

Identity Theft – Lamentations 3:19-24

1. Stolen Identity is a _____ Violation, but it is _____ the end of the story.

2. A Disciple of Christ has _____ what _____ to us.

A) _____ Our Afflictions - Lamentations 3:19-20

- Freedom from the sin of _____ toward us
- An acknowledgement of our _____ sin
- The path to emotional wellness - Christianity includes a _____

B) _____ our identity before God - Lamentations 3:21-23

- An appeal to God's _____
- An Identity describes as _____ - Matthew 7:21-23
- People of God experience a _____ every day

C) _____ our steps to walk in hope - Lamentations 3:24-25

- We cannot win in the courts and at the ballot box that which we have lost in the court of public opinion. Instead, I argued, we should embrace the strategy that has successfully attracted people to Jesus for two thousand years - authentic Christianity

~ Richard Stearns

- 1 Corinthians 5:9-13 - A life that _____
- Galatians 5:19-26 - There is no law that can be made against a person identified by a _____ - _____

As followers of Christ, we are _____



Messenger

Welcome! We are glad you chose to worship with us.

House of Prayer

I am glad to be back in Prescott after the flurry of activity that was the New Day Trip to Murfreesboro, TN for the New Day Conference. Sometimes, these conferences are like eating catfish, in that you have to spit out the bones. Along with a few bones, there was a lot of good information on how we can work together to be Light and Salt to our community.

One of the big takeaways was the importance of prayer. The phrase I heard in one workshop was, "the local Church of Christ should be a House of prayer." This phrase was used by Jesus as He described what the temple was intended to be. He said this after the action He took in clearing the Temple of the money changers and the animals (see Matthew 21:12-13). After He did this He explained His actions by saying, "It is written, my house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of thieves!" With this statement, Jesus is quoting two verses from the Old Testament regarding the significance of the Temple. Isaiah 56:7 reads, "I will bring them to my holy mountain and let them rejoice in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be acceptable on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations." He also references Jeremiah 7:11 which reads, "Has this house, which bears my name, become a den of robbers in your view? Yes, I too have seen it. This is the Lord's declaration."

The people of Israel missed the significance and purpose of the Temple. The verses that Jesus references reveals the Temple, with its rituals and regulation had a higher purpose. It was about prayer and devotion. It was about recognizing our need and our dependence on God. The sacrifices didn't appease an angry God, but were supposed to bring Israel to a point of humility and repentance. As Jesus walked into the Temple, He could see that something was wrong. It had become a place of religious activity and no longer a place for personal devotion expressed to God. Israel forgot what was most important in their acts of faith.

The emphasis on prayer is intended to keep us constantly in sync with the will of God. In prayer we are humble and contrite, admitting that we are dependent on God for everything. One author said, "Prayer is not a normal part of the life of the natural person. We hear it said that a person's life will suffer if they don't pray, but I question that. What will suffer is the life of the Son of God in that person, which is nourished not by food, but by prayer. When a person is born again from above, the life of the Son of God is born in him, and they can either starve or nourish that life. Prayer is the way that the life of God in us is nourished. Our common ideas regarding prayer are not found in the New Testament. We look upon prayer simply as a means of getting things for ourselves, but the biblical purpose of prayer is that we may get to know God Himself."

We cannot will ourselves or the church to grow. The life of the congregation and the life of every individual is nourished by prayer. When we depend on God's power through prayer, when we are a "house of prayer," we can be confident that good things will result.

By Dennis Baker

Sermon Summaries

Morning Identity Theft – Lamentations 3:19-24

Identity theft is a serious problem in the United States. It is estimated that 19% of Americans experience at least one identity theft incident. Victims of Identity Theft lost a combined amount of 1.48 billion dollars in 2018. Due to the increase use of online banking and social media, that amount continues to climb. The perpetrators of these crimes use deception and break the law to get what they want. The crime of Identity Theft illustrates the activity of the Adversary in the lives of humans who are created in the image of God. Because we are deception and rebellion, we are all victims of Spiritual Identity Theft. But is protection.

