

FLATWOODS CHURCH OF CHRIST
HERALD

PO Box 871, 2100 Argillite Rd, Flatwoods, KY 41139
606.836.4207 www.flatwoodschurchofchrist.org

Vol. 50

No. 43

October 27, 2024

DOES THE LORD DELIGHT IN...

SACRIFICES AS MUCH AS IN

OBEYING THE VOICE OF THE LORD?

TO OBEY IS BETTER THAN SACRIFICE.



1 SAMUEL 15:22

ELDERS

Nathan Adkins
937.798.3267
Greg Conley
606.923.8238
Greg Hall
606.571.1977
Mark Parks
606.831.3081
Chris Scott
606.356.4368

MINISTER

Mark Day
606.831.1975

DEACONS

John Gambill
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

MISSIONS

Jerry Sturgill
Tri-state area
Daniel Goshorn
Peru, SA
Dustin Bolks
Sioux Center, Ia.
Dahn Ramkelawan
Suriname, SA
Michael Mayo
Thailand, SE Asia
Herman Joseph
Guyana, SA
Mohamed Ally
Guyana, SA
“In Search of the Lord’s Way”
TV broadcast

SEARCH TV

Sundays 7:30 am (on Fox)

We offer 4 free Bible correspondence course series by mail:

8 lesson series by Hurt

6 lesson series “Acts Of The Apostles” by Pharr

30 lesson series “Studies In The Bible”

20 lesson series “Getting To Know Jesus” by Pharr

Let everyone know!

The Sword and the Tree

In the beginning, God placed man in a beautiful garden to dress it and keep it (Gen. 2:15). However, after man chose to sin, he had to be kept from the garden (Gen. 3:22-24). The same Hebrew word—*shamar*—used in Genesis 2:15 to describe man’s duty to keep, watch, and preserve the garden is used in Genesis 3:24 to describe the cherubim and “flaming sword” guarding the way of the tree of life.

This is how it goes when sin enters our lives. Realms God has intended for peace and good relationships are lost in exchange for selfishness resulting in isolation. Because men fail to be on guard and keep that with which God has blessed them, a separation occurs between God and people (Isa. 59:1-2). Man is then barred from the blessings which were once his. Some men are so sinful that they must be guarded continually lest they reach out in selfishness, harm others, and take something that is not lawfully theirs. A man is to protect his wife and children, but sometimes in the case of a sinful man, his wife and children must be protected from him. Proverbs 20:1 says, “Wine *is* a mocker, strong drink *is* a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.” How many homes have had their peace shattered by an alcoholic, abusive husband and father? This is the twisted, devastating effect of sin.

Sin, however, affects all of us (Rom. 3:23). One does not have to be a drunkard, nor a danger to one’s own family to be guilty before God. All the world stands guilty before the Holy One (Rom. 3:19). We are all separated from the tree of life. But the story is not over. God extends the hope of eternal life to us (Titus 3:7). God offers eternal life in a qualitative sense. Every soul will live somewhere forever; the question is whether that eternal existence will be one of blessing or punishment (Matt. 25:46). Eternal life, then, is eternal prosperity.

How do we get back to the tree of life? How do we retrieve that which has been lost? How can we be among the number of those blessed with healing who are among the tree of life in Revelation 22:1-4? We cannot on our own merits get back to that tree. In sin we are dead spiritually (Eph. 2:1, 5). We have no strength to save ourselves (Eph. 2:8; Rom. 5:6).

Throughout the Bible, the sword represents the justice of God (Psa. 7:12; Jer. 25:29; Ezek. 29:8; Rom. 13:4). The sword represents the death penalty for those guilty of sin. God’s justice demands penalty for sin—that penalty is death. Romans 6:23, says, “For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Jesus took the curse for us by his crucifixion (Gal. 3:13). In this way, God is just in punishing sin but can also justify us in the blood of His son (Rom. 3:26). In a sense, Jesus took the sword for us so that we might have access to the tree of life again. In Revelation 22, the throne of God and the Lamb is there with the tree of life (Rev. 22:1, 3). Jesus is this lamb, who earlier in the book appears to take the scroll from Him who sat on the throne; the lyrics of a new song contain these words: “For you were slain, and have redeemed us to God by your blood” (Rev. 5:6-9).

Jesus is the only way back to the presence of God and the tree of life (John 14:6). Are your sins washed away in the blood of the Lamb (Acts 22:16)?

-Mark Day

Today's Lessons

Sun. AM: Five Features of Salvation
 Sun. PM: The Demise of Saul

Scripture Reading

1 Samuel 15:17-23

17 So Samuel said, "When you *were* little in your own eyes, *were* you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the LORD anoint you king over Israel?"

18 Now the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.'

19 Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD?"

20 And Saul said to Samuel, "But I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.

21 But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal."

22 So Samuel said: "Has the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, *And* to heed than the fat of rams.

23 For rebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from *being* king."

Attendance & Contribution Goals

	10/20/24	Goal	10/22/23
Bible Study	53	90	66
AM Worship	86	130	110
PM Worship	83	90	61
Mid Week	72	90	—
Contribution	\$6,312.50		\$7,160.51

New Members

We are pleased to announce that Daniel and Halie Flatt have placed membership with us along with their children Titus and Dani. Please make them feel welcome!

SERMON NOTES

DATE

MAIN
VERSE

KEY POINTS

KEY SCRIPTURES

Today's Prayer

PRAY MORE
worry less

Today's Servants

WELCOME

AM/PM: Mark Parks

SONG LEADER

AM: Nathan Adkins

PM: Brad Morris

FIRST PRAYER

AM: George Wallace

PM: John Gambill

LORD'S TABLE*

AM Presiding: Chris Legg

Assisting: Jesse Legg, Jordan Conley,
Jacob Brown, Matt Vonderheide,
Jackson Morris, Jacob Martin,
David Morckel

PM Presiding: Nathan Adkins

Assisting: JC Hughes

*gluten-free bread

CLOSING PRAYER

AM: JC Hughes

PM: Gabe Scott

SCRIPTURE READING

PM: Mason Morris

Wednesday Servants

WELCOME: Mark Parks

SONG LEADER: Mark Day

PRAYER: John Gambill

DEVOTION: Nathan Parks

Weekly Servants

LIVE STREAM: Nathan Parks

POWER POINT: Jason Fouts

BLDG. ATT.: Brad Morris

COORDINATOR: JC Hughes

ATTENDANCE: John Gambill

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.

We hope to see you often.

Dates to Remember

Nov. 3 - Bring a Friend Day

Dec. 7 - 6:30pm - Ladies' Christmas Party



Youth Notes

Sundays at 5:45pm - Pew Packers in front of the auditorium geared to age 12 and under but everyone is welcome.

