

Worship Servants:

This week: 7/9/23

Sermon: Matt J
Preside: John S, Bert S
Scott S, Kolton S
Opening Prayer: Doug M
Closing Prayer: Dylan N
Singing AM: Alex H
Singing PM: Justin H

Next week: 7/16/23

Sermon: Matt J
Preside: Barry S, Danny D,
Phillip E, John A
Opening Prayer: David H
Closing Prayer: Phillip E
Singing AM: John S
Singing PM: Alex H

Special Announcement

East Tuscaloosa Area Wide
5th Sunday Fellowship

Cottondale East Pointe Hillcrest Mercedes Drive

Sunday
July 30, 2023
5:00pm

PROGRAM LOCATION:
17303 Highway 11 N
Vance, AL 35490

PROGRAM LED BY:
Mercedes Drive Congregation

**WE ARE PROVIDING TACOS AND THE
TOPPINGS THAT GO WITH TACOS. PLEASE, GET
WITH MONALISA ON WHAT TO BRING.**



MERCEDES DRIVE

CHURCH of CHRIST

July 9, 2023

VOL. 16 NO. 28

Welcome

UPCOMING EVENTS

LADIES' BIBLE STUDY | July 13th, 6:30pm
MDCOC Fellowship Hall
Held monthly on the first Tuesday.

SATURDAY SISTERS | July 15th, 9am
Host - Jean Ciceros
Teacher - Courtney Conner

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY | July 11th, 6pm
MDCOC Fellowship Hall
Held monthly on the second Tuesday.

TEENS IN THE WORD | July 18th, 6pm
At DYLAN and KOLIS house

MEN'S BREAKFAST | July 23rd @ 7:45am
At the building.

GIRLS FOR CHRIST | will be canceled for this
month, we will be at camp

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

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

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 Harbin 205-292-3515

Deacons

John Sloan
James McDonald

Minister

Matt Jones 205-616-1165
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Church Contacts:

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Mercedes Drive Church of Christ

facebook.com/mdchurchofchrist

The Grounding of Freedom

Cory Waddell

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
John 8:31-32

Tuesday, our nation celebrated the 247th anniversary of Independence Day. This is always a great season for Americans to reflect on the courage, wisdom, trials, and sacrifices of those founding fathers and families who envisioned a great experiment that yielded the country we have today. To be sure, they were not perfect, and we have not executed the guiding principles equally throughout history, but the ideas of freedom continue to be sound and necessary.

From a Christian perspective, though, it's important to realize that ideas and teachings of freedom initiated long before the Declaration of Independence. Jesus spoke of true freedom for all people during his ministry. As we study his teachings (and those of the inspired apostles), we see several fundamental traits of true freedom that must be present if anyone is to enjoy it. Arguably the most basic trait is that freedom is grounded in truth.

In John 8, Jesus is having a major discussion with the Jewish people regarding his identity and the nature of his work. In verse 31-32 he gives the well-known statement, "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." In both its immediate context and in general, Jesus reveals that freedom only comes when it is grounded in truth. Consider, for example...

The truth of Jesus' word/work sets us free from the tyranny of sin. Jesus is "the way, the truth, and the life" and the only access to the Father (John 14:6). Paul will add that we are set free from sin when we are baptized into and join in a death like Jesus' (Romans 6:1-7).

Truth sets us free from the chains of lies. When we lie to someone, we become a slave to the deception. In order to maintain the charade, another lie must be told, then another, and another. Eventually the lie rules that relationship. The only way to be set free is to tell the truth. Yes, there are consequences, but once the truth comes to light, we are no longer held captive by the deception.

Truth sets us free from addictive behaviors. Addiction support groups famously begin their programs with blunt statements of reality. "Hello, my name is _____ and I am a _____." This is a key step because so many addictions are fueled by their own lies and deceptions. "I can quit whenever I want." "I've got this under control." Even in John 8, those listening to Jesus were unable to see the reality of their own situation. "We've never been enslaved to anyone!" (Just read Jewish history to see the truth.) Yet, admitting the reality of our addictive situations allows us to begin the process of breaking the hold such behaviors have on us.

There are other examples we could give, but the point remains the same. Freedom is a state of existence we all want and need. Jesus provides the truest form of freedom that has inspired humans for centuries to emulate it in various forms. Yet, regardless of the setting, be it spiritual, political, or social, one fundamental trait remains. Freedom is grounded in truth.

WEEKLY PRAYER REQUESTS

- **CONGRATULATIONS DALTON SLOAN!** He put on Christ in baptism July, 4, 2023!!
- **TAMMI JONES** with her broken arm.
- **MADDIE GRACE SELMAN** and her recovery from Staph
- **MRS. BECKY**, that she will wake up and **PEACE FOR JACK** (room 307 ICU)
- **SCOTT MCDONALD**, Monalisa's coworker, passed away
- **THOSE TRAVELING TO OKLAHOMA**
- **MARK AND SHANA**, members at Central, they were in bad car wreck
- **TIM NOLAN**, member at Hillcrest, and his recovery from surgery.
- **CONGRATULATIONS BRAXTON!** He put on Christ in Baptism June 30, 2023
- **DAILEY FAMILY** as they make preparations to move to Oklahoma
- **DON CICERO** and his recovery from surgery (doing better)
- **WILKEY FAMILY** and the loss of Lisa's mother.
- **BRENDA**, friend of Koli, and her health struggles (procedure went well)
- **A lady** was baptized in Greensboro, AL last Tuesday
- **PETER BURNELL**, Ralph's Borthor, has liver cancer
- **ARIEL BRANHAM**, Ralph Burnell's daughter, has a serious eye issue
- **JACK ADKINS** and his recovery from surgery
- **FAMILY OF JOHN TAYLOR**, Stephanie Mill's coworker, he passed away this week
- **KENZI SWINDLE**, 6 years old, is fighting cancer and broke her leg
- **KEN AND BETTY RAMAY** and health struggles (Good news about Ken)
- **BARBIE SMITH'S FATHER** and all of health issues
- **ANDY CADDELL** and his road to recovery

ATTENDANCE

Worship A.M. ... 70
Worship P.M. na
Wed P.M.50

CONTRIBUTION

Last Week.....\$3,800.00

BUDGET

Weekly.....\$3,000.00

