



# Freedom In Christ Church

## Newsletter

### Cool, Ice, Enjoy

Do you have a favorite scripture or passage? What is your “go-to” when you are quoting scripture in your time of need? I bet when I asked that just now, a verse instantly came to remembrance. Maybe it's a verse that gives you courage, possibly peace, maybe it gives you strength. Whatever the reason, you have chosen that specific passage. The Bible is filled to the brim with good, solid, godly wisdom and advice to help us navigate our way around this world that is not our own.

How often do we find ourselves going to our favorite scripture or sharing a verse with a friend? Something that we believe will give them peace and hope. It's not uncommon to log into Facebook and see Bible verses being quoted and shared with one powerful punch of scripture. It sounds good, right?

In conversation with my brother a while back, we were discussing an observation we had shared. Many Christians often quote these powerful scriptures, yet still struggle to grasp the promise behind God's Word. Many Christians struggle just as much as those living in the world with the very things Jesus died on the cross to give us freedom from. The Holy Spirit gave me the understanding that day during that conversation as to why that is.

We often cherry pick through the Bible to find scripture that relates to how we feel. Unfortunately, the Bible was never intended to be used as a fortune cookie. The Bible is actually a manual. It is our handbook, given to us by the Lord to teach us His ways. Because His ways are better than ours! We simply cannot thrive in this world without living the way God has meticulously laid out for us in His Word.

It's like this; think about baking a cake. The first thing most of us do is turn to a recipe. Within that recipe, there is typically a list of ingredients and steps to take in order to bake your cake. The first step is just as important as the rest to follow. When we follow the recipe exactly, we get to indulge in that delicious cake that we have carefully baked step by step.

4042 Sycamore Grove Rd Chambersburg, PA 17202  
 Phone# (717)261-1931  
 Services: Sunday @ 10AM and 6PM Wednesday @ 7PM  
 Volume 14 July 2021

But... what would happen if we skipped straight to the last step? What if we didn't start at step one when we decided we wanted to bake a cake? There would be no cake!

The Bible is very much like a recipe! Many, many recipes, created with us in mind, created so that we may enjoy this life. Need peace? There is a recipe for that! Just like with our cake recipe, there are directions and ingredients. Cherry picking through the Bible when we need something is like jumping to the end of our recipe without following the necessary steps in order to have access to what we are clinging to in His Word.

The last steps are often cool, ice and enjoy. However! There would be nothing to cool, ice and enjoy without taking the time to follow the recipe. The Bible is to be studied in its entirety so that we can better understand the heart of God and what He wants from us. We can't jump to the part that says what the Lord has for us without first reading and understanding what it is that we are to do in order to access the many promises we can find in His Word.

The idea is, when you find a scripture that resonates with you, read it in context. Read the passage in its entirety because often there are lessons to be learned that will teach us how to obtain and maintain these things that we are longing for. Search for the recipe! Find the list of ingredients and the steps to take in God's Word to live in His promises.

Take perfect peace for example, perfect peace comes from knowing our Father intimately and molding our hearts after His very own. But the Lord tells us in His Word that anyone who does not love does not know God, for He is love. (1John 4:8) We cannot have perfect peace if we have even a fleck of hatred in our hearts.

If you struggle with guilt and want forgiveness but refuse to forgive those who have wronged you, then you cannot accept forgiveness for yourself. The Bible tells us we are to forgive infinitely. Matthew 6:14 "For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses..." but often we jump to Psalms 103:12 "As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions" which would render ineffective until we first let go of all unforgiveness we harbor.

If we want to be sheltered under the shadow of His wings, we must first crucify our flesh because God cannot be in the presence of sin. We must rid ourselves of all earthly desires and empty ourselves so that the Lord may fill us with His desires. Then we can rest in the shadow of His wings. There are endless examples that I hope you search out.

I want to encourage you to consider the Bible as the very instruction manual for all of God's promises you desire to obtain. Being a believer entitles us to a full life filled with so much joy, peace, contentment, love, freedom and most importantly a personal relationship with our Saviour, Jesus Christ and our Father. We don't have to live in the same suffering as the world. The Word of God teaches us how to rise up off the surface of just surviving in the darkness and thrive in His presence all the days of our lives.

Dig deep. Think about what it is you desire and go straight to His Word and search out that recipe. The living, breathing Word of God is meant to be so much more than warm, fuzzy quotes and cliches. There is so much more He has to offer.



## THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

A Bible teacher who was teaching his student about forgiveness had his student walk around all day with a very heavy backpack filled with stones. At the end of the day the teacher said, "would you like to keep carrying it or let it go?" The student said, "let it go!" The teacher said, "go ahead and release it."

The word forgive in the Greek is the word apoluo.

Apoluo also means to be released. If you don't forgive, you won't be released. You'll stay bound and imprisoned.

When Pilate released Barabbas from prison the word release is the same word apoluo.

In Luke 13:12 when Jesus saw a woman suffering from a condition that caused her to be crippled for eighteen years, He said to her, "you are loosed," it was again the same word apoluo.

We can see apoluo also speaks of healing. Forgiveness is linked to healing and lack of forgiveness is linked to the lack of healing. Those who cannot forgive cripple themselves.

Acts 11:24 Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch.

The words “sent forth” is once again the same Greek word *apoloio*, it speaks of moving on and being sent forth for the purpose of God.

Through forgiveness you will be able to be sent forth and fulfill God’s calling for your life.

