

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements
Bill Brittenham

Song Leader
Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper
Jon Barry Jack Calvert
Pete Rowland Clay Morris

Prayers
Mike Davis Randy Ellis

SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements
Bill Brittenham

Song Leader
Jack Calvert

Lord's Supper
Jackie Jamison W.H. McFerrin

Prayers
Jon Barry Pete Rowland

WEDNESDAY

Announcements
Joey Avance

Song Leader
Cory Easley

Prayers
Rick Boswell W.H. McFerrin

Invitation
Gerald Eaton

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

February 14, 2016

Issue 7

Everlasting Sanctuary

Gary Henry

“Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, ‘Write: “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.”’ ‘Yes,’ says the Spirit, ‘that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them’” (Revelation 14:13).

AT THE END OF THE ROAD, WE CAN GO TO AN ETERNAL PLACE OF REST AND BEAUTY AND STRENGTH. The solace and safety for which we long are things that can be fully realized. What is true in time will be even more true in eternity: “There is a place of quiet rest, near to the heart of God” (Cleland B. McAfee). It is to be a place of “sanctuary” in the very truest sense of the word.

One of Dalhart Windberg’s paintings is called Everlasting Sanctuary. A print of

that painting first arrested my attention in the hallway of the hospital where my mother lay dying. It drew me immediately into a world both strong and serene. Later, friends gave me a small copy to hang in my home, and I’m always eager to enter the scene that it depicts. When I am world-weary, I can hear Windberg’s distant waterfall. I can smell the cool evergreens that shelter the river and feel the gentle warmth of the meadow beneath my feet. A deep desire for sanctuary stirs within me.

In literature, I think there is no more powerful evocation of sanctuary than Imladris, or Rivendell, in the work of J. R. R. Tolkien. In the imaginative world of Middle Earth, where good and evil are at war, Rivendell is the elven refuge in a

FAMILY TALK

L.G. Clemmons is rehabbing out in Ashdown. There is still some progress to be made but we're thankful for his healing thus far.

Max Thomas is slowly making some progress and healing from his recent lung surgery. It has been encouraging to see Ann out worshipping with us! We'll continue to ask God for His help on their behalf.

Max Rankin had surgery recently to repair a hernia. Let's continue to remember him and his family in our thoughts and prayers this week.

Jon Barry was visiting his parents this past Wednesday night. His father had another stent put into to alleviate another blockage. We are praying that it will be successful.

Cole Meador lost his grandfather recently. Let's be mindful of him and his family.

There are several **Gospel Meeting** announcements on the bulletin board in the foyer. Check to see if you might be interested in attending any of them.

Get It In The Bulletin:

If you have any news concerning our church family, please notify **Rick** so it can be inserted into the weekly bulletin.

Front Page Article (concl.)

steep, hidden valley cutting through the moors beneath the Misty Mountains.

Rivendell resonates with me because I know it represents reality. It connects me to a truth that is larger than my own life.

It's not inevitable, of course, that I will arrive at the eternal sanctuary of God's home. If I do, it will be the consequence of right choices about God that I am making right now. I know that not every road leads to the gate of heaven. There is only one that does, and I put my feet on that path when by faith I courageously acquiesce to what I know of God's will.

“Bring us, O Lord God, at the last awakening into the house and gate of heaven, to enter into that gate and dwell in that house, where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling, but one equal light; no noise nor silence, but one equal music; no fears nor hopes, but an equal possession; no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity, in the habitations of thy majesty and thy glory, world without end” (John Donne).

The Battlefield Of The Human Heart

Gary Henry

“If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the

door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it” (Genesis 4:7).

IN THE AGE-OLD CONFLICT BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG, IT IS OUR VERY HEARTS THAT ARE AT RISK. The tempter seeks to destroy us by deceiving us and drawing our will away from God. And to the extent that we allow our hearts to be turned against God, we allow evil to gain another unfortunate victory. We become yet another name on Satan's long list of victims.

Our hearts are under attack on all fronts. There is not a single dimension of our thinking where we are not challenged by evil and confronted with crucial choices. In our intellect, the choice is between truth and deception. In our affections, we must decide between love and hatred. In our will, the stark alternatives are obedience to God and disobedience. Unless we determine not to let it happen, wrongheadedness, and even wrong heartedness, will overthrow us in each of these realms and wipe out every good thing we were created to enjoy.

These truths are sobering, to be sure. We have an obvious need for humility and vigilance in everything that pertains to our spiritual welfare. But it is also possible for us to have courage and hope. Endeavoring to strengthen the backbone of his young friend Timothy, Paul wrote,

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” (2 Timothy 1:7). We are caught up in a cosmic struggle, but the Creator of this cosmos is far greater in power and wisdom than all the forces of evil combined. The rightful King reigns from His throne!

Let us be reminded of this fact: the devil has only the power to entice us, not the power to coerce us. And God, who gave us the freedom to choose, will not coerce us. Instead, honoring our freedom, He exhorts us to resist the devil's deception and to hold onto the truth. He invites us to find in Him that which is real life. The basic issue is easy to understand and dangerous to forget. Moses captured it in his historic words to Israel: “I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live” (Deuteronomy 30:19).

“The devil wrestles with God, and the field of battle is the human heart” (Feodor Dostoevsky).