

Good News From Chardon

Church of Christ
440-286-5505

1 2 8 M A P L E A V . C H A R D O N , O H I O 4 4 0 2 4

Schedule of Services

Greeting: Tom
 Song Leader: Mark
 Opening Hymn:
28—My Jesus, I Love Thee
 Opening Prayer: Larry
 Hymn:
571—Bringing In The Sheaves
 Scripture Reading: Ryan
 Luke 9:20-27
 Hymn:
288—The Lord's Supper
 Lord's Supper: Dale
 Hymn:
155—Christ Arose
 Sermon: Tom
 Invitation Hymn:
603—Jesus, I Come
 Closing Hymn:
659—Now The Day Is Over
 Closing Prayer: Jerad

Don't Downplay the Cross

When taken seriously, one of Jesus's most demanding commands is found in Luke 9, where He told what it takes to "truly" be a follower of His:

If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me. (Luke 9:23)

Each portion of that command is challenging, but focus for a few moments on the command to "take up cross daily." It can be easy to downplay the depth of that command and how challenging it really is. There are several ways we can do that, and they all come from a failure to truly remember what a cross was used for and how horrific it was.

At times, we can downplay the command by making the cross commonplace. That is, we just do not see it as anything more than a symbol. Maybe we do this by making it into jewelry or other similar things, which is not necessarily wrong, but the cross can just become a "thing" in our minds if we do not really think about it.

At other times, we downplay the command by talking about regular issues of life and comparing them to the cross. We might go through a surgery or an illness and speak of it as being our "cross to bear." Again, I am not saying this is sinful in and of itself, but that type of language can cause the cross to be something that is more common. It is something that is painful but normal.

What we must always keep in the forefront of our minds is that the cross was a method of execution, and it was meant to be torturous. To state the matter bluntly: people died on crosses.

So, when Jesus said that we must "take up cross," He was stating that we must die! Obviously, the Lord was not saying that we must physically die in order to follow Him (although following Him might lead to death for some people). He was, rather, saying that our former person must be gone, as good as dead. And take note of the fact that Jesus said this was to happen "daily."

Each day, we must die to selfishness. We must die to sin. We must die to the way of the world. So, the cross takes on a whole new meaning in our life because we see it for what it is, and it is not pretty or easy.

Paul gives us the mindset we should have about the cross and what it should mean in our daily walk in one of his most well-known passages. Knowing that the cross was a method of execution, He made it clear that this should be what defines us in our Christian life:

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ Who lives in me. And the life that I now live in the flesh I live by faith in The Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)

That is what the cross should mean. It is dying daily to ourselves so that Christ can live through us. Let's not downplay the cross; let's make it what it is meant to be: the place where we die to self and exalt Jesus. "But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." (Galatians 6:14)

Adam Faughn preaches for the Central Church of Christ in Paducah KY

Desire to follow Christ

Luke 9:23

S T A K F A S H A M E D D E E
 U R P H N L D D E I S E E C R
 R O E G S R E T R P S T D D I
 A I E D I L S S R O Y C N S S
 B L R H L A S I M I W E A U E
 S Y T C T E E J P I N J M F D
 Y N E D B S V B L E H E M F U
 F M P I T T R D H B T R O E U
 S M R S H Z E R S A V E C R W
 W C W I N S W E F I L G R T H
 S O N A I W B O D H C A Y I O
 L G R A R D E L L I K I R F E
 S T R L P N X D C L W N O O V
 Q L M F D D E A T H O S L R E
 A N S W E R E D Q J H F G P R

ANGELS	ANSWERED	ASHAMED
COMMANDED	DEATH	
DENY	DESIRE	ELDERS
FOLLOW	GAINS	GLORY
HIMSELF	KILLED	LIFE
PETER	PRIESTS	PROFIT
RAISED	REJECTED	SAVE
SCRIBES	SUFFER	TASTE
THINGS	THIRD	WARNED
WHOEVER	WORDS	WORLD

Hidden Message:

PRAYER LIST

- **Mynda** and all her family; as they travel, **parents** at the loss of their home, **father's** surgery and injuries
- **Mark & Debbie** as they travel
- **Roberta**, doing Bible study with Tom, body healing
- **Robert's** eye injury
- **Dakota** as he struggles
- **Truxton's** accident injuries
- **Allen**, Wanda's son
- **Mary** and her family. **Carl's** gout, hip pain and heart issues, & terminally ill friend
- **Tom and Nina's** 5-year-old great nephew, **Bear**, **Nicholas**, is now at home; **Nina's** hip pain
- **Kathy**, her sister and friends. Kathy's foot healing, she is in Mapleview rehab center
- **Zarna** and her family
- **Larry and Ruth**.
- **Juanita's** sister **Betty** and the rest of her family. **Dale's** brother-in-law **Spike's** heart attack
- **Ray** and **Barbara** and their family.
- **Dale's** health issues and his family. His friend **Riley** (age 6) who has cancer. Brother in Christ **Darrell's** surgery
- **Ray** and family as they recover
- **Pat** and her family

CALENDAR

- Aug 7—Bible Study 10 am, Worship 11 am Speaker Tom. Business Meeting
- Aug 9—(a) Ray & Rebecca
- Aug 14—Bible Study 10 am, Worship 11 am Speaker Tom
- Aug 14—(a) Robert & Sara
- Aug 14-17 Streetsboro C of C Gospel Meeting
- Aug 19—Friday night sing Orrville
- Aug 21—Bible Study 10 am, Worship 11 am Speaker Mark
- Aug 22—(b) Carole
- Aug 28—Bible Study 10 am, Worship 11 am Speaker Tom
- Aug 30—Ladies Bible Study ~ pot luck at Betty's

We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorns have roses

SUNDAY: Bible Study—10:00 am, Worship—11:00 am

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Answer to puzzle:
 Take up his cross
 daily