

Central Church of Christ
POINTING PEOPLE TO JESUS

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
John



A PERIOD OF CONFLICT
The Truth That Sets You Free
John 8:31-59 || September 27, 2026

WELCOME

We're Glad You're Here!

We know visiting a church for the first time can feel intimidating.

Our goal is to help you feel at home and **point you to Jesus**.

Here's **what to expect** in our worship today:

We sing acappella (voices only), take the Lord's Supper, offer prayers, and listen to a message from the Bible. **You are welcome to participate with us as** much as you are comfortable.

After worship concludes, we offer **Bible classes for all ages**.

You're welcome to stay and join whichever class fits you best.



Before the sermon, **children ages 2–7** are invited to a special time called **Wee Worship**, where they can enjoy Bible stories, songs, and age-appropriate activities in a safe, welcoming environment.

Sept 27: God is always at work behind the scenes.

Lesson Text: Esther 4:14

For those 8 years old and above, **complete the fill in blanks** in this handout and show the preacher or one of the elders for a special treat or TWO Bible Bucks to spend at Central Park.

SERVICE ORDER

September 27, 2026

Announcements

Call to Worship

O Worship The King

Firm Foundation

Prayer

I Know My Redeemer Lives

Sam Lewis

Dean Baker

Ross Jordan

Ross Jordan

Jeremy Wininger

John Cox

Prepare For Communion

He Paid a Debt

Communion Prayers

My God Is So Big

Children's Chat

Scripture Reading - John 8:31-38

Where The Soul Never Dies

Sermon

There is Power in the Blood

Shepherd's Moment

John Cox

Brent Rollins

Aidan Smith

Aidan & Josh

Leslie Waycaster

David Byerly

Shane Robinson

David Byerly

Steve Griggs

GREETERS

Kylie Gray, Hannah Kresser, Amanda Shannon & Hilda Brock

NURSERY

Olivia Russell & Anna Stanley

WEE WORSHIP

Jane Cherry, Audrey Miller, Lauren & Brinkley Smith

SERVE COMMUNION

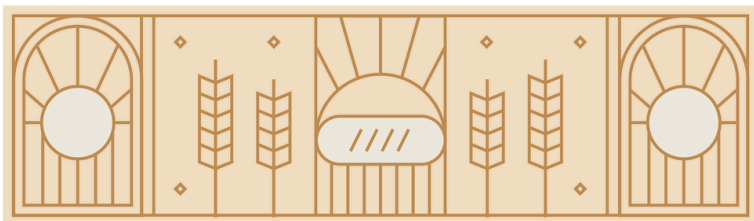
Noah Robinson, Jeff Brown, Matt Locke, Chris Akers, Greg Tilley,
Rhett Stanley, Clint Russell, Tyson Russell

SCRIPTURE READING

John 8:31-38, NKJV

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, ‘You will be made free?’” Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed. ‘I know that you are Abraham’s descendants, but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father.’”

The New King James Version. Thomas Nelson, 1982



KEY WORDS

John 8:31-59

Truth (alētheia), 8:32. Reality as it actually is. Jesus says His true disciples will know the truth, and the truth will set them free. Truth here is tied directly to abiding in His word.

Free (eleutheros), 8:32-36. Freedom from bondage, granted rather than earned. Jesus tells the Jews that if the Son makes them free, they will be free indeed. Real freedom is something only the Son can grant.

Slave (doulos), 8:34. One owned by another, with no ability to walk free. Jesus says whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. Descent from Abraham cannot undo what sin has already bound.

Devil (diabolos), 8:44. The accuser and adversary. Jesus tells the Jews who seek to kill Him that they belong to their father the devil rather than to Abraham. Their desire to murder Him reveals whose family they actually reflect.

Liar (pseustēs), 8:44. One who speaks falsehood as his native language. Jesus says the devil is a liar and the father of lies. Every lie finds its origin there.

Keep (tēreō), 8:51-52, 55. To guard, hold onto, and obey. Jesus says whoever keeps His word will never see death. The Jews hear this as arrogance, but Jesus insists He keeps the Father's word Himself.

For more study materials, visit ccocdalton.org/john

THE TRUTH THAT SETS YOU FREE

John 8:31-59 || September 27, 2026

When Jesus' words challenge our way of thinking, we can attack them, resist them, or abide in them. One is an outward reaction, the other is the inward posture behind the reaction, and one is the response that leads to freedom. Jesus wants to set us free.

Attacking the Truth

The Outward Reaction

It begins with _____ (8:41b). Their claim that they were "not born of fornication" may be a veiled insult directed at Jesus.

It continues with _____ (8:48, 52). They call Jesus a Samaritan and accuse Him of having a demon. Very offensive!

It ends with _____ (8:59). When they can neither refute nor tolerate His claim, they take up stones to kill Him (Jas. 3:14-16).

Resisting the Truth

The Attitudes Behind the Reaction

A posture marked by _____ (8:33-36). They claim never to have been in bondage to anyone, even while living under Roman rule. The first step toward freedom is acknowledging our bondage to sin.

A mind shaped by _____ (8:37, 43-47). They are not willing to receive Jesus' word because they are following the lies of the devil. We cannot be freed by the truth while believing what is false.

A confidence rooted in _____ (8:52-58). They appeal to Abraham while rejecting the One whom Abraham rejoiced to see. Truth cannot free us when religious heritage takes the place of Jesus.

Abiding in the Truth

The Response That Leads to Freedom

It begins with _____ in Jesus' word (8:31; 6:63; 8:12).

Those who embrace Jesus must also embrace His teaching. This is especially true when it challenges what we think or how we live.

It leads to _____ the truth (8:32a; cf. 1:17; 14:6). Knowing Jesus transforms how we understand God, ourselves, and others.

It results in _____ through the Son (8:32b, 36). True disciples experience the freedom that only the Son can give.

CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST

POINTING PEOPLE TO JESUS

John did not write this so that we would know more 'about' Jesus.

He wrote it so that we would 'know' Jesus. Jesus knows you and wants you to know Him.

Examine your reaction (Jas. 1:19-21)

Scripture confronts what we believe and practice. Instead of justifying our actions or positions, slow down, listen, and make the changes it requires. Lay aside what is wrong and receive the word.

Understand freedom (Jas. 1:22-25)

James calls the scriptures the law (something that restricts) of liberty (something that frees). Freedom is found when we surrender ourselves to Jesus and embrace His ways.

Practice Pure Religion (Jas. 1:26-27)

Pure religion is not a heritage we claim but a life we practice. It controls the tongue, cares for the vulnerable, and remains unstained by the world. What we believe shapes our behavior.

CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Assembly Times

AM Worship

Sundays @ 9:30 AM

Sun Bible Classes

Immediately After Worship

Wed Night Meal

Will start back in September

Wed Bible Classes

Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM

Reoccurring Events

Ladies Bible Class

Tuesday @ 10:30 AM

LIFE Groups

Various times & locations

(Visit our website)

Food & Clothing

Tues & Thurs 10 AM-12 PM

(Go to office area)



CENTRAL
CHURCH OF CHRIST

CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST II SUN. @9:30am WED. @6:30pm
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