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The Community Beacon

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Clarksville Church of Christ
407 W. Lewis & Clark Pkwy.
Clarksville, IN 47129

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Clarksville Church of Christ

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When Paul Was Quarantined: The Superiority of Christ

If you visit with us, we want you to feel welcome and we want you to feel like our honored guest! We also want you to know that all we're interested in

here at the Clarksville Church of Christ is the Truth. Jesus said, "*You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*" **John 8:32.** The truth He's talking about is God's word. Jesus said,

"Sanctify them by thy truth, Thy word is truth." **John 17:17.** Therefore we hope

you'll appreciate that we'll give you book, chapter and verse from the Bible, the word of God, for everything that we say or do here, so that everything that we do may bring glory unto God,

I Pet. 4:11.

So, what are you doing during your COVID-19 quarantine? Watching TV, playing games, reading a book? While your quarantine is but for a few weeks, the apostle Paul was "quarantined" as a Roman prisoner for two years. What do you suppose he was doing during that time? The book of Acts ends by telling us that Paul "received all who came to him... teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence" (Acts 28:30-31). While he was imprisoned for teaching about Christ, he spent his entire prison term continuing to teach about Christ! It was during this time that Paul wrote a letter to his Christian friends in Colosse, exalting the superiority of the Lord Jesus Christ.

While in quarantine, Paul focused on the superiority of Christ as God. Christ "is the image of the invisible God" (Col. 1:15), still bearing in the flesh the very essence of God. Christ was not inferior to the Godhead, for "it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell" (1:9), which is expressed again by saying, "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" (2:9). We need to see Christ's superiority as God Himself!

While in quarantine, Paul focused on the superiority of Christ over all creation. Christ was not a created being, nor did He sit and watch the Father create the universe. "For by Him all things were created...All things were created through Him and for Him" (1:16-17). He made all things, and by His providential care, He continues to sustain all things (cf. John 1:3; Heb. 1:3). We need to see Christ's superiority as Creator!

While in quarantine, Paul focused on the superiority of Christ over His church. The church is first referred to as "the kingdom of the Son of His love" (1:13), emphasizing that the church belongs to Christ. "And He is the head of the body, the church" (1:18; cf. 2:19), emphasizing the authority that He has over it. He holds such a position because of "His blood" which He shed (1:14; cf. Acts 20:28) and His resurrection "from the dead" (1:18). We need to see Christ's superiority as head and Savior of His church!

While in quarantine, Paul focused on the superiority of Christ in our lives. Being "in" Christ makes us "complete" (2:9), and having Christ "in" us gives us "the hope of glory" (1:27). That affects us every day, as we seek to "walk worthy" of Him (1:10), to "set" our mind "on things above" (3:2), to "put off the old man" and "put on the new man," striving to live "according to the image of Him who created" us (3:8-10). We need to see Christ's superiority as our "all"!

Although Paul was separated from his friends, he wanted Christ to "have preeminence" in their lives (1:18)! **Come and join us in that endeavor!**

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Sundays

Bible Study..... 9:30 AM
Worship.....10:30 AM
Worship.....6:00 PM

Wednesdays

Bible Study.....7:30 PM

Elders

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Goals For 2020

A Church with 20/20 Vision

Paul in Romans 1:20 stated "For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse." The Elders have given us this theme this year to remind us that we must see things clearly, and that we must see things as they truly are. Each month we're looking at a specific spiritual item and looking to the word of God to see the truth regarding it more clearly. Paul again stated in II Cor. 4:4 "In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." We don't wish to be blind, we want to clearly see. Come and be with us and let us see clearly together the truths of God's word.

Attendance

We have attendance goals that we're attempting to achieve for every service. We're encouraging our members to be consistent with their attendance and we want you to come visit with us. A growing church is a strong vibrant church, and we wish to grow and bring forth much fruit for the Lord.

Giving:

The work of the Lord's church is completely funded by the freewill offerings of its members. We have set goals for ourselves so that the efforts we wish to make in 2020 can be funded financially. If you visit with us, you will NOT be asked for any financial contribution.

Invitations: 130

We have set a goal to extend 130 invitations a month to the community to visit with us during our worship services or bible studies. Please consider this an invitation to come to any or all of our services!

Bible Classes For All Ages

We can provide bible classes for all age groups. Bring the entire family and study the word of God.

