

Worship Servants:

This week: 5/7/23

Sermon: Matt J
 Preside: Lee S, Alex H
 Doug M, Dylan N
 Opening Prayer: Doug M
 Closing Prayer: Scott S
 Singing AM: David D
 Singing PM: Bert S

Next week: 5/14/23

Sermon: Matt J
 Preside: John S, Bert S,
 Scott S, Kolton S
 Opening Prayer: David H
 Closing Prayer: Glenn H
 Singing AM: John S
 Singing PM: Justin H

Sermon Notes:



MERCEDES DRIVE

CHURCH of CHRIST

May 7, 2023 VOL. 16 NO. 19

Service Times

Sunday: Bible Class 9 AM
 Worship 10 AM
 Worship 6 PM

Wednesday: Bible Class 6 PM

Elders

Danny Dailey 205-799-0917
 David Dailey 205-765-7260
 David Harbin 205-292-3515

Deacons

John Sloan
 James McDonald

Minister

Matt Jones 205-616-1165
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Welcome

UPCOMING EVENTS

LADIES' BIBLE STUDY | June 6th, 6:30pm
 MDCOC Fellowship Hall
 Held monthly on the first Tuesday.

SATURDAY SISTERS | May 20th, 9am
 Host - Helen Mulparathi
 Teacher - Monalisa Harbin

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY | May 9th, 6pm
 MDCOC Fellowship Hall
 Held monthly on the second Tuesday.

TEENS IN THE WORD | May 16th, 6pm
 At the Jones House

MEN'S BREAKFAST | May 28th, 7:45am
 At the building.

1ST SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP | May 7th
 9AM - Bible Class
 10AM - Worship
 3PM - Kids activities
 5PM - Family Singing / Devotional

GIRLS FOR CHRIST | May 28th after services

LADIES REVELATION STUDY | 2nd & 4th Sundays
 1PM at the building
 Taught by: Helen Mulparathi

Check the bulletin in the foyer for more announcements and upcoming events.

The Mark

Tyler King

If one were to read the opening chapters of Ezekiel, they would notice a very grim reality that the nation of Israel was living in. The people rejected nearly every leader God gave them and even went as far as to refuse the very voice of God (Ez. 3:7). They were blessed but leveraged their blessing for sin, just like every other nation that surrounded them (Ez. 5:5,6). They no longer honored the temple of God and were comfortable offering their detestable worship (5:11). The tone of the opening pages of Ezekiel is bleak and harrowing.

Yet in the midst of a struggling people, God recognized there was a number of those who remained steadfast to Him. Even though the nation as a whole was insufferable to God, there were some who devoted themselves to abstain from the detestable abominations. Notice what God says concerning these select people; "Pass through the city, through Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations that are committed in it" (Ez. 9:4). Those who had the mark were safe from the wrath of God. Perhaps a shadow of what took place at the Exodus and the Passover (12:7).

What is particularly fascinating about the Old Testament is how often it magnifies circumstances in the New Testament. Several hundred years later, the apostle John would pen the Revelation. In this incredibly vivid and awe-inspiring book (just like Ezekiel), the reader gains a knowledge of the exclusivity of being righteous in God's eyes; that is, not everyone will escape His wrath nor experience His peace. In Revelation chapter 3, Jesus encourages the individuals who overcome this life that He will "write on them" a new name. Those who present themselves as righteous are given an inscription directly from God. Moreover, there are similar references to God placing His mark on those who present themselves as righteous (Rev. 7:3; 9:4). Only those who have the mark of God are those who will escape judgment.

However, as one continues to read through the Revelation, there is another mark that is mentioned. This second mark does not come from God, but from the second "beast" who revels in worldly wickedness. The mark given by the second beast is one that is tempting for all who live in the world, for by having this particular mark, the people of the time were able to trade, buy, and sell - grow in their worldly gain and status (Rev. 13:15-17). This also meant impoverished lifestyles for those who had God's mark, and not the beast's. The world will find itself in positions of thinking that they won. However, the text of Revelation 14 rings louder than the woeful arrogant battle cry of worldly victory. Those who have the mark of God are those that will:

Find themselves the presence of Jesus and the rest of His saints (14:1)

Bask in the glory of heavenly celebration (14:2,3)

Be seen for pure in conduct, and be remembered for their rescue from sin (14:4,5)

The life of a Christian is one of absolute devotion. It requires the individual to hate evil, groan over wickedness, and remain absent from sinful lifestyles (Ezekiel 9:4). The pursuit of Christianity perseveres even when faith isn't convenient (Revelation 13:17). Ultimately, when one is committed to Jesus and His commands, the mark of God is placed upon the individual and they are no longer seen as the world's, but God's (Rev. 14:1, 4). Christians do not merely bear the name "Christian," rather, they are accompanied with a mark that can only be given by the divine.

WEEKLY PRAYER REQUESTS

- **BETTY is doing well and is supposed to be home May 10.**
- **JACK ADKINS is having surgery May 24.**
- **KOURTNI YOUNG had procedure and is doing well.**
- **REGINA HUNT is needing encouragement to walk in the light**
- **TRACI, Kelli Dailey's friend from work, is in the hospital**
- **KEN RAMAY a prayer of thanks no hearts surgery is needed at this time.**
- **CINDY PERKINS, friend of Juanita, is home after 85 days in the hospital.**
- **ZACHARY DAVIS, friend of Juanita, has had hospice called in.**
- **FAMILY OF MICHAEL EDMENDSON he passed away April 11th**
- **JENNIFER, Kayla Banks' friend, is needing prayers for her baby**
- **MARIE STRAIN in hospital for blood clots in her lungs**
- **SIMS FAMILY, live in Brookwood, lost their child in a car accident**
- **ANNA MARSHAL, Kitty's sister, is in hospital.**
- **MISSION WORK IN INDIA**
- **DANNY DAILEY for health reasons**
- **BARBIE SMITH'S FATHER and all of health issues**
- **BILLY GUYTON'S wife has stage 3 breast cancer**
- **LYN'D DUNNWOODY Debbie's Brother in Law's Daughter, has breast cancer**
- **JAMIE KELLEY, James Hall's daughter, health struggles, is home still needs prayers**
- **JAMES HALL needing prayers and is needing encouragement**
- **RUBY MILLIGAN, Doug's SIL, has T-Cell Lymphoma. Pray for her and Don.**

ATTENDANCE

Worship A.M. ... 97
 Worship P.M. NA
 Wed P.M.50

CONTRIBUTION

Last Week.....\$11,429.00

BUDGET

Weekly.....\$3,000.00

