

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

Leadership

Elders Hayward Blanton
Jerry Casey
Clint Smith Sr

Deacons Brandon Slotman
Clint Smith Jr
Robby Stocksdale
Joe Sweeney

Pulpit Minister Eric Welch

Missions

Panama Pablo & Myra Sanchez
Panama Denicio & Carmen Miranda
New Zealand Nick & Marisa Parker

We Offer Free Personal Bible Studies and
Free Bible Correspondence Courses

For further information please contact us

Phone: (812)-284-3125

Email: church@hamburgpikecofc.org

Visit Our Website: www.hamburgpikecofc.org

Those Privileged to Serve

A.M. Worship Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins
Opening Prayer Brandon Slotman
Scripture Reading Ryan Irwin
Sermon Eric Welch
Lord's Supper Message Greg Blanton
Table Attendant Jerry Montgomery
Table Attendant Dillian Goddard
Closing Prayer Joe Sweeney

P.M. Worship Service

Song Leader Rick Martin
Bible Reading Clint Smith Sr
Selection 27
Opening Prayer Derrick Smith II
Sermon Eric Welch
Closing Prayer Leon Stocksdale

A.M. & P.M. Services

Announcements Jerry Casey
Lord's Supper Prayer Clint Smith Jr
Offering Prayer Ethan Welch
Usher Robby Stocksdale
Count Offering Joe Sweeney
Assist Count Marc Owens

Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning

Rabbi – Acts 17:24-27

Sunday Evening

The Greatness of God – Is 40:25-31

Last Sunday

Offering: \$3,176

Attendance: 95

Free At Last

On July 3, 1776 John Adams wrote in a letter to his wife, Abigail, "Yesterday the greatest question was decided which ever was debated in America; and a greater perhaps never was, nor will be, decided among men. A resolution was passed without one dissenting colony, "that these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States."" Mr. Adams would later become the second president of these great United States of America. Ours is a nation built on freedom.

Although highly prized, and rightly so, the freedom we experience is incomplete at best. Laws, statues and the rights of others limit our freedoms. As citizens we possess the right to run after "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" but no guarantees of acquiring these baubles of democracy.

True freedom can only be found in Jesus Christ. In Him we find rights and privileges of which we cannot be deprived. We find peace and hope that cannot be stripped from us. In Jesus we find salvation that will last forever. From the haven of Christ the true believer can truly celebrate, "Free at Last!"

- David Bragg serves as one of the ministers at the Northwest Church of Christ in Greensboro, NC and is co-editor of BulletinGold. Congregation's website: <http://www.nwchurchofchrist.com/>

The Worker

Hamburg Pike church of Christ

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Tolerance?

By Jeff Arnette

We live in a world where it is an unforgivable sin to be intolerant of others. Those same people who are quick to point out that someone is "intolerant" are themselves incredibly intolerant of others. They seem to be tolerant of almost anything except Christian values. As soon as someone says they are a Christian or they attend church, there instantly labeled as intolerant.

I think we need to define this word "tolerance." The worldly definition of tolerance seems to be "accepting all views as true." [1] Whereas, Oxford's dictionary says "showing tolerance (of a plant, animal, or machine), able to endure specified conditions or treatment." [2]

Is tolerance really about just accepting their views as correct? Does God really expect me to just accept someone's view as true, just because it's someone's view? Truthfully, I can hold to all kinds of ideas about all kinds of things, but just because they are my views does not make them right. Obviously if I hold a certain view I believe it to be right, but am I really correct?

I think this gets to the real problem most have with tolerance. We live in a world that does not want anyone to tell them they are wrong. Friends, the Bible I read says that I cannot just accept everything as true. God expects His followers to question all things (1 Thess. 5:21) and hold to the good. The very words good and bad imply that something's are right and others wrong. To make matters worse, the world's use of tolerance violates a simple law of logic. The law states that if we have two contradictory statements there are only three viable options. One is right and the other is wrong or both statements are wrong. We cannot have all contradictory views being correct. If Jesus is not the only way to heaven (John 14:6) then what is the right way?

So are you intolerant of another's belief simply because they differ from yours? Excuse me but I thought we lived in a country where having an opinion was OK or even desirable. The Bible is very clear on this. I must differentiate between what is good and what is bad. But in the process I cannot forget that the same Bible tells me to treat people fairly, to love them, and to try to help them find the truth about God and salvation.

