

Independence Day

Independence Day is a period of time when we do not have to go to work. We can, rather, spend an enjoyable time doing what we like. Independence Day, of course, is our country's recognition of the founding fathers declaring their independence from Great Britain in 1776. It was a declaration by people in this "new-world," though not recognized by England. It was not until the end of the Revolutionary War in 1781 that Great Britain gave up the fight to retain her subject people on this continent.

Two hundred and forty years ago some well-educated (and not so well educated) men set in order a document that has stood the test of time. The Declaration of Independence (and the Constitution of the United States of America) stand as monuments to man's ability to establish a government by the people and for the people—all in liberty. Unfortunately, though, we live in a country now that seems to give little consideration to those two great monuments of man.

For a moment this holiday weekend give thoughtful consideration to what those people, who lived so many years ago, did to give you and me freedom today. They sacrificed their sacred honor to establish a government that now stands as a leader in this world of government's by man.

This form of liberty that we embrace pales, however, in comparison with a liberty that is greater than this world. Paul wrote to the Romans: "O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from this body of death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself with the mind serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin" (7:24-25, EMTV). This is a sacred honor I stand up for, and am willing to die for. What about you?

- Ron Thomas serves as preacher and an elder for the Highway Church of Christ, Sullivan, IL



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Read the Word

by Robert Guinn

Few things could be considered more important than encouraging one another to read and study the Scriptures on a regular basis. Some of us may have the annual ritual of reading through the book in a year, or we may have made a resolution to do so this year. The Bible highlights the importance of this by saying:

"I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you," (Psalm 119:19).

"I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation," (Psalm 119:99).

"Devote yourself to the... reading of Scripture...immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers," (1 Timothy 4:13-16).

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable," (2 Timothy 3:16).

Sometimes keeping these goals, however, can be very difficult. Perhaps we become discouraged believing that we are the only ones doing it. Maybe setting a "regular" time of day to read is nearly impossible due to our chaotic schedules. We may even find ourselves so involved in the "Lord's work" and / or congregational events that we find ourselves with spiritual cups that are on the verge of being empty.

When Jesus was with Mary and Martha, Martha was "distracted with much serving," (Luke 10:40). We know that serving is not a bad thing (John 13), but the difference between Mary and Martha is that Mary took the appropriate time to sit at the feet of our Lord receiving a "good portion, which will not be taken from her," (Luke 10:42). We too must take appropriate time to sit at the feet of Jesus and listen.

Why do we read in the Bible "my cup overflows" when someone is in the middle of "the valley of the shadow of death," (Psalm 23)? God was the source of their spiritual strength and stamina. The source of our faith and strength is the word of God (Romans 10:17).

This year, let us stockpile God's word in our hearts and minds. Let us strengthen our faith together!

- Robert Guinn preaches for the Central Church of Christ in Paducah KY.

Leadership

Elders Hayward Blanton, Jerry Casey

Deacons Clint Smith Sr, Clint Smith Jr,
Robby Stocksdales, Joe Sweeney

Pulpit Minister Eric Welch

Associate Minister Irvin F. Williams

Panama Mission

Pablo Sanchez

We Offer Free Personal Bible Studies and Bible Correspondence Courses - Phone (812) 284-3125

Visit Our Website: www.hamburgpikecofc.org

Email: church@hamburgpikecofc.org

Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning: "How to Have the Peace of God in Your Life" Philippians 4:4-7

Sunday Evening: *To Be Announced*

Those Privileged to Serve

AM Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins
Opening Prayer Bill Cravens
Scripture Greg Blanton
Sermon Eric Welch
Lord's Supper
Message Irvin Williams
Attendant Brandon Montgomery
Attendant Jeremy Montgomery
Closing Prayer Clint Smith Sr

PM Service

Song Leader Clint Smith Jr
Bible Reading John Keaton
Selection 18
Prayer Robby Stocksdales
Sermon Eric Welch
Closing Prayer Rick Martin
If you are unable to serve, please call Art Patrick 502-819-9481 or Harold Tincher 502-409-3511

AM & PM Services

Announcements Jerry Casey
Lord's Supper Grover Blanton
Offering Ethan Welch
Usher Harold Tincher
Count Offering Harold Tincher
Assist Count Hank Tincher

Last Sunday

Offering \$2,730
Attendance 75

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Class 10:00 AM
Morning Worship 11:00 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 PM

At Your Funeral

by Larry Pasley

Three old friends are sitting around and one of them brings up a question: "When you are in your casket, and friends and family are mourning over you, what would you like to hear them say about you?"

The first guy immediately responds, "I would like to hear them say that I was one of the great doctors of my time, and a great family man."

The second guy says, "I would like to hear that I was a wonderful husband and school teacher who made a huge difference in the children of tomorrow."

The last guy thinks a minute and replies, "I guess I'd like to hear them say, 'Look, he's moving!'"

Many are very reluctant to leave this life and want to hold on to it at all costs. Do we realize what heaven is really like? No one who really understands the beauty and wonders of heaven would ever be reluctant to leave this earth and go there.

Heaven is a spiritual place but God describes it to us in physical terms since we can't really understand spiritual beauty.

Revelation 21:4 "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Revelation 21:18-21 "The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. 19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, 20 the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. 21 The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass."

It is far better for us to depart this life and be with the Lord.

Philippians 1:21-23 "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better."

2 Corinthians 5:5-8 "Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. 6 So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. 7 For we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

Satan wants to keep us in bondage by our fear of death.

Hebrews 2:14-15 "Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."

May we always remember that beautiful, wonderful, heavenly home that is waiting for us when we leave this life and this world.

- Larry Pasley serves as a minister with the Jackson Street Church of Christ in Alexandria, LA.

Hamburg Pike Happenings

The church will have a 'Work Day' on Saturday July 9th starting at 8:00AM until approx. 1:00PM. The work day is in preparation for VBS along with other needed cleanup and maintenance.

VBS will be Monday, July 18 to Thursday, July 21 from 7 to 8:30 P.M. This year's theme is God's Amazing Laboratory! (Genesis 1 and 2) Work days are set for Saturday July 9 and Saturday July 16. Volunteers are needed for decorating classrooms, serving snacks, helping the kids with crafts, and tearing everything down on the last night of VBS. Any questions please see Ashley or Stephanie.

Attention Bible Bowl team: Practices will be every Sunday from 5:00PM to 5:45PM.