

Jesus Calls Us To . . . What?

"I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance"
(Luke 5:31)

My baby grandson has learned to crawl and his latest trick is to carry toys with him. With a small toy in each hand he crawls over to a new toy and realizes he has to let go of one before picking up another. It's not possible otherwise.

I know a lot of people who have moved near to Jesus, but won't let go of their old life. It doesn't work. Jesus calls us to leave our sin behind. It doesn't matter if you've been sinning this way for 20 years. It doesn't matter if leaving your sin will hurt you financially. It doesn't matter if your sin is culturally accepted, or a generational pattern passed down through your family. Jesus demands that we leave it in order to embrace him. But you cannot embrace Christ with your hands full of your ongoing sins.

Jesus calls us to... what? It's there in the Gospels: *"I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance"* (Luke 5:31). Repentance is when you turn your back on your sin, your old way of living, and turn to God. You were walking toward your sin with your back to God, walking away from him. When you repent, you turn around. Now you have turned your back on your sin and turned toward God. Now to walk toward him you are walking away from your sin.

You are only one person. If you are going to travel, you have to choose your destination: New York or Florida, north or south. You can't go both directions. Yet so many, still lost though they claim Christ, are talking "Jesus" while walking in their sin. They've given up the fight and turned their back on God, though they wear a Christian label. Holding sin they are trying to hold God so as to have both. They can't.

Have you gotten rid of the booze, the pills, the porn, the gossip rags, the bad friends who drag you down? Are you going to stop the immoral sex with someone you are not married to? Will you stop living together, shacking up, disobedient to God's gift of

marriage? Are you staying away from the people, places and things that are associated with your sin? Are you changing your relationships? Are you filling up on God's Word, and prayer, and being filled with the Holy Spirit? Are you finding new ways to be happy in Christ? Are you seeking godly counsel, feeding your mind on good media, and making new Christian friends?

To reach out for the new, you have to let go of the old. Even a crawling infant learns that. Jesus calls us to repentance. Repentance means change.

Mark

A Great Moment: Joel Irizarry is Baptized Into Christ! Joel was baptized by his long-time mentor, Bret Goen, last Sunday. Praise God! His mother, grandfather, and many family members were there to celebrate this focused young man being saved.

Bret on Sabbatical! Each of our Elders earns a rest from their duties every few years. This 3-month Sabbatical gives them and their family time to worship at other congregations, rest, and spend family time together. Bret & Pam Goen will take a break during the months of March, April & May. Our prayers and best wishes go with them. Any issues you might have brought to Bret's attention, please take them to one of the other Elders or Mark instead.

Haircuts for Missions: is March 11.

Our Ladies' Spring Retreat: is April 7-9 in Cape May at the La Mer. for more information, go to the table in our lobby.

Youth Group: Meet Friday, March 3rd, 7-9PM at the church building.

Today's Worship Leaders

Worship Leader: Dave Williams

Welcome & Scripture: Josh Henderson (Psalm 37:1-6)

Opening Prayer: Jack Swinehart

Lord's Supper: Kamal, Bill Ceraso, Lee Graves, Tommy Walker

Scripture Before Message: Logan McEntire (Rom.12:1-3)
Announcements & Closing Prayer: Tony Ceraso Jr.

SPRING QUARTER Classes Start Next Week!

Sunday 9:30 AM

Cradle Roll- **Lillian** Nuñez
3rd Grade & Below – **Carl** Smith
4th /5th –**Kathy** Churchill
Jr. High- **Nawana** Ceraso
Sr. High – **Tim** Jones

Wednesday 7:00 PM

Cradle Roll – **Wini** Boyle
Elementary- March - **Jack** Swinehart
Jr./Sr. High- **Tony** Ceraso Jr.

Nursery: **Lillian & Thaleena** Next Week: Norma & Layla
Orange Cleaning Team March 1-4, **Tony & Fay** coordinate

OUTREACH/MINISTRY

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

Worship Total 132
Bible Class 73
Wed. PM..... 47

ELDERS:

Rick Boyle (856) 986-4876
Tony Ceraso, Jr. (856) 278-6276
Bret Goen (856) 996-5267
Chet Churchill (609) 560-7179
Howard Mansdoerfer (609) 790-9969

Contribution..... **\$2,585**
Budget Goal **\$4,260**

Devotional- Collingswood,
Cedars, and K of P Teens
**Collingswood Church
of Christ**

Church Website: www.ccc123.org

300 White Horse Pike
February 26, 2017

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)



