



Truth for Today

March 27, 2021

1500 Wellman Road | Shenandoah | 77384 | 281.367.2099

Published for the members and guests of the Woodlands church of Christ

Jesus Died For Me – *the Passover Lamb.* by Sewell Hall (Beneath the Cross of Jesus).

It was a night long remembered when God passed through Egypt, taking the firstborn of every family not eating the Passover meal and without blood on the doorpost. Israelite families had carefully followed the instructions God had given (Ex 12). On the tenth of Abib, they chose an unblemished lamb in its first year and had killed it on the fourteenth. They had carefully placed the blood on the doorpost, roasted the lamb and gathered to eat it. Consequently when God passed over, they were spared. Egyptians who had not prepared lost the firstborn of every family. As the wailing cry went up from the Egyptians, one can easily imagine every firstborn Israelite looking at the remaining carcass of the lamb on the table and saying, “He died for me.”

As a result of Passover, Israel was freed from Egyptian slavery. God decreed that the feast preceding their deliverance should be repeated yearly as a memorial. Jewish historians record the annual observance. The father, or whoever presided, would explain each dish: “*This is the lamb that was slain for deliverance of our forefathers. This unleavened bread is the haste with which they went out of Egypt. These bitter herbs are the bitterness of the slavery that they endured.*” Observed annually, the ritual would grow familiar to each child.

Some fifteen hundred years later, Jesus presided at the Passover feast observed by His disciples on the night before His death. He likely followed the traditional explanation of each item, just as the disciples had heard it over and over all their lives. But Luke tells us that Jesus proceeded with something unfamiliar. “*He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’ Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you’*” (Lk 22:19 NKJV). Jesus was instituting a new feast.

Just as the old Passover was first observed in expectation of deliverance from Egyptian slavery, this new feast was instituted in expectation of the deliverance from sin that would be accomplished on the cross. And just as the Old Testament Passover was to be repeated annually as a memorial, so the Lord’s Supper was to be repeated as a memorial. “This do,” He said, “as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me” (1Cor 11.25).

If deliverance from Egyptian slavery justified an annual observance, surely deliverance from sin justifies a more frequent memorial. It is not surprising, then, that when we read of early Christians’ observance of this, it was not on a particular day of the year or of the month; rather, “*On the first day of the week... the disciples came together to break bread*” (Acts 20.7).

The church in Jerusalem “*continued steadfastly... in the breaking of bread*” (Acts 2.42). And it seems altogether

likely that on the first day of every week since then, disciples have come together somewhere in the world to break bread in remembrance of their Savior. Let each one of us resolve to keep the memorial chain unbroken by continuing steadfastly in its observance.

The apostle Paul wrote, “*For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us*” (1Cor 5.7). And as we look upon the bread and the fruit of the vine, we should say, as the firstborn of Israel said of the lamb, “*He died for me.*” (edited for brevity)

Take your kids to church.

Selected.

Make the effort. Wake them up early. Fool with the belts and buckles and fancy hair bows. Endure the sleepy, grumpy faces and the misplaced shoes. Run around like a mad woman getting everybody’s everything while trying to get out on time. Hop to the car with a shoe in one hand and your make-up bag in the other. Give those babies a pop-tart and some milk and *let ‘em eat it in the car.* If it’s raining, get wet. If it’s cold, get a jacket. If you’re tired, go tired. But take those babies to church. You know why? *Because Jesus is there.*

He’s there. And He’ll meet them there—and you too. *He’ll be there* in the sweet smile of their Bible Class teacher as she greets them at the door. *He’ll be there* in the hug from a sweet friend and the encouraging smile that assures you that they just barely made it too. *He’ll be there* in the sacred words read from the Bible to impressionable hearts. He’ll be there in the songs.

So, take them. Carry all of their Bibles and drawings and toilet paper tube creations. Sit by them in worship. Open your Bible and open theirs. Show them how to find the scripture. Show them how to worship. Explain to them why He’s worthy of worship. Let them see you study, cry and praise. Ask them questions and answer the ones they ask you. Introduce them to Jesus. Tell them of His greatness, power and faithfulness. Tell them with your words and show them with your life.

Take your kids to church. Even if they don’t love it, they will. They won’t have to be good enough or smart enough or athletic enough. They just get to go and hear how much God loves them. He created them and they are valued and wanted. Their worth isn’t based on the grades they make or their ability to throw a curveball.

Take them to church. Before you take them to a ball-field, gym, a vacation or birthday party, take them to church. Let them know it’s a priority by show in you that it has eternal value. Let them see you set aside your busy schedules to be present with the Lord. I promise you won’t regret it.

I promise it’s worth it. For “Jesus said, ‘Let the children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven’” (Matt 19:14).

NEWS & NOTES

UPDATED PRAYER LIST

- Mark Birdwell is in Woodlands Memorial Hermann with COPD complications.
- Conrad Kaston is home with fever.
- Lester Cockrell is home recovering from a dog bite on Sunday.
- Lori Alexander's friend, Heather Jones-Ali who has aggressive breast cancer had her baby and both are well.
- Maureen Chegin's aunt, Linda, has improved.
- Tonya Clark's mother Alberta Hurn, has completed radiation and doctors are optimistic.
- The Ray's daughter, Kimberly Dyniewski, has good and bad days. As a teacher, she needs a new online teaching job closer to home.
- Marshel Shewmake's cousin, Kim Fisher, and aunt Peggy Stokes, are both doing much better.
- Jamie Yancy's cousin, Grey McKellar, is scheduled to meet doctors on Thursday to discuss heart procedure, first ever performed at the Texas Heart Institute.
- Mickey Chandler's mother Judy has a mass on and in her kidney. She is trying to get medical clearance now for surgery.
- MOMS-to-be: Reagen Reed (due April 12) and Alix Randow (due April 23).