Evening Joseph: A Story of Reconciliation – Genesis 42-45

There are some many elements to the event in the life of Joseph. There is one lesson we can learn that is so needed in today's divisive culture; It is the lesson of reconciliation. As we have already mentioned, if anybody had the right to be bitter, it was Joseph. The actions of his brothers affected him deeply, but his faith in God's love and God's plan was unshakeable. That allowed him to overcome the betrayal and disgrace. It is God's grace toward us that allows us to show grace to those who have sinned against us.

Schedule of Services

Bible Class	9:30 am
Morning Worship	10:30 am
Evening Worship	6:00 pm
Wed. Evening Study	7:00 pm

Minister Dennis Baker

Shepherds

Gordon Gower Morris Guest
Larry Miller

Deacons

Don Dillahunt Rick Pinney
Spencer Guest Troy Trammell

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ATTENDANCE

Bible Class	56
AM Worship	88
PM Worship	41

FINANCES

Weekly Budget	\$3995
Weekly Contribution	\$3929

Praise & Harmony Class on Sunday Evening

September 26 at 6:00 PM

When it comes to identity, there is something special and unique about the church that belongs to Christ; we only use singing in our praise and adoration of God in public worship. The only instrument we read about in the New Testament is the human voice (there are three references to the use of harps in the book of Revelation, but those are symbolic). Keith Lancaster wrote, "As a child of God, you can only offer God one thing that you possess that He does not... YOUR PRAISE! The human voice is capable of making wonderful music, and it can make all of Heaven rejoice if we lift our voices together in harmony and praise the God from whom all blessings flow."

For this class, we will continue to encourage a high level of worship participation, learning the importance of planning and preparing for worship, maintaining a blend of old and new songs, and teaching four-part harmony. In short, presenting to God and to one another an intelligent and enthusiastic time of worship.

We had a great attendance for our Praise & Harmony Class last month. I want to encourage you to be a part of this month's class. It is encouraging when we all work together and immerse ourselves in "offering to God a sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of our lips that confess His Name" (Hebrews 13:15).



Things to Know

Northside church of Christ Ladies Day

October 23rd 8am to 1pm

2022 N 32nd Dr. Phoenix, AZ 85027

Flyers on the back table.

Power for Today

The next quarters devotional books are on the back table. Please pick one up.

Game Night

Friday Oct 8th 7pm at the building. Bring games and snacks to share. Be prepared to have some good fellowship.

Questions see Sally or Heidi Guest.

Copper Basin Bible Camp

Joe Bridges would like to report that the Women's Retreat was a huge success with 96 in attendance. There was uplifting fellowship and excitement for activities happening again at the camp. Please make plans to attend next year.

Elder Installation

Dale Cureton will be installed as an elder of the Mt. Vernon church of Christ at the end of services this morning.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Steve Franks (friend of the Gowers). Steve is in the midst of scheduling a serious retina surgery. Steve's mom died in Wisconsin Wednesday, and Steve and his wife Kathy had to leave for Wisconsin immediately. Steve and Kathy have attended services several times at Mt. Vernon.

George Lira (father of Gwen Lira) has COVID and many other serious complications, in hospital in California

Bonnie Parker will have an angiogram at YRMC on September 20th to determine if a partial blockage is worse.

Ty Pebworth (friend of Morris and Sally Guest) his wife Vienna passed away Tuesday after a long battle with cancer and many other health issues.

Georgia Taylor has been sick for a couple of weeks; she does not have COVID. Please pray she gets well soon.

Continual Prayers Health Reasons/Treatment

~**Rusty & Bonnie Parker**, many difficulties with Rusty's dementia

~**Steve Mann** new chemo treatment.

~**Richard Erno** at Phoenix Children's hospital waiting for bone marrow transplant.

~**Abby Parra** at Phoenix Children's hospital being treated for Leukemia. Treatment has been extremely difficult.

~**Suzanne Lacey (friend of Gowers)** kidney and lung cancer.

~**Brandy Aquafedda (Denise Miler's niece)** cancer treatment.

~**Carolyn Fields (friend of Larry Miller)** has terminal cancer.

~**Allen Till (Dolores Buehler's son-in-law)** cancer treatment

~**Rita Bowden (friend of Sally Guest)** stage 4 cancer.

Our Shut-ins

Marjorie Trammell