Forgive and you shall be released. Forgive and you shall be healed. Forgive and you’ll be sent forth.

Forgive and you will be free to move on with your life... and free to fulfill the calling for which you were born.



## **KIDZ IGNITING**

**THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A MORE EXCITING TIME IN THE HISTORY OF THE FREEDOM IN CHRIST CHURCH CHILDREN’S MINISTRY! OUR SUMMER CAMP, (FREEDOM CAMP) IS IN FULL SWING AND THE CHILDREN ARE ABSOLUTELY HAVING A BLAST! WE HAVE ALREADY HAD 5 SUCCESSFUL WEEKS OF INTERACTIVE BIBLE LESSONS, INSIDE AND OUTSIDE PLAY TIME, ARTS AND CRAFTS, GROUP GAMES, CHALLENGES, SNACKS, MOVIES, FRIENDSHIPS, FIELD TRIPS, GROWTH AND CHANGE! WE ARE ETERNALLY GRATEFUL FOR SISTER INAYAH POGUE, OUR CAMP DIRECTOR AND ALL OF THE WORK AND LOVE SHE POURS INTO OUR CHILDREN. WE ARE ALSO IMMENSELY GRATEFUL FOR ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEER STAFF WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR TIME AND THEIR HEARTS TO THIS PROGRAM AND THE CHILDREN. WE LOOK FORWARD TO MANY MORE SUMMERS TO COME!**

**OUR KIDZ IGNITING CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS FOR SUNDAY MORNING AND WEDNESDAY EVENING ARE ALSO THRIVING AND GROWING BY THE WEEK. WE ARE SO EXCITED TO WELCOME NEW FAMILIES AND CONTINUE TO SHOW THEM THE LOVE OF GOD AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, HOW TO KNOW GOD AS FRIEND, FATHER, AND ALMIGHTY GOD!**

**AT THE END OF THIS MONTH, WE WILL BE OPENING OUR BRAND-NEW GYMNASIUM AFFECTIONATELY NAMED THE RUTH HAIN FELLOWSHIP CENTER. THE POSSIBILITIES ARE LIMITLESS WITH THIS NEW SPACE THE LORD HAS BLESSED US WITH! THIS IS THE SEASON OF GROWTH! WE WILL NEVER STOP SERVING OUR COMMUNITY, PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN, AND LOVING JESUS!**

4042 Sycamore Grove Rd Chambersburg, PA 17202  
 Phone# (717)261-1931  
 Services: Sunday @ 10AM and 6PM Wednesday @ 7PM  
 Volume 14 July 2021

WE LIVE IN A TIME OF SPIRITUAL FAMINE; IT IS MORE IMPORTANT NOW THAN EVER BEFORE TO MAKE SURE YOUR CHILDREN ARE GROWING SPIRITUALLY! DON'T LET THEM BE SWEEP AWAY BY THE DARKNESS AND DECEPTION OF THIS WORLD! FREEDOM IN CHRIST CHURCH WELCOMES YOU NO MATTER YOUR PAST OR CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES. WE LOVE YOU!

AS FREEDOM IN CHRIST CHURCH CONTINUES TO GROW, SO DOES KIDZ IGNITING, PRAISE THE LORD! WE ARE BUILDING A TEAM OF SUPPORT STAFF FOR BOTH KIDZ IGNITING AND OUR BABY SPARKZ. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING THIS INCREDIBLE TEAM, CONTACT PASTOR DANE OR SISTER INAYAH.



### **Fill in the Blank**

Therefore, if anyone is in \_\_\_\_\_, he is a new \_\_\_\_\_; old things have \_\_\_\_\_ away; behold, all things have become new. -2 Corinthians 5:17

### **WAYS TO GIVE:**

**STOP AT THE CHURCH AND GIVE IN PERSON**

**PAYPAL @ FREEDOMINCHRISTCHURCH@YAHOO.COM**

**MAIL @ 4042 SYCAMORE GROVE ROAD CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17202**

**GIVE, AND YOU WILL RECEIVE. YOUR GIFT WILL RETURN TO YOU IN FULL-PRESSED DOWN, SHAKEN TOGETHER TO MAKE ROOM FOR MORE, RUNNING OVER, AND POURED INTO YOUR LAP. THE AMOUNT YOU GIVE WILL DETERMINE THE AMOUNT YOU GET BACK.**

**LUKE 6:38**



4042 Sycamore Grove Rd Chambersburg, PA 17202  
Phone# (717)261-1931  
Services: Sunday @ 10AM and 6PM Wednesday @ 7PM  
Volume 14 July 2021

## **Upcoming events**

### **Pantry of Hope**

**Food and loose change Sunday**

**First Sunday of every month**

### **Biblical Citizenship Classes**

**Tuesday's Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> - Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>**

**6:30 - 8:30pm**

**Sign up online or on the bulletin board**

### **First Friday Fellowship**

**August 6<sup>th</sup> 7 - 8:30pm**

#### **Speakers**

**Men: Pastor John Pogue**

**Women: Sister Evelyn Grove**

### **July picnic**

**July 25<sup>th</sup> service starts at 10am**

**You are welcome to bring a hot or cold dish to share**

Answer:

Christ, creation, passed

**Follow us on social media**



4042 Sycamore Grove Rd Chambersburg, PA 17202

Phone# (717)261-1931

Services: Sunday @ 10AM and 6PM Wednesday @ 7PM

Volume 14 July 2021