
TIMBER RIDGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

December 2022

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DEC 1 -	PRAYER MEETING 6:30 PM
DEC 2 -	CRYSTAL SPAID'S BIRTHDAY
DEC 4 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
DEC 5 -	BIBLE STUDY 10 AM
DEC 7 -	PEARL HARBOR DAY
DEC 10 -	MEN'S BREAKFAST - 8 AM
	HAYFIELD FAMILY RESTAURANT
DEC 11 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
	FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE
	(SEE ARTICLE)
	SHELVA SWITZER'S BIRTHDAY
	JEANIE SPAID'S BIRTHDAY
DEC 12 -	PACKING BACKPACKS FOR DEC - 9 AM
	BIBLE STUDY 10 AM
DEC 13 -	LAST DAY FOR COLLECTION OF TOYS
	FOR TOTS
DEC 15 -	PRAYER MEETING 6:30 PM
DEC 17 -	SUSAN CLARK'S BIRTHDAY
DEC 18 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 7 PM
	(SEE ARTICLE)
DEC 19 -	BIBLE STUDY 10 AM
DEC 22 -	BETTY WINGFIELD'S BIRTHDAY
DEC 25 -	CHRISTMAS DAY
	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	HOME MISSION OFFERING
DEC 30 -	JANET FRIES' BIRTHDAY
JAN 1 -	HOLY COMMUNION SUNDAY

*Merry Christmas
And
Happy New Year*

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

The annual Christmas Candlelight Service will be held on Sunday evening, December 18th at 7 pm. Light refreshments will follow the service.

Christmas Caroling

We will meet at the church on December 16th at 5:30pm to embark on a 'Caroling Tour' for those who currently can't make it to church. If you like to sing – and even if you don't – come out and enjoy some fellowship as we bless others in our congregation!

QUARTERLY COUNCIL MEETING

The quarterly council meeting of the church will be held on Sunday, December 11th following the worship service. In our effort to standardize reports and to create a single set of reports in advance of the meeting, treasurers and chairpersons are being asked to provide their reports to Pastor Mike by December 7th.

For consistency, the treasurer's reports should be a year-to-date accounting through November 30th. They can be emailed to the church at timberridgechristianchurch@gmail.com or hand delivered. The meeting should last no longer than an hour.

We welcome any comments and suggestions.
Alan & Ginger Brill, alanbrill1@frontier.com
(304) 856-3635

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PASTOR'S PEN

Faith, Works, and Heaven

When I drive somewhere unfamiliar, I usually either have my GPS on, or I have a passenger that gives me directions step-by-step along the way. When I travel to a place with these kinds of directions, it can be hard to remember the overall route. If I had to retrace my steps next week by myself, I would probably get lost. So as we finish our sermon series where we looked at heaven, I want to wrap things up by ensuring we all understand exactly how to get there. The Bible makes it clear that not everyone will reach heaven. And those who do will arrive there by faith. They will also have works credited to their ministry here on earth. But those works will not be what saves them.

In Matthew 25:31-46, it's clear that God brings some to heaven and excludes others. There is some tension when we consider this teaching from Jesus. On the one hand, our sense of justice helps us to understand why God excludes some from heaven. On the other hand, our sense of compassion can cause us to long for everyone to arrive in paradise. But Jesus makes it clear only those who have served Christ will be ushered into the presence of God on that final day. However, we must be careful about how we place faith and works of service together. Faith must come first.

Romans 3:21-30 tells us that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. That means every one of us deserves to be excluded from heaven. This passage also tells us that those who put their faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ are justified by grace and redeemed from the penalty of God's wrath. Faith is the foundation. Without faith, one cannot be saved. But through faith, God applies the righteousness of Christ to you and declares you holy. Faith is essential because those who lack faith will not serve Christ.

The pathway to heaven is paved by faith, but that doesn't mean works are absent. However, works are a result of saving faith. In James 2:14-16 we're told that faith without works is dead. Many have thought that this means works are part of salvation. But Paul and James are answering two different questions. Paul, in Romans, answers the question, "How are you saved?" The answer is by faith alone in Christ alone. James answers the question, "How can we know we're saved?" By seeing the works that come from having saving faith.

Suppose you get these two biblical ideas mixed up. Like trying to drive somewhere unfamiliar, you risk getting hopelessly lost. To get to heaven, put your faith in Christ. Trust in His promise that He will come and take you to be with Him. Gaze on the picture of heaven found in Revelation 21 and marvel at what awaits everyone who believes.

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. **2** And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. **4** He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." (Revelation 21:1-4)

~ Pastor Mike