I fail, you fail, we all fail! None of us are nor will we ever be perfect. So is Heaven out of reach? It is if we try doing it all on our own.

In 1992 (Dec 29th to be exact) I received an amazing gift - GRACE. Grace is God's gift of forgiveness. I finally understood! It wasn't up to me at all. God knew I could never be perfect on my own. That's why He sent Jesus to die on the cross and rise from the dead. He is perfect in my place.

God says in 2 Corinthians 12:9 *"My grace is sufficient for you. For My power is made perfect in weakness."* Jesus came to save us in our imperfection. When we receive Him into our lives, He makes us perfect in God's site. Ephesians 2:8 says *"God save you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God."* Sure, I want to keep the commands of God. But when I mess up (sin), I'm not a failure.

When I truly believed Jesus died and rose from the dead for my imperfections, I received grace more abundantly than I could ever understand. And what a freedom I found! Romans 6:14 says *"Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace."*

New Year's resolutions, sure they're a good idea, but don't expect perfection. You're

human. You're going to mess up. But remember, when you believe in your heart and make Jesus your Savior, God's free gift of grace is waiting for you. Accept it and be free! ▲



Let Him Deny Himself

By Jon Bloom, adapted

The Christian life is hard; sometimes agonizing, but we shouldn't be surprised (1 Peter 4:12). It's hard because denying our fallen selves is hard. Any death is hard, some much more than others. Our lives are our most precious earthly possession. Nothing displays the worth of Jesus more than our willingness to give away our lives (in small and large ways) for his sake.

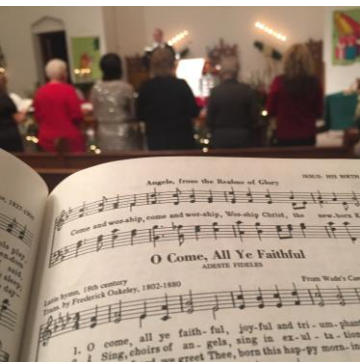
The only things that Jesus asks us to deny ourselves are what will rob us of eternal joy. Like Moses in Hebrews 11:25-26, we are called to deny ourselves the passing pleasures of sin and consider the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the world's treasures. How? By looking to the reward! I'll sum it up in some lyrics I wrote in a song for my oldest daughter years ago:

There's joy beyond your wildest dreams if you will just believe. This aching thirst for joy you feel, God only can relieve. And that eternal life is what's in store. For all who will believe that only he's worth living for. ▲



Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Christmas Morning Worship Service



IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

Remember our elderly members, soldiers, and college students with cards and visits.

Violet Ashton

Roselawn Manor
420 E. 4th St. - Apt. 109
Spencerville, OH 45887

Betty Lloyd

Van Wert Manor
160 Fox Road
Van Wert, OH 45891

Marjorie Rhoades

Hearth & Home
1118 Westwood Dr.
Van Wert, OH 45891

Marian Morris

Hearth & Home
1118 Westwood Dr.
Van Wert, OH 45891

Warren Summersett

Vancrest Healthcare
10357 VW—Decatur
Van Wert, OH 45891

Serving our Country

Cory McCollow

(U.S. Coast Guard)
311 Oak Street #109
Oakland, CA 94607

Nick Fuller

(Air Force)

Phoebe Eutsler

(U.S. Army)

Pete McCollow

(U.S. Marine Corps)
116 HAC Street
Jacksonville, NC 28540

Micah Linger

(U.S. Marine Corps)

Away at College

Evan Pugh – Lourdes University

Andrew Emery – University of Cincinnati

2540 Corbett Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45219

Cassy Emery – Cincinnati Christian University

Box 564, 2700 Glenway Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45204

Birthdays

2	Chris Beck	3	Emily Blackmore
5	Karen Pugh	6	Jim Lloyd
7	Nell Jean Wienken	7	Loretta Williams
8	Dean Swygart	9	Megan Smith
10	Dominic Adkins	11	Chelsey Lloyd
11	Ashlyn Price	12	Christina Emery
12	George Siler	16	Rob Breese
16	Liz Hobbs	16	Ashley Smith
19	Max Wiss	28	Scott Fair
30	Doris Price	30	John Smith
31	Carrie Jones		

Church Financial Update

Needed to Date: \$107,484.00

Received to Date: \$106,221.84

Prayer Concerns

Norma Adam (diabetic issues)
Bob Allenbaugh (lung cancer)
Arlene Barrientos (Alzheimer's & foot surgery)
Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)
Natalie Ellerbrock (Stacia Profit's niece)
Colin Good (emphysema – son of Charlie Good)
Melanie Huddleston (cancer – sister of Kim Coil)
Noell Hunter (Type 1 diabetes)
Betty Lloyd
Elizabeth Markus (depression and salvation)
Marian Morris (stage two cancer)
Ronnie Neate (throat cancer)
Joyce Profit (heart issues)

Chris Riechert
Marjorie Rhoades (leg pains)
George Siler (physical therapy)
Thad Summersett (brain tumor, grandson of Warren)
Bob Thompson (heart attack, dad of Lori Williams)
Martha Walker (recovering from heart attack)
Natali Wilkins (failing health, 90 years old)
Noah Wyatt (son of Stuart Wyatt)
Ian (brain cancer)
Daniel Cruse (lymphoma cancer)
Simon Ibell (serious birth condition)
Karen Payne (cancer)

January 2017

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Year 9:30 Worship with guest speaker Kevin Clancy	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Sunday School Begins 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:45 Session Meeting	9	10	11 Confirmation Class 6:30 PM	12	13	14
15 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 6:00 Trustee Meeting	16 MLK Day	17	18	19	20	21
22 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	23	24	25 Confirmation Class 6:30 PM	26	27	28
29 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	30	31				

Week of	Special Music	Nursery	Ushers
January 1	Hymn Sing	Jeff & Kim Coil	Bob & Denise Pugh
January 8	Tamara Mullenhour	Todd & Jayne Morris	Morgan Pugh
January 15	Madison Pugh	Gwenda Blackmore	Evan Pugh
January 22	TBA	Mark & Missy Zielke	Greeter
January 29	TBA	Carol & Catie Emery	TBA

Salem Presbyterian Church
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HAPPY ★ NEW YEAR

Sounds of Salem Newsletter

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Church Web Pages: www.SalemChurch.cc

E-Mail: Secretary@SalemChurch.cc

Rev. Thomas Emery's cell: 419-863-9131

Pastor's Email: PastorTomEmery@live.com

January 2017 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY - YEAR C

January 1 – 1st Sunday after Christmas Day

Isaiah 63:7-9 Psalm 148
Hebrews 2:10-18 Matthew 2:13-23

January 8 – Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:15-17

January 15 – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-11
John 1:29-42 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

January 22 – 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1, 4-9
Matthew 4:12-23 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

January 29 – 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8 Psalm 15
Matthew 5:1-12 1 Corinthians 1:18-31