Every Member Committed to daily Prayer, Bible Reading and Personal Study

Every Body is only as strong as its individual parts. Each member is being asked to dedicate time each day in prayer, reading the bible, and choosing a specific bible

-Like us on Facebook. View us on YouTube at [Clarksvillechurch](https://www.youtube.com/Clarksvillechurch)

-Visit us on the web at www.clarksvillechurchofchrist.org

When Paul Was Quarantined: The Joys In Christ

Paul spent two years quarantined as a Roman prisoner. What a horrible experience that must have been! He must have been miserable and maybe even started to question God. Right? Wrong! Just the opposite! Paul was anything but miserable! In fact, although he was a prisoner, he still found a way to enjoy fellowship with his brethren. The text states that he kept on (the tense indicates continual action) “welcoming all who came to him” (Acts 28:30). While he was shut up, he was not shut off from his brethren! It was during this time that Paul wrote a letter to his Christian friends in Philippi expounding the many joys of being a Christian.

While in quarantine, Paul focused on the amazing joy of fellowship with his brethren. He was separated from them by hundreds of miles and yet he still felt a closeness with them. “I thank my God...for your fellowship in the gospel...you all are partakers with me of grace” (Phil. 1:3-7). The word “fellowship” involved a joint participation and partnership together—in this case, it was a sharing in the blessings and the purpose of being fellow Christians. There was a “togetherness” that they enjoyed, even though they were not “together.” A quarantine could not separate them.

While in quarantine, Paul focused on the selfless joy of serving each other. Service is really easy to see, sometimes, in certain brethren, isn't it? Some brethren seem to be natural at “doing good unto others, especially those in the household of faith” (cf. Gal. 6:10). Paul commended Timothy as one who would “sincerely care for your state” (2:20). He praised Ephaphroditus, who “came close to death” in bringing the latest “gift” of “care” and “service toward” Paul while he was in prison (2:30; 4:10, 18). In fact, what the Philippian brethren were doing for Paul was merely a reflection of what they saw Paul doing for them, for he was literally “being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of [their] faith” (2:17). A quarantine would not stop them from serving each other.

While in quarantine, Paul focused on the anticipatory joy of being together again. He referred to his Christian friends as “my beloved and longed-for brethren” (4:1). While Paul could have been pessimistic, focusing on the present circumstances and thinking he would never see them again, he lived with confidence that he would “continue with” them (1:24-26) and that he himself “shall also come shortly” to them (2:24). A quarantine was not only going to not get him down, it seemed to drive him even more to want to be with his brethren.

Although Paul was separated from his brethren, he was constantly thinking of them and of the joys of Christianity. **Won't you come and visit with us soon?**

When Paul Was Quarantined: The Beauty of Christ's Church

Paul spent two years quarantined. Can you imagine? Paul spent two years quarantined as a Roman prisoner. Can you imagine that? That's a bit different than being quarantined in the comfort of your own home for a few weeks. Well, what did the apostle Paul do with himself for two years? Scripture tells us what he spent much of his time doing: “he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God” (Acts 28:23). Paul focused on the church. He even wrote a letter to his Christian friends in Ephesus extoling and glorifying the beauty of Christ's church.

While in quarantine, Paul focused on the abundant blessings possessed by those in Christ's church. Paul wanted his friends to be reminded that “God...has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ” (Eph. 1:3). He went on in this chapter to enumerate and emphasize a number of these blessings provided only to those in Christ's church. “He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world...He made us accepted in the Beloved...In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins...In Him also we have obtained an inheritance...in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise” (1:4, 6, 7, 11, 13). Although isolated, there are numerous spiritual blessings available only to those in the Lord's church, which is the reason the first chapter ends by describing the church as “the fullness of Him who fills all in all” (1:23). Do you focus on these exclusive blessings?

While in quarantine, Paul focused on the incredible unity enjoyed by those in Christ's church. The church is made up of people who were all, at one time, “dead in trespasses and sins” (2:1), but had been “saved” by the “grace” of God (2:4-9). The church is made up of people who were not only estranged from Christ (2:12), but were also estranged from each other and needed to be “brought near by the blood of Christ” (2:13) and reconciled “to God in one body through the cross” (2:16). Once in the church, these peoples from such varied backgrounds and even sharp enmity, all now “have access by one Spirit to the Father,” all are “fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,” and all are “built together for a dwelling place of God” (2:18-22). Although isolated, there should still exist a genuine unity and cross-shaped bond that ties us together no matter what. Do you focus on the unity of God's people?

Although Paul was separated from his dear friends in the church, he counted his blessings to be a part of God's family. In the rest of the letter, he focused on the amazing transformation experienced by those in Christ's church. What a glorious blessing to a part of the beautiful church of Christ. Let's not take it for granted! Let us glorify Him in it (3:21)! **Come join us in this glorious pursuit!**