

# Church of Christ

3361 West State Street, Fremont, OH 43420

## Worship Services

Sunday Bible Study	10:00 am
Sunday Worship	10:45 am
Sunday Worship	6:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 pm

*Classes for all ages*

## Preachers: Ted Bowen and Sean Rizor

### What Must I Do To Be Saved?

1. Learn the truth (Hear) (John 8:32; 17:17; Rom 10:14-18)
2. Believe in Christ (John 8:24; 20:31; Heb 11:6)
3. Repent of all sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30; Rom 2:4; 2 Cor 7:9,10)
4. Confess faith in Christ (Rom 10:10; Acts 17:30; Matt 16:16)
5. Be baptized into Christ for remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)
6. Live faithfully (Revelation 2:10)

### 7 THINGS TO REMEMBER DURING THE LORD'S SUPPER!

- 1 LORD. "There is one Lord." (Ephesians 4:5)
- 2 THIEVES. "There were also 2 others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death."  
(Luke 23:32)
- 3 CROSSES. (Luke 23:39-43; Ephesians 1:7)
- 4 PARTS of HIS GARMENTS. "Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier, a part, and also the tunic." (John 19:23)
- 5 WOUNDS. His head was crowned with thorns. His back was scourged.  
His side was cut open. His hands were pierced. His feet were pierced. (John 19-20)
- 6 HOURS of AGONY. Christ was crucified at the 3rd hour and died at the 9th hour.  
(Mark 15:25-37)
- 7 SAYINGS of The CROSS. (Matthew 27:46; Luke 23:34, 43-46; John 19:26-30)

February 23, 2020

## Order of Worship

### AM

Song Leader : Chris Frantz  
Lord's Supper : Melvin Monroe  
Speaker : Sean Rizor

### PM

Song Leader : Melvin Monroe  
Speaker : Ted Bowen

### Wednesday

Song Leader : Gregory Monroe  
Invitation : Sean Rizor

### Birthdays

- 11 Sean Rizor
- 17 Jean Adkins
- 25 Nora Wiseman

### Anniversaries

- 9 Paul & Debbie Rowan

### Prayer List

Kaitlin Baker  
Gen Stanley  
Nora Wiseman  
Mary Feasel  
Isaac Advey  
Jean Adkins  
Tracey Briggs  
Jamie Hall  
Kaitlyn Hall  
Ashley Hall  
Janet Baker

### Soldiers Serving Abroad

Cody Lyons  
Mercedes Speck

Thinkin' Out Loud: ". . . Thou Hast Left Thy First Love"

Lewis Willis Akron, Ohio

When you stop to think about it, these words engender fear, if not abject terror! Can you imagine standing at the judgment and hearing a sentence of condemnation because we have left our first love? No, thanks! If such a charge can be waged against me, I prefer to hear it now.

"Balance" in our thinking is rather difficult to acquire. Most of us spend our time on one end or the other of every spectra. We are either totally positive or totally negative; up or down; high or low. Spiritually, we tend to be hot or cold. When our fervor for the Lord is at its height, we certainly do not want someone coming in and throwing cold water on the flame. Candidly, I don't particularly like to throw water on flames. And, I definitely encourage a confident attitude in our relationship with God. However, if there is something I am overlooking in my duty to Him, and I still feel confident, that feeling of confidence is unfounded. Wisdom, then, demands that I give a balanced assessment of my obligation to Him and the manner in which I am discharging it.

When the Lord addressed the church at Ephesus, He observed many commendable attributes regarding it. They were working in patience, abhorred evil, tested their teachers for the truth, had borne hardships and they had not fainted in these good things. All this notwithstanding, He said He had something against them because, "Thou hast left thy first love" (Rev. 2:1-4).

This seems somewhat difficult to imagine. How could all of these good things be said of them, followed so quickly by a rebuke? There was, obviously, something rather seriously wrong at Ephesus. It is estimated that this church was more than forty years old at the time this was written. From its beginning, it had manifested a spirit of enthusiasm, activity and devotion to Christ and the gospel. And, there is no evidence that their activity had greatly diminished. However, an all-knowing Savior perceived a decay or deterioration in their love!

A wife may be very faithful to her husband, fulfilling all responsibilities pertaining to him, even though the "romance" is slipping out of the marriage - her love for him is fading. Unless she is mindful of this situation, and acts to remedy the problem, the relationship is in jeopardy. Similarly, a Christian may attend the worship, sing, give, study, visit, etc., even though his love for, and devotion to the Lord is waning. Unless he identifies the problem and remedies it, his relationship with the Lord is in jeopardy. "Going through the motions" may extend a marriage relationship, but it will not sustain our "marriage relationship" to Christ (Rom. 7:1-4).

What are the tell-tale signs? Perhaps going to worship because I "have to" instead of because I "want to." Or, I would be more comfortable somewhere else. Or, serving God is not exciting anymore. Or, I get no real delight out of being a Christian -it is all duty, obligation, responsibility, etc. Such attitudes should alarm us! It is foolhardy to ignore them.

I don't like the psychological expression, but that which is characterized above is an "attitude problem." Far too many things are identified as attitude problems. However, a decaying love for Christ is an attitude problem. It will degenerate into a practice or procedural problem unless the attitude problem is dealt with. In other words, one who no longer enjoys worshipping God, is but a short step away from an abandonment of the worship of the church. He can give up in frustration; he can quit doing God's will. Or, he can look for another solution to his attitude problem. And there is one!

Here it is: "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works. . . ." (Rev. 2:5). It is something like the approach we make in fulfilling our obligation to love our brethren. We begin by loving them because God said so. We soon discover there are many reasons for loving our brethren. In correcting a love problem toward the Lord, we begin by repenting because He said to. Now, remember, repentance is a change of mind that results in a change of one's life. Therefore, when we repent, assess what we were, realize what we are and contemplate the reward of faithfulness in the future, our attention is refocused in the proper channel. The "first works" have meaning to us again and our attitude problem is solved! I was just thinkin' . . . a bunch of us Christians should be alerted by these thoughts!