



Schedule of Services

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Bible Study 1:30 PM
7:00 PM

www.collinsvillecoc.org

For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

Vol. 45, No. 9

Collinsville Church of Christ

March 1, 2017

The Greatest Need in America

We've been thinking much about the state of our country. Economic woes, fear of enemies, health concerns, natural disasters, spiritual decline, and confused morality call for our attention; and we continually ask what God's will is for this country.

We are perplexed but not surprised that the fastest growing religious group in America is the group that identifies themselves as having "no religion." According to the American Religious Identification Survey taken in 2001, adults who do not subscribe to any religious identification has more than doubled from 14.3 million in 1990 to 29.4 million in 2001; their proportion has grown from just eight percent of the total in 1990 to over fourteen percent in 2001. Only 77 percent of Americans now claim to be Christians.

Many of those who claim to be Christians have convictions far different from the teaching of the New Testament. For instance, the Pew Forum recently released a survey saying that 65 percent of American Christians say that many religions can lead to eternal life, a fact that contradicts Jesus' plain statement in John 14:6 (see also Acts 4:12; Ephesians 4:4-6).

What America needs most is the gospel, the old story of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord. That divine story will lead them to change their hearts and lives in repentance and to unite with Christ in baptism. The gospel will open their hearts to faith, hope, and love.

—Phil Sanders
Bulletin Bites - Gospel Advocate

I never knew a lot about wrestling, but when I taught school and coached basketball, I saw a lot of the practices and matches while we were waiting to get everyone together for a game trip. I don't remember much about the point system, but the ultimate victory, of course, is to pin your opponent. A wrestler who is taken down must break the hold or he will end up being pinned and lose the match.

Paul describes the Christian life as wrestling. We wrestle against the darkness and evil in this world. Too often, temptation and sin get a hold on the Christian. If he does not discipline himself and trust in God and His ways, he might not break the hold of sin and lose his soul.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Ephesians 6:12-13 ESV

Be diligent today and all week long. Take up the whole armor of God, the truth of God's word. Make it a part of your daily preparation. Use it daily as you wrestle with darkness and evil. Be strong and don't let Satan pin you.

TLM

Collinsville Church of Christ
1400 Troy Road
Collinsville, IL 62234
Phone: (618) 667-6708
Email: collinsvillecoc@att.net