#### **ELDERS**

Nathan Adkins 937-798-3267 Greg Conley 923-8238 Greg Hall 571-1977 Mark Parks 831-3081 Chris Scott 356-4368

#### MINISTER

Mark Day 606-831-1975

#### **DEACONS**

J.C. Hughes Brad Morris Nathan Parks Jeremiah Smith Matthew Vonderheide

#### **SERVICES**

Sunday Bible Study 9:45am Morning Worship 10:45 am Evening Worship 6:00 pm Wed. Bible Study 7:00 pm

> <u>WEB PAGE</u> www.flatwoodschurchofchrist.org

#### MISSIONS

-Jerry Sturgill Tri-state area -Daniel Goshorn Peru. SA -Dustin Bolks Sioux Center, Ia. -Dahn Ramkelawan Suriname, SA -Michael Mavo Thailand, SE Asia -Herman Joseph Guyana, SA - Mohamed Ally Guyana, SA -D.J. Hatfield **WVSOP** support -"In Search of the Lord's Way" TV broadcast

<u>SEARCH TV</u> Sundays 7:30 am (on Fox) 

 FLATWOODS CHURCH OF CHRIST

 HERALD

 PD Box 871, 2100 Argillite Rd, Flatwoods, KY 41139

 (260' 836-4207

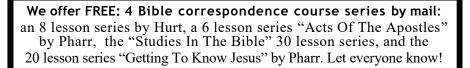
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## **A Nation Bringing Forth Fruit**

Jesus told a parable about a man who planted a vineyard, leased it out to husbandmen, then went away to another country (Mt. 21:33; Mk 12:1; Lk. 20:9). That the owner of this vineyard represents God would have been readily grasped by the Jewish audience due to Isaiah 5:1-7, a song which portrays Israel as the Lord's vineyard. The owner took diligent care to give the vineyard every advantage to be fruitful including clearing it of stones, digging a winepress, and building a tower (Isa. 5:2).

In Jesus' parable, the husbandmen were not good tenants. In their wickedness and greed, they would not function as good vinedressers to bring forth fruit but rather provoked the wrath of the Lord of the vineyard. While the Lord was in the far country, he sent servants to check on the status of the vineyard, but the husbandmen beat and killed them. Finally, the Lord sent his beloved son (Mt. 21:37; Mk. 12:6; Lk. 20:13). Instead of respecting the son, they killed him to steal his inheritance (Mt. 21:8-9; Mk. 12:7-8; Lk. 20:14).

Each generation is tempted to focus on the sins of their forbears while turning a blind eye to wickedness in their own time (cf. Jer. 31:29; Ezek. 18:2). Former generations of Israelites persecuted their own prophets; however, while the scribes and Pharisees claimed they would not have done such (Mt. 23:29-33), their leading part in the generation who crucified Jesus with wicked hands shows they were no better than their fathers (Acts 2:23).

The response of the Lord is to miserably destroy the husbandmen and lease out his vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons (Mt. 20:40-41; Mk. 12:9; Lk. 20:16). The chief priests and Pharisees perceived that Jesus was speaking of them in the indictment of the wicked husbandmen (Mt. 21:45). Jesus said, "Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof." The kingdom of God has been given now to people from all sorts of ethnicities who produce fruit. This nation is Christ's church, as Peter explained to Christians scattered throughout different territories, "But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light: Which in time past *were* not a people, but *are* now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy" (1 Pet. 2:9-10).

Instead of wickedly rejecting God's message, we must bear good fruit to God (Rom. 7:4; James 3:17). Consider some of this fruit:

1)Fruits worthy of repentance (Mt. 3:8) leading to holiness and eternal life (Rom. 6:22).

2)Fruit characterized by love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, and self-control (Gal. 5:22). The peaceable fruit of righteous living (Heb. 12:11).

3) The fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name (Heb. 13:15).

Let us not focus on the wickedness of former generations of God's people to the neglect of the sinful attitudes of our own time. If God punished previous generations of His people for their sins and took away their part in His bounties, then we shall not escape the Lord's wrath if we ungratefully go into sin instead of producing good spiritual fruit.

-Mark Day



#### <u>Today's Sermons</u>

**AM:** Precious Cornerstone **PM:** A Prayer for Unity

#### <u>PM Scripture Reading</u>:

Romans 15:5-7

5 Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus,

6 that you may with one mind *and* one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7 Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

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## <u>Elders, Deacons, & Preacher</u>

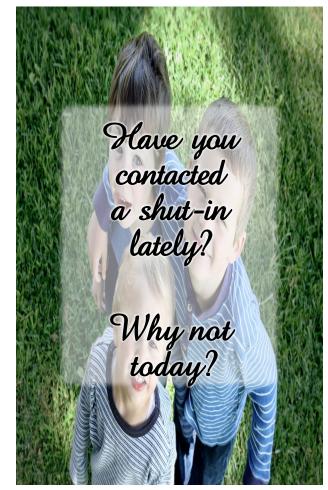
#### Meeting

This group will meet today at 4:30pm in the large annex classroom.

Attendance & Contribution Goals			
	1/14/24	Goal	1/15/23
<b>Bible Study</b>	62	90	69
AM Worship	115	130	114
PM Worship	78	90	81
Mid Week	61	90	66
<b>Contribution:</b>	\$5,116.06		\$6,480.12

### Dates to Remember

Jan. 21-Elders, deacons, and preacher meeting in the annex at 4:30p <u>Feb. 23-25</u>-Challenge Youth Conference 2024 in Pigeon Forge, TN <u>March 29-31</u>-Lads2Leaders 2024 Convention in Louisville, KY <u>April 14-17</u>-Gospel meeting with Phil Sanders



### 80 <u>Today's Servants</u> 03

WELCOME: AM/PM: Chris Scott

#### **SONG LEADER:**

**AM:** Brad Morris **PM:** Jackson Morris

#### **FIRST PRAYER:**

**AM:** Nathan Adkins **PM:** Mark Parks

#### LORD'S TABLE\*:

Presiding AM: Jordan Conley Assisting: John Gambill, Jesse Legg, Matt Vonderheide, Luke Wallace, Mark Gullett, Terry Fouts, Ernie Perry Presiding PM: Greg Conley

Assisting: JC Hughes \*gluten-free bread

#### **CLOSING PRAYER:**

**AM:** George Wallace **PM:** Jason Fouts

#### **SCRIPTURE READING:**

**PM:** Noah Day

## & Wednesday Servants

WELCOME: Greg Conley SONG LEADER: Mark Day PRAYER: Mark Parks DEVOTION: Chris Scott

## 🔊 <u>Weekly Servants</u> ơ

**LIVE STREAM:** Nathan Parks **POWER POINT**: Mason Morris **BLDG. ATT.:** Nathan Parks **COORDINATOR:** JC Hughes **ATTENDANCE:** John Gambill



# \*\*\*\* Sundays \*\*\*\* **Pew Packers** 5:45pm

in front of the

auditoriumgeared to age 12 & under but everyone is welcome.



## Welcome, Visitor!

# We are so pleased to have you as our guest today.

If you are a first-time visitor with us, please, fill out a 'visitor card' that you will find on the back of the pew. You may put it in the collection plate or give it to one of the men at the auditorium doors as you exit.

We have tract racks on the wall in the foyer with free tracts and literature. We also have Bible correspondence courses you can sign up to receive by mail at no cost to you. Let our preacher know if you would like to set up an in-home Bible study. Thank you for attending.