



The Relator

July 2016

*"Salute one another with a holy kiss.
The Churches of Christ salute you!"
Romans 16:16*

Volume LXVIII – EDITION 11



Cosma's Corner

I wanted to use this space to finish a sermon I left unfinished in our series called DEEP! There will be much more of the depths that I am sure will be left unexplored, but I want to give you a brief synopsis of the practicality of Romans 2:17-29:

NOT PROFESSION BUT PRACTICE – vv. 17-24

Knowledge is an important thing.

We need to study the word of God, read commentaries and devotional books, listen to other preachers and teachers, and memorize scripture. Knowing what the scriptures say is an important tool for applying it to our lives

I know plenty of people that can discuss the Bible for hours. They have a lot of head knowledge but not a lot of practice.

Too many times, we want to tell other people how to live their lives and we'll tell them the truth: "Here's what the Bible says you should do." When it comes time for

us to behave in a biblical way, we fail to put it into practice in our lives.

We know the Bible says, "You shall not steal" but we think it's okay to take a couple of illegitimate deductions on our taxes or take those pens and paper clips home from the office.

We know the Bible says we shouldn't gossip but we can't wait to fire up the phone lines or Facebook when we hear a juicy tidbit. We know the Bible tells us we should do everything without grumbling or complaining but can't wait to let people know that we don't like whatever is happening at church at the time.

NOT THE FLESH BUT THE SPIRIT – vv 25-29

Circumcision is a physical act that has spiritual implications. It was a reminder that there is no part of our lives that does not come under the sovereignty of God.--there is no part of us that is too private and intimate to yield to God's control.

Jews took great pride in circumcision. They felt that one time act determined their destiny forever. I know people that treat baptism the same way. One time under the water 15, 20, 30 years ago is all they needed to do. Their trust is in what they accomplished on that day and not on what God wanted to do in them. Paul very skillfully explains to those with such a belief that it's not what happens in the flesh but what happens in the Spirit that's important.

We become so full of pride in what we accomplish. I went, I did, I belong ...

When will we ever drop the idea that we can't do enough to earn our salvation?

There are no X's and O's on a chart. We can't balance our bad acts with our good deeds.

Our hope has been in what we've done or not done. --Don't drink, smoke, spit or chew or even go out with girls that do. Not what I've done but what he has done

v. 29 – "No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly, and circumcision is circumcision of the heart by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God."

Circumcision is a cutting away.

--True circumcision is when we allow the work of God through the Spirit to cut away the things in our hearts that defile us.

Paul warns the Jews not to put their trust in their bloodline, in their knowledge of the book, or in their outward symbol.

Their trust needs to be in what God has done and is doing them through the death and resurrection of His Son and the work of His Spirit.

From One Cut Through To The Heart

Monthly Newsletter Published by Phillips Christian Church, Salem, Ohio

reflections..

Freedom

Each one of us is born most free
 And we alone can choose
 To do what God would have us do,
 To use what God would use.

Or, we are also free to seek
 The proud and selfish way —
 A life where other gods come first
 To reign and hold full sway.

But when we follow where Christ leads,
 We find that freedom's place
 Is really in God's Will for us,
 And we have chosen GRACE!

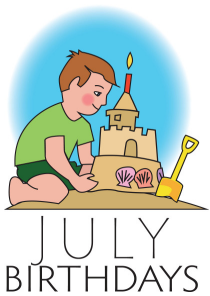
—Peggy Ferrell, Prayers and Poems



July 3rd ... 8:00 am Trustee Meeting
July 10th ... 8:00 am Elders Meeting
July 17th ... 8:00 am Board Meeting



The **FUN**day School class had a **FUN** filled June! The combined Sunday School class (1st grade-12th grade) made several crafts and had a lot of **FUN** as they learned about God. On June 5th, we made masks for Daniel, the lion, and a king as we told the story of Daniel and the Lion's Den. On June 12th, we made tin foil boats to show that God will always keep us afloat and help us tackle what life throws at us. June 19th, we turned water into wine... well... sort of. Thank you to the adult class that allowed us to show them Jesus' first miracle. On June 26th, we sat in a tent and learned that God's house should be respected as we talked about the money changers in the Bible cheating the people, which made Jesus furious. We also made butterfly magnets. We are so excited for a **FUN** filled July. Invite your friends! There is a lot more **FUN** on the way!
 - Missy, Marty, Mike, and Cody



- 1st Joy Singer
Lynn Schmidt
- 7th Richard Kelly
- 14th Jason Shinn
- 21nd Dustin Reiter
- 27th Bob Shinn
Nancy Hamilton
- 28th Rick Phillis



The **Philips Christian Church Relay For Life** team finished the 2016 season raising \$1,184 for the American Cancer Society. As a whole, the Salem Relay raised \$18,405.12. Phillips earned 3rd place for most money raised overall and achieved "Rising Star" status for raising over \$1,000. The Salem Relay was very small this year, and we were told that there is a chance Salem will combine with other area Relays next year. Thank you to everyone who donated, and a bigger thank you to our cancer survivors who motivate us to fight back against cancer.

-Cody & Ali Opsitnik, Team Captains

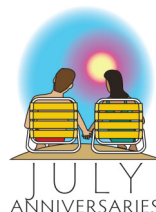
Wed. Night Disciples

The **Wednesday night Disciples Youth Group** are gathering at Richard and Verna Kelly's cottage at Guilford Lake, 6240 Camp Blvd., Lisbon, Ohio, for the following events and would like to invite any youth to attend.

