TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Don Taylor /Opening Prayer by: Robert Ward

Morning Assembly Song Leader: Kelly McCain

#47 Holy, Holy, Holy
#134 The Lord's My Shepherd

Scripture Reading by: Cameron Cantu

#354 I Gave My Life
Lord's Supper and Contribution

#416 Footsteps of Jesus
Sermon*: *"Do All in the Name of the Lord"
Colossians 3:12-17

#940 Only a Step
#129 Amazing Grace

Closing Prayer by: Andre Jones

Welcome by: Don Taylor

Evening Assembly Song Leader: Kelly McCain

#890 In the Land of Fadeless Day
#885 How Beautiful Heaven Must Be

Scripture Reading: Rock Cary
Opening Prayer: Phillip Strickhausen
#837 I Need Thee Every Hour
#784 Far and Near

Sermon: "One Word: "One Word: Fellowship"
1 John 1:3-4

#939 O, Why Not Tonight?
#867 To Canaan's Land I'm On My Way

Closing Prayer by: David Smith

Other Opportunities For Spiritual Growth

Sunday: 9:00am — Bible Study Classes, 10:00am — Worship, 6:00pm — Worship
Wednesday: 10:00am — Ladies Bible Class, 7:00pm — Bible Study Classes

July 7, 2019

"Stand Firm in…Liberty"

Galatians 5:1

The Danger of Anger

We all know the type of pithy little sayings that you find on church signs sometimes. Perhaps you have seen this one: "Anger is just one letter short of being danger." It's true; anger can be dangerous. And I imagine most of us experience times when we lose our tempers, because anger is one of the most difficult emotions to control.

It's like the comic book character, the Incredible Hulk. Normally he is a mild-mannered scientist, Dr. Bruce Banner – until someone makes him angry. You won't like him when he's angry. Then his muscles grow, his shirt rips – though, curiously, not his pants – and he turns into a giant, green rage monster. He is out of control, and, even though he's a "good guy," sometimes really bad consequences result from his escapades.

There is metaphorical truth in that. Anger can be disastrous. Yet we live in a culture that seems to exalt it in many ways (in the form of a superhero, for instance). Do you realize how bombarded we are on a daily basis with pictures of rage? Beatings, shootings, chase scenes where people are running each other down, and all kinds of violence are common on our TV and computer screens. Some of the most popular "law and order" programs glorify the idea that it is all right for the "good guys" to be mean and violent too, just as long as it is for a good purpose. And that attitude seeps from entertainment to news and the reaction that many have online to real world events and people.

In contrast to this attitude, consider the words of Paul in **Ephesians 4:26-27:** *Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil***.** If you can be angry without sinning then, logically, there is anger that is acceptable to God. What would that look like?

There are at least 2 types of anger presented as valid in Scripture. The first is when God's Word has been violated. Remember when Moses came down from Mt. Sinai with the 10 commandments? He discovered that, in his absence, the people had erected a golden calf as an idol and were wildly worshipping it. In response, he threw down the stone tablets and broke them in his fury. He was angry because God's Word – one of the commandments he brought down with him, in fact! – was being violated.

Closely related, Scripture presents anger as justifiable when God's people are being abused. Saul had just been crowned King of Israel when he received word that Jabesh-gilead was besieged by the Ammonites; the enemy boasted they would gouge out the right eye of every man. *And the Spirit of God rushed upon Saul when he heard these words, and his anger was greatly kindled.* **(1 Samuel 11:6).** When God's people are violated, that is a time to be angry. Both of these instances fall under the category of what we normally call "righteous indignation."

Family News & Notes

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our Sick

J. P. Williams is in Liberty Health Care room 605B for rehab.

Bill Lunceford is in Liberty Dayton Hospital with pneumonia.

Continued Prayers
(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Gwen Pettit, Gary Nielsen, Harold & Geri Cryer, Steve Ward, Jackie David, Frank & Tina Garcia, Eric Davis, Dayla Hale, Minny Owen, Doris Trahan, Joe Edd Stifflemire, Phillip Cottle

Shut Ins
(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Jim Smith, Winona Angelle, Myrtle Sheffield, Dr. Ronald Davis, Larry Hicks, Mark Wilcox

Our Missionaries

Aaron & Marisa Bailey in Mwanza, Africa, Rod Kyle in the South Pacific

Plastic Bags

The Food Bank is in need of plastic grocery bags. A barrel is in the foyer.

Upcoming Activities

Elders, Minister meeting Monday at 7:00 pm.

VBS is July 8-11th from 9:00am to 11:30 am. Make your plans to attend and invite your friends. The theme this year is "The Faith Force of Godly Living". Ages 2-6th grade.

Primetimers will be going to the Mast's home on Tuesday, July 16th at 5:00 pm. We will take the bus to their house. Bring finger foods. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.

VBS Signs

VBS yard signs are in the foyer. Please take one or two and put them in your yard.

Elders	Deacons	Minister
Ken Coleman	Daniel Balch	Bryant Perkins
Bob Parker	Danny Balch	
Bobby Rader	Shannon Smith	
Don Taylor	Phillip Strickhausen	
Robert Ward		

"Stand Firm in…Liberty"

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Office Phone Number (936) 336-2213; Fax (936) 334-8280;
Minister's (Bryant Perkins) Cell Phone Number (903)407-5737
Website: libertycofc.org Facebook page: Liberty Church of Christ

Privilege to Serve

Sunday, July 7th

Communion Preparation: Iva Votaw
Nursery Attendants: Tania Balch, Pat Hobbs

Communion Preparation for Sunday, July 14th: Lynette Ward
Nursery Attendants for Sunday, July 14th: Jane Tinkle, Rita Upton

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But most of our anger isn't like that. More often than not, it arises from wrong motives. Perhaps we are jealous, like the older brother in the parable of the Prodigal Son (**Luke 15:29-30).** Or maybe we are upset things didn't go our way, like Jonah having to preach to Israel's enemies in Nineveh (and angry all over again when they actually repented!). There are only a couple of reasons that justify anger, but a nearly endless list of things that might make us angry. How can we control our anger?

Paul gives a couple of warnings in the text we noted. *Do not let the sun go down on your anger.* This is good, practical advice that would serve us well in our homes. If you go to bed angry, it can fester and grow within, resulting in what Paul warns about next. *Do not give an opportunity to the Devil.* In our response to the gospel of faith, repentance, and baptism, we are made a new creation and begin to be refashioned by God into the image of Christ. But when we give an opportunity to the Devil, he does the opposite; he tries to make us more and more like him. If we go to bed with anger present, that gives him a foothold to do just that.

We must endeavor to avoid that. So, on a practical level: 1) Let's not allow minor irritations to become rage. If you're looking for something to be angry about, rest assured, you will find it. But remember that most of our anger isn't justified to begin with. 2) Let's be careful about the kind of people with whom we associate. *Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered, or you may learn his ways and get yourself ensnared* **(Proverbs 22:24-25).** In contemporary terms, this might include the online communities we are involved in too. Angry people will form us as angry people. 3) Let's control what we say. Scripture warns us not to speak until we first think about what we say. James warns us at length about the dangers of the tongue and how we need to bridle it. An angry tongue gets sharper with use, and it can cut into the lives of others.

Above all else, we need to commit our lives so much to Jesus that he controls our temperament. We need to cultivate self-control rather than rage. That is one of the fruits of the Spirit, you know (**Gal 5:22).** May we all strive to grow it rather than letting anger take root.

Bryant Perkins