

# Lewiston Church of Christ

## March 19, 2023

 **MESSENGER** *Growing Friendships, Families & Faith.*



### Weekly Services

Sun. Bible Study 9:45 AM  
Sunday Worship 10:45 AM  
Sun. Day/Evening Groups  
Wed Bible Study 6:30 PM

### MINISTER

Joel Solliday: 208-743-2711

### ELDERS

Joe Bieren: 208-305-1136

Doyle Dawes: 208-836-5718

### DEACONS

Education: Shawn Bolm  
Finance: Tom Hill  
Outreach: Mark Whittaker  
Tech. & Safety: Eric Kjorness

### AREAS OF SERVICE

Building: Ken Vogtman  
Custodian: Hannah McKee  
Fellowship: Joe/Carrie Bieren  
Grounds: Cody/Doyle Dawes  
Sing Ministry: Timauri Stearns  
Secretary: Renee Hill  
Technology: Cody Dawes

**Lewiston church of Christ**  
**302 Southway Ave**  
**Lewiston, Idaho 83501**  
**Phone: (208) 743-2711**

**Email:**  
office@lewistonchurchofchrist.org

**Web Site:**  
www.lewistonchurchofchrist.org

**FB:**  
Class & Sermons online  
Check email notification

**Monthly Service Schedules:**  
Posted in the foyer. Please find a replacement if you will be gone.



## Fearless Faith!

The Pharisees in Jesus' day used intimidation to control people. When some Pharisees heard that Jesus healed a blind man on the Sabbath, they concluded, "This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." (John 9:16) They interrogated the man's parents to confirm the story. Afraid of losing their place in the synagogue, the parents told the questioners to ask their son since he is of age and can speak for himself. They knew the rulers had already decided that anyone who confessed Jesus as Christ would be "excommunicated from the synagogue" (9:22). After interrogating the healed man, they didn't like what they heard. Offended, they put him out (9:34).

As Jesus continued to teach and heal, some Jewish rulers believed in Him. However, "...because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, so that they would not be excommunicated from the synagogue." (John 12:42). They were intimidated.

Many Pharisees were self-appointed religious referees. They presumed God's authority to make rulings and keep people in fear. They saw Jesus as a dangerous rule-breaker and abused their religious authority to have Him killed. But they never intimidated Him.

Hypocrites like to preach but not to themselves. They presume to own truth but do not live it. They restrict others while looking for loopholes for themselves. Speaking to law experts, Jesus said, "you load people with burdens that are hard to bear, while you yourselves will not even touch the burdens with one of your fingers." (Luke 11:46)

The point here is not that we should presume to label fellow believers as Pharisees just because we differ. Let God be the judge. The point is to look to Jesus for the courage to resist intimidation. Jesus did not abusively lord it over others and would not be lorded over by men. He defended the truth by humbly living it and submitting to God to the point of death on a cross at the hands of abusive authorities.

But God raised Him from the dead and has promised this resurrection power to those who die to ourselves and live for Jesus as Lord and Savior. This promise empowers us to stand firm with Jesus in the face of abusive intimidation from men. JMS