



FIRST CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY

WELCOME to First Christian Assembly, an independent church whose mission is articulated by Jesus in Mark 16:15 when he said "...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature". Following this great commission, First Christian Assembly preaches and teaches the gospel of Jesus Christ. In so doing, we trust that God, working through His Holy Spirit will draw souls to salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Shortsighted

To say that life on this earth is the best you can have is absolutely true—if you're not a Christian. However this is shortsighted thinking. The non-Christian lives his best life in the here and now because his next life is one of no hope, no joy, no meaning, no satisfaction and no relief from eternal suffering. Those who have rejected Jesus Christ will spend an eternity in "outer darkness, where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth." This phrase is used five times to describe the miserable existence of those who are thrust into it at the moment of their deaths. So, seeking to enjoy life while they can makes perfect sense for them because they really are living their best life now. The next life will be truly dreadful.

For the Christian, however, life here, no matter how good it is, is nothing compared to the life that awaits us in heaven. The glories of heaven eternal life, righteousness, joy, peace, perfection, God's presence, Christ's glorious companionship, rewards, and all else God has planned—is the Christian's heavenly inheritance ([1 Pet 1:3-5](#)), and it will cause even the best life on earth to pale in comparison. Even the richest, most successful person on earth will eventually age, sicken, and die, and his wealth cannot prevent it, nor can his wealth follow him into the next life. So, why would you be encouraged to live your best life now?

If you've ever met someone whose life is bound up in pursuing wealth and pleasure, it is obvious immediately, because it's all he talks about. His heart is filled with the things of this life, and out of the abundance of his heart, his mouth speaks ([Luke 6:45](#)). He has no time for the things of the Lord His Word, His people, His work and the eternal life He offers—because he is so busy pursuing his best life now. But the Bible tells us that the "kingdom of heaven," not worldly wealth, is like a treasure hidden in a field—so valuable that we should sell everything we have to attain it ([Matt 13:44](#)).

How can we expect a world infected by sin to provide your best life now? The Lord never promised health, wealth, or success in this life. We can't expect the promises He makes for heaven to be fulfilled now, and the Church dare not promise people the impossible illusion of their best life now. Such a promise encourages people to decide for themselves what will constitute their best lives and then reject Jesus when He doesn't deliver. The shortsighted "your best life now" philosophy is nothing more than the old "power of positive thinking" lie repackaged to scratch the itching ears of the current generation. If we know Jesus Christ as our Savior, our best lives await us in heaven where we will spend eternity in joy and bliss, enjoying a life which is better than the "best" we could have now.

Missionary Update Afghanistan

Dear Praying Friends, hope this finds you well!

First to give you a few updates:

- 1.) I have decided to have my small hernia operation in South Africa. Have found a hospital and now my Insurance company is trying to fine a doctor in the area to work with me. Thank you for your input, especially those doctors out there :-)
- 2.) J was dunked and it was a really special time. He has such a pure heart after God. I am very grateful that God has allowed me to be a part of his journey! When he first asked me about being dunked he had no idea what it meant. But he said, "Jesus did this, so I need to follow his example." Amazingly simple heart to follow His example. Wish I met more people like this.
- 3.) Our first sellable knives are just finishing up and they are very nice. I really think this is going to be a good small business for us.

Prayers:

Well things have going so well I was wondering what might come up to surprise me and possibly rock our nice little boat. I had been a bit concerned about one of my staff. Something just did not seem quite right but I could not put my finger on it. Q approached me concerned about that same staff. You might remember Q was a drug addict for 24 years so he knows addiction. **Anyways please pray as tomorrow night Q will approach this staff about his concerns.** It seems this staff has severe pain in his one shoulder during the winter and so he may be using opium to deal with the pain. The problem besides its negative effect on his life, is that all of the men in the program are talking about it and are sure he is suing some kind of drugs. Not good!

Three of our men are from an area Q grew up in, about a day's drive away. And have come here because of the change they saw in Q. But their families unlike Q's, are still there. They are becoming eligible for visits and of course want to see their families, but their families are days away when the roads are passable during the winter and when the Taliban are not stopping or robbing the cars! **So again we really need wisdom as to when and for how long.**

For M, whose brother died and he is responsible to take care of his brother's 4 children, wife and aging parents. He is still looking for a job and finding it quite difficult to find one.

Please pray the Lord would provide a job for him soon. He is very open to our way of thinking **so please pray that brother's in that area follow him up.**

Thank you for partnering with us! Blessings! John

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Philadelphia Access Center,	1832 S. 11 th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148	215-389-1985

The Philadelphia Access Center is a ministry of First Christian Assembly. Our mission is *revealing Christ through compassionate service*. Services available at PAC include social services information and referrals, biblical counseling, support groups, volunteer training, and community outreach. All services are free of charge and available to anyone. To learn more, visit us in person (across the street from FCA) or online at www.philaccess.org or www.facebook.com/philaccess.

WEEKLY SERVICES /MEETINGS

	Meets at FCA	Meets at PAC
Sunday	9:45 AM <i>Bible Study – Phila -location</i> 10:00 AM <i>South Jersey Worship Service</i> 11:00 AM <i>Phila Location Worship Service & Children’s Sunday School</i>	
Monday		7:00 PM <i>Stepping Stones</i>
Tuesday	6:30 PM <i>Prayer (Sanctuary)</i> 7:00 PM <i>Discipleship class (Fellowship hall)</i>	
Wednesday		1:00 PM <i>Women at the Well</i> 1:00 PM <i>Coram Deo</i>
Thursday		6:00 PM <i>Prayer Service</i> 7:00 PM <i>Bible Study</i>
Friday		7:00 PM <i>Free Indeed</i>

- *Coram Deo*: A men’s Bible study and Christian fellowship.
- *Free Indeed*; Is a Spirit led Men’s Fellowship that emphasizes godly counsel, leading to spiritual growth, healing and deliverance.
- *Stepping Stones*: A Christ centered support group for men and women impacted by a loved one’s addiction. In a warm and friendly atmosphere, we provide loving support, fellowship, confidential sharing, and intercessory prayer.
- *Women at the Well*: This group is Biblically based and promotes hope, healing, and fellowship for women impacted and struggling with brokenness.

Important Dates;

- **Youth Group meets tonight January 27, 2019**
- **Evangelism class Tuesday, 7:00 PM**
- **Be on the lookout for news regarding Sunday Morning and Tuesday Evening Bible studies**

Love not the world, neither the things [that are] in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 1Jo 2:15