

Readings Today: AM: Luke 22:24–32 Sift You Like Wheat

PM: Psalm 24:1-6 Dominion of the Lord

Elders:

Bob Alley Jerry Brinkley
Cary Ashton Gary Watt

Evangelist:

Steve Wolfgang

Deacons:

Curt Frechmann Bryce Cann
Loren Hueter Greg Jones
Dave Malcomson Eric Paige

Worship Service Schedule

Sunday

Bible Classes 9:00 A.M.
Worship Service 9:55 A.M.
Worship Service 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:30 P.M.

Phone (630) 968-0760

Web Address www.dgcoc.org 900

All endings are beginnings we just don't know it at the time.

You cannot unsay a cruel word.

Prayer is speaking the truth to 'The Truth'.



Order of Worship Today

Morning services

Evening services

Greeting and Announcements
Song Leader
Scripture Reading
Prayer
Contribution – Leader
Contribution – Prayer
Lord's Supper – Leader
Cup – Prayer
Assist
Assist
Assist
Speaker
Closing Prayer

Jerry Brinkley
Peter Jetton
Jim Kolze
Mark Ames
Eric Paige
Charles Prince
Eric Paige
Brian Jaros
Nick Pippenger
Steve Solomon
Blake Whitby
Steve Wolfgang
Justin Ashton

Jerry Brinkley
Eric Roper
Jerry Brinkley

Brian Jaros
Charles Prince

Ethan Riffle
Tony Kelly

Greeters —Bill Brinkley and Greg Jones

Welcome to our Visitors: Please fill out a white visitor card - and give it to a greeter at the close of services.

Wed. Evening 7-15-15: Song-B. Whitby; Speaker-Jetton; Prayer-P. Prince



**Downers Grove
church of Christ
1236 63rd St
Downers Grove IL 60516**

HIGH LIGHTS

**"THE LORD SHALL BE THINE
EVERLASTING LIGHT"**

July 12, 2015

Sift You Like Wheat



There is a mean and anti-Christian temperament that exists and those who would feel proud to stand against moral values and righteousness are vocal and visible. Professing to be godless is not a characteristic looked down upon but rather it seems it is boasted about. The lingering bitterness against the followers of Christ, is prevalent in all areas of society.

This is typical of the enemies of God that we read about in the Bible even though it seems like modern-day attitudes. Throughout the Old Testament and New Testament these enemies of God and then Christ were actively trying to devour or totally overwhelm the "good" people with their evil lifestyle. The temptations were abundant to join in their debauchery, and the threats were many. The "lions" of the community would not tolerate the presence of a lamb of God in their midst without paying a tribute to the government.

The anti-Christian fervor in the New Testament kept everyone in a state of agitated animosity to rid them of the one who could perform miracles in the name of God and they could not. Ridding themselves of the one who could preach with authority where they could not was their highest priority.

The followers of Christ were subjected to numerous persecutions and we are told that Satan desired to test Peter's faith; to place trials and temptations before him; "to sift him like wheat, to separate him from God. To make an example of one professing to be strong in the faith who will fall with the rest so easily.

Satan desires to sift us like wheat; to separate us from God's goodness and His way. He wants to remove God's word out of our hearts and minds and see if anything of faith remains. We will be sifted like wheat if we lack knowledge of God's plan for us and understanding of the eternal consequences for not standing up to the temptation tests of Satan. —Bob Alley

The Need For Moral Courage Today

There will always be a need for moral courage among Christians. Here are some areas of application in which we need Christians with the courage to stand for their convictions today.

Christians must be willing to suffer ostracism and practice moral purity. Christians are tempted to be conformed to this world. When the world sees a Christian who refuses to be conformed, his distinctive morality is a rebuke to their ungodliness. They do not like the fact that a Christian does not participate in their filthy jesting, drinking, cursing, drugs, dancing, mixed swimming, free sex, pornography, etc. They will ostracize him. Consequently, we need Christians with enough conviction to suffer ostracism, willing to be different for Christ's sake.

Preachers must be willing to preach what needs to be preached. Some churches are at peace where sin is tolerated. Social drinking, mixed swimming, masonry, adulterous marriages, and other common sins are ignored. When a preacher moves into such a congregation, he sometimes learns that the elders' children and other relatives are involved. Sometimes he is remarkably silent about such sins. He is afraid to stir the water for fear that he will lose his job.

I appreciate the gospel preaching of the New Testament which was geared to the need of the moment. Peter said to the Jews on Pentecost, ". . . ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain" Jesus of Nazareth (Acts 2:23). Paul reasoned with Felix of "righteousness, temperance, and the judgment to come" (Acts 24:25). Felix trembled. Their preaching comforted the afflicted and afflicted the comforted!

The kind of preaching which is unwilling to address the problems of sin in a congregation will not save the souls of those who are involved in those sins. Preachers need the moral courage to address those sins and seek to lead men to repentance, even if their preaching creates turmoil and conflict. If men are complacent in their sin, they need to be stirred to repentance. The preaching needs to be explicit enough that the sinner understands his condition before God. If the preaching leaves the sinner thinking that he is saved, it has not accomplished its purpose.

Moral courage is a needed virtue in each of us. Like Peter, many of us stumble and fall from time to time because we fail to display moral courage. Like him, we need to repent of these sinful failures and begin anew to display the moral virtues which Christ manifested.

—Mike Willis

News and Notes

Prayer List

Our Members:

Those coping with on-going health and mobility difficulties:

- Jean Freeman.
- Steve Richardson has a serious heart condition.
- Sal Scarpitti is in Provident Healthcare and Rehab facility, 3450 Saratoga Ave. Downers Grove, 60515 (630-969-2900) room 10A and he welcomes visitors.
- Mary Brown has been confined to home for some time and enjoys visits, cards and calls.

Prayers for Loved Ones

- Blair Elam's mother, Helen, (Elaine Petry's sister) coping with multiple medical issues is in a facility that deals with Alzheimer's patients.
- Walter Purcell's brother-in-law, Louis Woods, dealing with serious health issues.
- Mary Hall's sister in Wis. Sula Maxey, and her bro-in-law in Alabama, Joe Basham, dealing with health issues.
- Juanita Saladino's mother is in hospice care in KY.
- Lyna Fowlkes son, Daryl suffered a stroke last week. He is home now receiving treatment.

Edification Group

Group 2 will meet today in the library.

Travelers

Those that are away traveling or recently returned.

- Donna & Brian Richardson will be away visiting relatives in FL, SC, and DE until late July. Steve will be joining them for part of the trip.
- The Watts are in Tenn.
- Ralph and Laura Ford are in Iowa for a week.
- Walter Purcell will be out of town traveling to Evansville IN, and then to Memphis, Tenn. for a family reunion returning on Tuesday the 14th.
- Rebecca, Samantha and Jonathan Hill are in Calif. until the 7th of August.

Congregational Meeting

Semiannual congregational meeting will be held Sunday evening 7/26.

Children's Bible Study

This class meets on the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 5:30 P.M.

Tuesday Ladies class

This class will meet again in Sept.

Condolences

Tom Hill's brother-in-law, Sylvia's brother, Gregory Robert, passed away last week. Our condolences to the Hill family on their loss.