July 20th--6:00 - Christmas in July--We will be collecting new and used books to share with Sophia Women's Center in Salem and the Christina House in Lisbon.

August 17th--6:00 - End of Summer Blast--Bring swim suits, towels, etc. to have fun.

Please **RSVP** to dfaloba@yahoo.com or (330) 429-5044.



- 13th Gary & Cindy Eichler
- 22nd Clyde & Nita Floor
- 29th Dan & Marie Bartels



- Steve Singer** (blood condition)
- Suzanne Holloway** (lung cancer)
- Dorothy Knepper** (lung cancer)
- Alice Gamble** (back surgery)
- Mary Lou Hartzell** (throat cancer)
- George Faul** (pray for strength)
- Northeast Ohio Bible College**
- Elizabeth Thatcher** (health problems)
- Donald Barnhart** (hip problems/kidney disease)
- Don Huston** (Blossom)
- Baby Elijah** (born with heart defect, home)
- Beverly Evans** (at daughter's home to continue healing)
- Jim Webber** (CHF, heart virus, pacemaker & defibrillator)

- Our Nation**
- Our Congregation**
- Lost Souls**
- The Unspoken Needs of our People**
- Nathaniel Davis** (immune system problems)
- Bill Wiley** (health issues)
- Maxine Vincent** (cancer)
- Mary Lou Eberhart** (health problems)
- Jeff Strange** (new treatment)
- Kim Bergman** (kidney cancer)

OUR SHUT-INS

- Jim Dorsey; Bess Staubs; Pat Kalbfell;**
- Dorothy McFadden; Martha Crookston**

SERVING IN THE MILITARY

- Joe Phillis; Joel Newburn; Kyle Stephenson;**
- Paige Wyss; Matt Bartel, 5th Deployment to Iraq**

May

- Little Lambs:** Kim Cosma
- Little Angels:** Missy Opsitnik
- Curious Kids:** Marty Shinn, Cody Opsitnik, Lucy Cosma
- Teens:** Mike Phillis
- Homebuilders/ Loyal Sons & Daughters:**
Sheldon Cosma, Ada Bailey, Gail Phillis, Jr., Carl & Judy Merriman, Robin Janofa, Jack & Bonnie Vincent, Bob Shinn, Tom & Linda Miller, Brenda Schmidt, John & Karen Benson

June

- Little Angels:** Grant Kelly, Gavin Kelly
- Curious Kids:** Marty Shinn
- Homebuilders/ Loyal Sons & Daughters:**
Ada Bailey, Gail Phillis, Jr., Carl & Judy Merriman, Robin Janofa, Jack & Bonnie Vincent, Dick & Verna Kelly, Bob Shinn, Bill Kelly, Marlene Webber, Sheldon Cosma, Tom & Linda Miller, Lynn & Brenda Schmidt, John & Karen Benson

Perfect Attendance



PHILLIPS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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Sheldon Cosma, Minister

Contact us:

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Church: 330-332-4467

Email: phillipschristianchurch@hotmail.com

SERVICES: SUNDAY

9:00 am ... Sunday School

10:00 am ... Worship

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Website : phillipschristian.org

Enjoy your Freedom !

Because many Americans have never known other circumstances, it's easy to take our liberties for granted. The Israelites knew firsthand the oppression of slavery. Yet when God finally led them out of Egypt, they had problems adjusting to their newfound freedom. Fearful and rebellious, the Israelites grumbled against their leaders, Moses and Aaron, saying they would've been better off as slaves in Egypt.

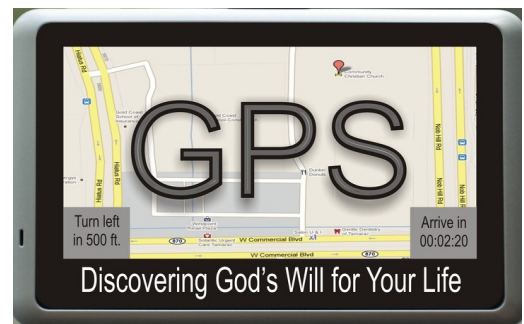
Our freedom as Christians cost Jesus his life. But we, too, often find it easier to fall back into sinful habits. In Galatians 5:1, Paul offers this encouragement: "For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery" (NRSV).

We're no longer bound by sin and death. That "independence" is worth celebrating every day!

On vocation? Use GPS!

Many vacationers rely on a global positioning system to get them easily to a destination. But in every season of life, God sends us on *vocation* — following his call to both feed our passions and serve others. Our "calling," Frederick Buechner said, is "where [our] deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

But is there a GPS for *vocation*? It's not as detailed or predictive as we'd like. It doesn't name our destination at the outset, and it offers general instructions rather than specific directions. And we may end up "recalculating" our life route more often than our vehicle GPS recalculates our vacation route.



Even so, we travel in safety. This "GPS" might stand for *God's Peace and Strength, or Gospel Promises Sustain, God Provides Salvation or Go! Proclaim! Serve!* The GPS guiding our vocation speaks to us through Scripture, worship, trusted Christian friends, life events and the silence of our heart. Listening, we hear our Guide's calm voice and continue on vocation. —Heidi Mann