

## Burdened Under a Misconception

I talked this week with a man who became a Christian at age 77. The odd thing was, he had known about Christ from infancy and had been raised in a church-going, godly family. He loved his parents, was treated well, and respected their devotion. To him that was a problem, because he reasoned that if my mother and father are the standard for being a Christian, I'll never measure up!

It took him a long time to come to his senses and realize that none of us are good enough. That is the point. We all need Jesus. His family believed this, but somehow he got it turned around in his mind. He regretted the many years he walked without the Lord, but is grateful for God's mercy even late in life. When he phoned his sister with the news she cried with joy for three hours.

As he tried to understand his former way of thinking, he was puzzled. He was an intelligent, reasonable, successful man. Why had he allowed himself to be burdened all those years under the misconception that there was no use in trying? That it was about his goodness instead of God's mercy. Like the prodigal son, this much older man "came to himself."

The human heart is mysterious. It can turn away help, persist in pain, and stay on a course that can only end badly. God help us! He will! But you too, must have a change of heart. It's that crucial moment that precedes baptism.

We need this prayer that Paul prayed for the hearts of the Ephesians:

"I pray that out of his glorious riches (the Father) may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your HEARTS through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." (Eph. 3:16-19).

By some miracle of God, this 77-year-old man was at last baptized into Christ. He came very close to missing it. A change of heart changed everything.

Mark

## **TODAY: LIFE Groups Come Alive!**

With the return of fall and return from our travels, we are returning to our LIFE Groups.

**There Will Be An After-Worship LIFE Group** today, so if you want to check it out, stay around.



**We are Serving the "New Visions" Homeless Breakfast** Monday, **Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>**. We will be cooking and serving breakfast to those in need. *We need cooks and servers*, so see Brenda Collier for how YOU can help. "New Visions" is at 555 Atlantic Ave, Camden, NJ. Meet at church at 8:30 if you need a ride.

**SAVE THE DATE!** Sunday, **October 2 at 6pm** for Our **"WINTERFEST DINNER."** Plan to join us for a great evening of food and fellowship. Donations will help our teens attend the Youth Rally in TN., which is a huge blessing in their lives.

**EDP—Elders, Deacon & Preacher Meeting:** Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. We are looking for a home where we can meet.

**Our Fall Special Collection:** is coming up **November 20<sup>th</sup>**. This is our annual "*Catch-up Sunday*" when we collect funds to close the gap in our budget and for our special projects.

**Save the Date for the Spring Collingswood Ladies Retreat, April 7-9**

**We will postpone the Ladies Hymn-Sing till Spring** so that we can attend the Pitman Hymn-Sing coming up Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Area Wide Ladies Retreat at Camp Manatawny:**  
Retreat Title: "*Girl, Are You the Eternal Flame.*" Is September 30 & October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Today's Worship Leaders**

**Worship Leader:** Dave Williams  
**Welcome & Scripture:** Josh Henderson (Psalm 25:8-15)  
**Opening Prayer:** Bret Goen  
**Lord's Supper:** Larry, Rich Fabi, Dave Cook, Hardee Perazzelli  
**Scripture Before Message:** Logan McEntire (Romans 5:9-10)  
**Announcements & Closing Prayer:** Tony Ceraso Jr.  
**Greeters:** Scott Schoener, Jack Swinehart, Chris Schoener, Sue Gill

**Nursery: Hoa & Elizabeth** Next Week: Marguerite & Elaine  
**Yellow Cleaning Team:** Sept. 14-17. **Norma** Coordinates

**OUTREACH/MINISTRY**

Mark Finn – Preacher  
 Church Office- (856) 854-0197

**ELDERS:**

Rick Boyle (856) 986-4876  
 Tony Ceraso, Jr. (856) 278-6276  
 Bret Goen (856) 996-5267  
 Chet Churchill (609) 560-7179

**Worship Total .....123**  
**Bible Class ..... 84**  
**Wed. .... 47**

Howard Mansdoerfer (609) 790-9969 **Contribution ..... \$4,242**  
**Budget Goal ...\$4,260**

**Daily Bible Readers: 32**

**Collingswood Church of Christ**

Church Website: [www.ccc123.org](http://www.ccc123.org)

300 White Horse Pike  
 September 11, 2016

Collingswood, NJ 08107  
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“Now faith is being **sure** of what we hope for and **certain** of what we do not see.” (Hebrews 11:1)

