

# Make Church a Part of Your Life

## WEEKLY SERMONETTE

*"Is Your Church Involved?"*

*By Pastor Kirk Kasson, Almena Congregational Church*

Matthew 16: 17-18 (NLT)

Jesus replied, "You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means Rock)" and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.

When the church is irrelevant, Hell prevails. When the church is involved, under the leadership of Christ, the church prevails.

How was Jesus relevant? First, he was involved with people. He walked with them, talked with them, celebrated and mourned with them. He not only understood them, but everyone could tell he understood them. He

didn't just see them once a week, or on weekends, but he went into their homes and walked with them and picnicked and boated and slept under the stars with them.

Secondly, Jesus served

them. He helped them with physical needs, with social needs, and with spiritual needs. He was not just a teacher, but a healer. Instead of using is power and influence for himself, he

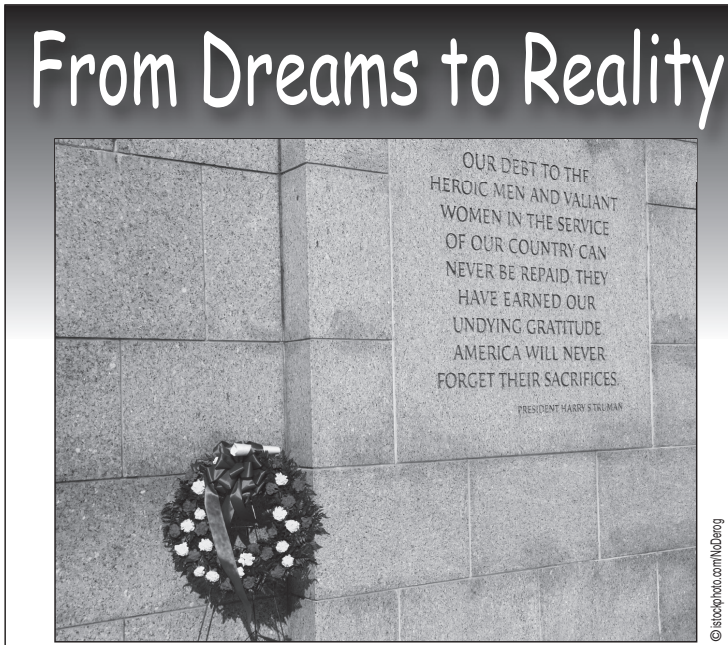
used it for all of them: rich, poor, old, young, powerful and meek. Then he taught his disciples to do likewise.

How is the church in Norton County doing? Are we involved? Are we relevant? Are we serving?

We will be relevant when we walk with people, talk with them, celebrate with them, and mourn with them. When we bring God's healing to their physical, social and spiritual lives we will be relevant to them.

People notice when you live for Jesus. You don't have to tell them, because they will see it. Give Him credit where credit is due.

When we live on Earth the way we will one day live in Heaven, we bring the Kingdom of God to our neighborhood.



**H**ow do dreams become reality? How did such qualities as freedom, individualism, justice and opportunity advance from conception to completion? What was the catalyst here?

The answer to these questions is also the reason we celebrate Memorial Day. These dreams did not become reality without the sacrifice of thousands of lives in battle. We live in freedom today, thanks to the heroes who gave up their fledgling futures for us. They gave us a personal definition of patriotism.

Though these courageous men and women were afforded little goodness in battle...there was one item many insisted on keeping close to their heart. That was the Bible, the comfort of God's Holy Word that saved souls even when life could not be preserved.

Honor those who have served our country when you worship this week.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Acts 2:1-13	Acts 2:14-28	Acts 2:29-47	Acts 3:1-10	Acts 3:11-26	Acts 4:1-22	Acts 4:23-37

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society  
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**Biblically Answering Concerns**

Many Christians today do not have Holy Spirit revelation of the spiritual warfare involved in the battle for the souls of mankind. Those who take seriously this battle have the same revelation as the Apostle Paul, "For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

**Paul answers his critics and defends his ministry in 2 Corinthians 10:1-18** (The Bible Exposition Commentary; Matthew Henry Commentary; The Bible Knowledge Commentary; Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary; New Bible Commentary; A Commentary, Critical and Explanatory; The Pulpit Commentary; The Expositors Bible Commentary) **Every Christian ministry moving forward in the work of the Lord has critics - Preachers of the Word like Paul have every right, just like Paul to vindicate their ministry and show that their work is called forth by God.** (Barnes Notes; New Bible Commentary)

**Since refocusing CrossRoads Ministries, we have had concerns expressed and questions asked. Therefore, we have created a new ministry on our website:**

**"Biblically Answering Concerns."**

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- 1.) Where the Exercising of Spiritual Gifts
- 2.) Proselytizing
- 3.) What Expressions of Love Have You Shown
- 4.) Spiritual Office
- 5.) What Credentials Allow You to Publically Preach God's Word?
- 6.) Who Are You Accountable To?
- 7.) Will You Endorse Our Church?
- 8.) Money/Time Publishing the Word of God

When Christians are exposed to ministries of Biblical accountability, they are to die to their own opinions, throw off spiritual traditionalism and legalism, and rejoice in what God is doing. Acts 11:18 says, "When they heard [Peter's full accounting], they had no further objections, and praised God..."