MEETINGS, EVENTS, SINGINGS & STUDIES

- **BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES** Bible Class | 4/11, 4:00 p.m. (auditorium)
- **2:52 Kids Class** [2-12] | Bible Class on First Sundays | TBA
- **TEEN HOME DEVO** [12-18] | TBA .
- **YOUNG ADULTS HOME STUDY** | TBA
- **ADULTS HOME STUDY** [30/40] | TBA

- **GOSPEL MEETING** with Ed Brand | AND HE PREACHED JESUS TO HIM | 3/28-31
- **VBS** | 6/22-25* (*Tue-Fri)
- **YOUTH LECTURES** with Caleb Churchill & Andy Harrison | 8/7-8
- **GOSPEL MEETING** with Mike Wilson | 9/26-29
- **WOMEN'S DAY BIBLE STUDY** | 10/9
- **MEN'S DAY BIBLE STUDY** | 11/6

GATHERINGS ON SUNDAY AFTERNOONS BEGIN IN MAY

- 1st Sundays | 5:00 pm | Prayer and Singing | Auditorium
- 2nd Sundays | 5:00 pm | May Workshop on Evangelism | Classroom 5
- 3rd Sundays | TBD | Devos for Teens, 20-30s, 30-50s, 50+ in homes.
- 4th Sundays | After AM Worship | Home Groups | Monthly meetings will consist of prayer, study, and mutual edification/concerns to be met. The groups are:
 - Central County (reside near building, between 1488 and Woodlands Pkwy)
 - North County (reside North of 1488)
 - South County (reside South of Woodlands Pkwy into Harris County)

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

- **VOLUNTEER SIGN-UPS** See the Monthly Assignments and let Barrett Blankenship know if you cannot fulfill an assignment.
- **Willing to TEACH?** We now need teachers for Summer classes. **Please contact Brian Clark if you are willing to teach.**
- **WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE?** See Leo Betancourt about the Barnabus group.
- **HOSPITALITY?** Maureen Chegin and Cecilia Neel will coordinate food for members. Contact them if you can help.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

- Contact Brian with updates or if you need a PDF of the directory.

- WELCOME to Kyle & Christina Kasten who have placed membership with us. Their children are Adelyn, Beckett, and Conrad.

ON APPOINTING DEACONS:

- **3/21-3/31** | Consideration and Verification. Once the study concludes, please speak with those you plan to recommend so that you can verify with them that they would agree. Deadline to submit your recommendations in writing only or by email is Sunday, 3/31. **PLEASE SUBMIT the form even if you don't know any to nominate or do not find anyone qualified. The elders want to hear from everyone!**

THROUGH THE NT IN 2021

MARCH-APRIL

- 29 Galatians 4
- 30 Galatians 5
- 31 Galatians 6
- 1 James 1
- 2 James 2
- 3 Pray and reflect
- 4 Pray and reflect

Attendance	In Person Average Last Month	Virtual Average Last Month	In Person Last Week	Virtual Views Last Week
Sunday Classes	74	25	89	7
Sunday Worship	91	64	115	26
Tuesday Adult Class	6	5		7
Wednesday Classes	56	26	70	12

SUNDAYS	10:00 AM - 3/28	10:00 AM - 4/4	CONTACT INFORMATION
Foyer 1-Welcome	Jay Dulin	Leo Betancourt	<i>Elders</i>
Foyer 2-Ushering	Chris Chapman	Nathan Shows	Keith Arrants 936.499.2812
Song Leading	Alan Stilts	Jonathan Chandler	George Chapman 832.764.2151
1 st Prayer	Harvey Goble	Granville Betton	Norman Davis 832.326.2966
Scripture	Ross Randow	Josh Suarez	Don Hooton 936.443.6230
Scripture Reading	Matthew 3:1-12	Psalm 96	<i>Deacons</i>
Communion Lead	Mickey Chandler	Jay Dulin	Adam Bohanan 281.798.1093
Preaching	Ed Brand	Don Hooton	Brian Clark 281.513.0706
2 nd Prayer	Brian Clark	Craig Preuss	Gary LeBlanc 281.292.0262
Announcements	Don Hooton	Keith Arrants	Craig Preuss 832.477.0578
Building Open/Lockup	Davis	Hooton	<i>Evangelist</i>
Sound 1	Chris Latson	Chris Latson	Don Hooton 936.443.6230
Communion Prep	G & L Chapman	G & L Chapman	<i>Office Phone</i>
Counting Contribution	Norman Davis & Michael Harvey	Keith Arrants & Trevor Potter	281.367.2099
WEDNESDAYS	7:00 PM-3/31	7:00 PM-4/7	Church Email
Song Leading	Dwight Haas	Keith Arrants	woodlandschurchofchrist@gmail.com
Invitation/Talk	Ed Brand	Ross Randow	<i>Website</i>
Prayer	Keith Arrants	Gary LeBlanc	www.woodlandschurchofchrist.org
Announcements	Don Hooton	Barrett Blankenship	