

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements
Randy Ellis

Song Leader
Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper
Jon Barry Bill Brittenham
Jerry Schnelle Bill Rinehart

Prayers
Joey Avance Dee Minter

SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements
Randy Ellis

Song Leader
Jack Calvert

Lord's Supper
Cory Easley Dee Minter

Prayers
Dave Massey Gerald Eaton

WEDNESDAY

Announcements
Gerald Eaton

Song Leader
Cory Easley

Prayers
Randy Ellis Sonny Monaghan

Invitation
Rick Boswell

ABOUT US

Elders
Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis

Deacons
Jon Barry Bill Brittenham
Mike Davis Dave Massey

Evangelist
Rick Boswell
(574) 302-1827

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday
Bible Study9:30 A.M.
Worship10:15 A.M.
Worship6:00 P.M.

Wednesday
Bible Study7:00 P.M.

WWW.TXKCHURCH.COM

THE PLAN OF SALVATION

Hear the word of truth Romans 10:13-17

Believe the truth..... Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24

Repent from all sins Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38

Confess the name of Christ ... Matthew 10:32-33; Acts 8:35-30

Be Baptized in His name Mark 16:16;
1 Peter 3:21; Colossians 2:12

Walk in newness of life and **be faithful** unto death Romans 6:1-4; Revelation 2:10

Think On These Things

Franklin Drive Church of Christ
2301 Franklin Drive ■ Texarkana, AR 71854 ■ (870) 772-0746



Volume XXI

April 17, 2016

Issue 15

Joyful Longing

Gary Henry

“... Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith — the salvation of your souls” (1 Peter 1:7-9).

IT IS POSSIBLE TO BE CONTENTED AND UNFULFILLED AT THE SAME TIME. Even though our deepest longings won't be completely satisfied until our Lord returns, we can still live in the present with a sense of satisfaction at God's goodness. And looking at it from the other direction, even though we experience the peace that passes understanding right now, we can live with a joyous expectancy that the best is yet to come. Contentment and desire need not be contradictory. We can long for

God with a joy that's just as deep as our longing. Indeed, our longing can be a part of our joy.

Peter wrote that we can “rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,” since we are “receiving the end of [our] faith — the salvation of [our] souls.” It's important to notice that this inexpressible joy can be ours even though the end of our faith, the final salvation of our souls, has not yet been received. Our joy is the joy of hope. It's the joy of those who're confident that they're on the path that leads to their Father. We're grateful to be going home!

And yet our joy can be more than the joy of hope: we can learn to enjoy the process that is leading to our salvation. We are indeed on a path, and we haven't

FAMILY TALK

LG Clemmons has left the rehab facility in Ashdown and is currently staying with his son as he continues to heal.

Max Thomas has been released to go home with Ann. We're thankful he's getting better but realize he still has some work ahead of him.

The Meadors are proud to announce that **Holland** is pregnant with a little girl! We pray that everything goes well for both her and their baby. The baby is due October 24th.

The **Davis/Meador** clan are traveling today and should return for Wednesday night Bible study.

Visiting Preachers:

There will be a few men coming through to visit us over the next few weeks in our search for a preacher. April 24th will be **Jesse LaRue**. **Sean Cavendar** will be here May 15th and **Brian Orf** on May 22nd. These men will teach the adult class and both services on Sunday. Please continue to ask for God's guidance in His work at Franklin Drive!

Get It In The Bulletin:

If you anyone has news concerning our church family please contact **Rick** so he can put it in our weekly bulletin.

Front Page Article (concl.)

yet reached the end of it. But the path itself is full of pleasant things, things that have been created by God for us to enjoy along the way. Surely it would be wrong to have our hearts so set on heaven that we failed to appreciate the goodness of the journey by which God plans to get us there.

The Christian really does have the best of both worlds. So when we say godliness is profitable for all things, for "the life that now is" and for "that which is to come" (1 Timothy 4:8), we ought to be espousing more than a theory; we ought to be stating our own experience. We need to be people who reach forward eagerly, but also those who reach forward gratefully. We need to long for God fervently, but to long for Him with a joy that is real right now.

"We are not to make the ideas of contentment and aspiration quarrel, for God made them fast friends. A man may aspire and yet be quite content until it is time to rise; and both flying and resting are but parts of one contentment. The very fruit of the gospel is aspiration. It is to the heart what spring is to the earth, making every root, and bud, and bough desire to be more" (Henry Ward Beecher).

The Excellence Of His Majesty

Gary Henry

O Lord, our Lord, How excellent is

Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens! (Psalm 8:1)

IN THE WORKS OF HIS CREATION, GOD HAS MANIFESTED THE PERFECTION OF HIS GOODNESS AND WISDOM AND POWER. He has set His glory above the heavens. How excellent is His name in all the earth! God's greatness is so vast that it stretches our imagination to its limit. But the evidence is all around us, and we need to open ourselves up more fully to an appreciation of His glory. We must make sure that the grandeur of all these things is not lost on us. What could be a greater tragedy than to be surrounded by God's glory and yet fail to be moved by it appreciatively?

Consider an analogy. As I write these lines I am listening to a magnificent recording of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, one of the towering artistic achievements of human civilization. It's hard to imagine that anyone could listen to this music and not be moved by its exhilarating power. But there are such people. Suppose that a man sits in a concert hall while this symphony is being performed and he fails to be moved by it because he isn't really paying attention. Suppose that he's preoccupied with his expensive new shoes, which are a tad too

tight. Wouldn't this fellow's situation be sad? While he was fretting over the relatively unimportant concerns of his own little world, he missed the opportunity to be transformed by something much bigger than he was. A huge experience surrounded him, but he missed it because his attention was focused on himself. In our case, we're surrounded by the very works of God. If these don't affect us, then our situation is sad for the same reason. We are the losers.

"O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth, who have set Your glory above the heavens!" Is the stupendous glory of His creation lost on us? Do we not have eyes to see? Are we not paying attention? If not, it's imperative that we rise above the little worries of our lives. We must allow ourselves to be moved by the majesty of our God.

In the vast and the minute we see the unambiguous footsteps of the God, Who gives its luster to an insect's wing, and wheels his throne upon the whirling worlds. (William Cowper)