True tolerance does not require you to be ignorant and blind to the truth.

Footnotes:

[1] Ted Cabal, Chad Owen Brand, E. Ray Clendenen, Paul

Copan, J.P. Moreland and Doug Powell, The Apologetics Study Bible: Real Questions, Straight Answers, Stronger Faith (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2007). 1882.

[2] Catherine Soanes and Angus Stevenson, Concise Oxford English Dictionary, 11th ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004).

- Jeff Arnette preaches for the Central Haywood church of Christ, Clyde, NC. He may be contacted through the congregation's website: <http://centralhaywoodchurchofchrist.com>

Jesus' Baptism—And Our's

By Ronald Bartanen

As John the baptizer was preaching a message of repentance and the kingdom of God, and baptizing in the Jordan River, many came to him to be baptized, “confessing their sins” (Matt. 3:6). We are then informed, “Then cometh Jesus...to be baptized” (Matt. 3:13). Jesus had lined up with the “publicans and harlots” (Matt. 21:31-32), though in no need of repentance and baptism “for the remission of sins” (Mark 1:4), being the sinless Son of God. We can learn much about the significance of baptism from the example of Jesus.

The baptism of Jesus was a decisive act. He was not brought as an infant, but came in a personal response to the will of the Father, or, as He explained to John, “to fulfill all righteousness” (Matt. 3:15). Righteousness is defined in Psa. 119:172: “All thy commandments are righteousness.” Baptism continues to be a command of God (Acts 10:48). Jesus made this commitment, knowing the path He was choosing would lead to the cross, His burial and resurrection, as prefigured in baptism. He was trading a life of personal security and privacy in Nazareth for a baptism of suffering. Baptism for us as well must be a personal decision of commitment to do the Father's will regardless of inconvenience or sacrifice.

Jesus' baptism was an act of humility. John recognized that Jesus had no need for baptism because He had no need for repentance. Standing with sinners, “He humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” (Philippians 2:8). Yet there are those who refuse baptism on the grounds of their morality. Baptism is a humbling act for the believer who, in baptism, is “buried with Christ...into death” and is raised to “walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:3-4).

Jesus' baptism was an act of separation, His private life behind Him and His public ministry before Him. To those baptized, “Ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness” (Romans 3:17-18).

Jesus' baptism was a prayerful act, as declared in Luke 3:21: “Jesus also being baptized and praying...” In baptism, prayerful hearts commit themselves to God. The “sinner's prayer” is not independent of baptism. It was in baptism that Saul (Paul) was told, “Arise and be baptized, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16). While such a prayer need not be vocal, in baptism one is to seek from God the “remission of sins” and “the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38-39).

Jesus' baptism was a divinely approved act. As Jesus arose from the watery grave, the Spirit of God descended upon Him, and the voice of the Father acknowledged Him: “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Matt. 3:16-17). We are acknowledged as children of God in Christ, as Paul wrote, “Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus, for as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Galatians 3:26-27).

Those who refused the baptism of John “rejected the council of God against themselves, being not baptized of him” (Lk. 7:30). Men would do well to heed the principle set forth in Hebrews 12:24: “If they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven.”

- Ronald Bartanen preaches for Arthur Church of Christ, Arthur, IL. He may be contacted through the congregation's website: <http://arthurcoc.com/>

Hamburg Pike Happenings

Please mark your calendar for our upcoming VBS. It is scheduled for July 16th through July 18th from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. each evening. The theme is “Building Up the Family”.

In preparation for our VBS 2 work days have been scheduled; Saturday July 7th and Saturday July 14th, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. both days. We will be organizing crafts, decorating rooms and preparing things for the puppet shows. We appreciate all the help we can get. See Ashley or Stephanie with questions.

Attention all youth in grades 3rd thru 12th. If you would like to be on the puppet team for Lads to Leaders, we will be having 3 practices to prepare for our upcoming VBS. The practices are scheduled for Sunday July 1st at 5:00 p.m., Sunday July 8th at 5:00 p.m. and Wednesday July 11th at 6:30 p.m. Please attend as many as you can, see Ashley with questions.