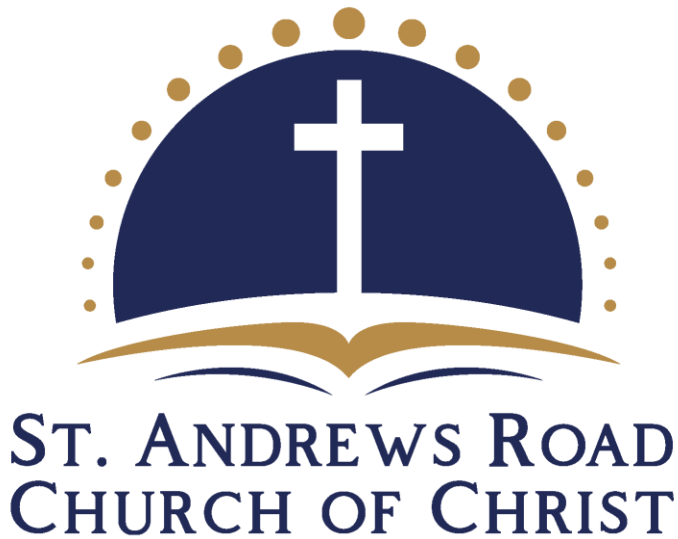


June 25, 2023

Volume 57 Issue 26



Worship Services & Bible Study

SUNDAYS	10:00 AM	Bible Class
SUNDAYS	11:00 AM	Worship
SUNDAYS	6:00 PM	Worship
WEDNESDAYS	7:00 PM	Bible Study

425 Saint Andrews Rd / Columbia, SC, 29210
803-772-0102

YouTube: Church of Christ St Andrews Rd

Respect of Persons

For a long time, evil spiritual forces have been trying to create enmity between men. **For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places (Ephesians 6:12).** One tactic used to divide people is on the basis of race. Men have different physical characteristics, such as the color of one's skin, but that should not be a cause of enmity nor hostility. In fact, it is sinful to behave that way. The Bible says, **But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors (James 2:9).** James makes that inspired statement in the context of the assembly showing preferential treatment of one man over another based upon appearance; which in this particular case was based upon the clothing worn. One man wore "a gold ring" and "goodly apparel," indicating he was rich, while the other wore "vile raiment," indicating he was poor (James 2:1-7). So, James begins that passage with a command from God: **My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons (Jas. 2:1).**

If you are a respecter of persons, that means you are "one whose behavior toward people is influenced by their social status, prestige, etc." (Collinsdictionary.com). To have a good understanding of what it looks like to not show respect of persons, consider the passage in Romans 2, which speaks of the judgment of God. God **will render to every man according to his deeds (Romans 2:6).** In that chapter, Paul writes this will be applied to both Jews and Gentiles (vv. 9-10), **for there is no respect of persons with God (v. 11).** The race of a person will not matter, but their deeds will. Martin Luther King, Jr. hoped this godly characteristic would spread through the country, as he said, "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

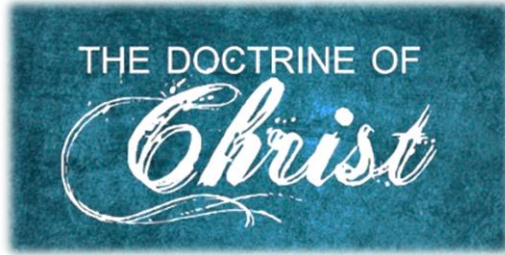
Because of racism, many have been subjected to slavery, oppression, and murder. Thanks be to God that slavery was abolished in this country. Indeed, the word of God had much to do with that, as it became hard to "kick against the goads" for many people. The word of God was working on them, as they pondered passages like **Genesis 1:27: So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.** Or, **Matthew 7:12: Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.** The book of Philemon is about a man who had escaped from slavery and became a Christian. He went back to his slave master under the instruction of the apostle Paul, who wrote to Philemon, Onesimus' master, saying, **For perhaps he therefore departed for a season, that thou shouldest receive him forever; not now as a servant, but above a servant, a brother beloved, specially to me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh, and in the Lord? If thou count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself (Philemon 15-17).** Then he wrote, **Having confidence in thy obedience I wrote unto thee, knowing that thou wilt also do more than I say (v. 21).** Is this verse possibly referring to Philemon setting Onesimus free?

Continued on page 3.

SUMMER SERIES

The
of the

FUNDAMENTALS



Wednesdays
7:00 PM

June 28
“Faith”

Daniel Koen, Duncan COC

TODAY
Sunday June 25th

Services will be held in the Fellowship Hall due to the ongoing work in the auditorium.

Now –
July 19



Our Youth are collecting school supplies for the community again this year. Their goal is 96 student backpacks and 10 teacher backpacks, which will be distributed on July 29. If you have any questions, please see Eric or Crystal Kelly.

See full list of supplies needed on the bulletin board.

Children’s Bible Times

Thursdays

10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

June 29 King Rehoboam &
King Jeroboam

July 13 King Ahab

July 20 King Jehoshaphat

2 years old – 5th grade

Lesson, puppets/singing, crafts/games
Lunch Provided



Vacation Bible School

“A Royal Adventure”
A Study of Great Kings

July 23 – 26
Sunday – Wednesday

SUMMER NEEDS

Juice boxes, water, canned drinks,
individual bags of chips, Debbie cakes

For Children’s Bible Times
& Vacation Bible School

Please place items in the kitchen.

Respect of Persons Continued from page 1

This past Monday, our country celebrated the federal holiday called Juneteenth. On June 19, 1865, union soldiers came into Galveston Bay, Texas, the westernmost state of the confederacy, and announced the emancipation of every slave by executive decree. Today, we as people of different races, commune together in worship to God as beloved brothers and sisters. Isn't it beautiful? To be united by faith, hope, and love in spite of what has happened in the past and what is happening today - only the gospel can do that. We still have much work to do in this nation. So let us look on others not with respect of persons but seeing them as made in the image of God, and love them for it, and serve them.

Brotherly,
Jamie