

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements
Mike Davis

Song Leader
Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper
Rodney Ellis Cory Easley
Bill Rinehart Dave Massey

Prayers
Jack Calvert Bill Brittenham

SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements
Mike Davis

Song Leader
Cory Easley

Lord's Supper
Bill Brittenham Mark Davis

Prayers
Daniel Allgor Sonny Monaghan

WEDNESDAY

Announcements
Joey Avance

Song Leader
Rick Boswell

Prayers
Bill Brittenham Dave Massey

Invitation
Dee Minter

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



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Issue 5

The Great Physician

Gary Henry

“When Jesus heard it, He said to them, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.’” (Mark 2:17).

OUR MOST SERIOUS AILMENTS ARE NOT PHYSICAL BUT SPIRITUAL. We are hurt far more by the malignancies in our character than by the illnesses in our body. And it is the removal of these sins in the heart that God is concerned with. The Great Physician desires to restore our spiritual health and wholeness.

If we want to improve, we must be honest and open to the truth about our character right now. Not even the Great Physician can help us if we're not willing to be examined. Trying to hide our symptoms and pretending that nothing very serious is wrong will only

result in our getting worse. An accurate diagnosis will be humbling, to be sure, but we should still want to know the whole truth. David's prayer is that of an honest man: “Search me, O God, and know my heart . . . see if there is any wicked way in me” (Psalm 139:23,24). We must desire to see ourselves as God sees us.

But more than that, we must cultivate confidence that God knows what He's doing. Whether we understand the wisdom of His plan or not, we must trust both the accuracy of His diagnosis and the effectiveness of His treatment. We must also have the courage to submit to the healing process that He prescribes. The cancer cannot be cut away from our character without radical surgery. Because sin is so entangled in our thinking, the purging operation is always painful and often lengthy. But as with physical disease,

FAMILY TALK

L.G. Clemmons is still in rehab out in Ashdown. He has been instructed not to put any weight on his leg for a couple more weeks. Hopefully this will provide sufficient time for the repairs to heal.

Tommy Evans (L.G.'s brother in law) passed away Wednesday from his battle with brain cancer. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Max Thomas continues to struggle mightily right now with his health. His cultures came back recently revealing he is suffering from E.coli as well as the previous diagnosis of pneumonia. Please continue to remember him and Ann in your prayers.

Joey and **Jetta Avance** were feeling under the weather this past Wednesday evening.

Debbie Massey is in Florida visiting with Miranda and Eden. There is no set date for her return.

Let's be sure to remember our **Annual Singing** on April 1st, followed by our **Spring Gospel Meeting** with **Chuck Durham**. The meeting begins on April 3rd. Be sure to mark your calendars.

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.)

if we're not willing to endure momentary pain in order to become healthy later on, our only option is to get sicker and sicker. We can stay in our sickly "comfort" zone or we can move toward greater health, but not both at the same time. "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).

How much commitment do we have to the truth about ourselves? For all our talk about loving the truth, do we really desire to see all that God sees when He examines our hearts? There will be no redemption for those unwilling to face reality.

"When we go to our meeting with God, we should go like a patient to his doctor, first to be thoroughly examined and afterwards to be treated for our ailment. Then something will happen when you pray" (O. Hallesby).

Childlike Wonder

Gary Henry

"Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3).

IT IS EASY FOR A CHILD TO LOVE THE THINGS THAT GOD HAS MADE AND TO BE DRAWN BY THESE THINGS TO LOVE GOD HIMSELF. Innocent and free, a child responds very naturally to goodness and beauty; he or she takes genuine delight in the multifaceted mysteries of creation. A cloud . . . a tree . . . a squirrel. There is nothing that is not of interest, nothing that does not make the heart throb with wonder and longing for something (or Someone) beyond.

A time comes, however, if the child lives long enough, when these things begin to lose their interest. And the reason? Sin has entered the heart, throwing everything into disarray. There is now delusion and falsehood. Values have been turned upside down. Cynicism has set in. The child, now no longer a child, is busy, not enjoying the creation, but trying to own it and manipulate it to selfish advantage. Now, if he ever notices a cloud, a tree, or a squirrel, he goes to one of two extremes: either he (1) disregards them completely, or (2) worships them rather than their Creator.

All of this is profoundly sad. Yet it would be far sadder if it were not for the gospel of Jesus Christ, through which it is possible to be forgiven and to recover the child-like wonder and honest humility with which we used to respond to God's goodness. The child that we used to be is not gone forever but simply buried under layers of adult pride

and busyness. We should be encouraged to know that there are choices we're capable of making that will open our hearts back up to the powerful pull of truth and joy.

We need to make these choices and go back to our younger hearts. "Unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven," Jesus said. In the kingdom, there are many new things to be learned. But before we can learn them, there is a good deal of grown-up "stuff" that needs to be unlearned, especially our desire for counterfeit pleasures rather than the real ones that God has provided.

"I was a little stranger who was surrounded by innumerable joys when I arrived here . . . I knew nothing of sickness or death. In the absence of these I was entertained like an angel with the works of God. Heaven and earth sang my Creator's praise" (Thomas Traherne).

"If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on things on the earth." (Colossians 3:1-2)