

## SUNDAY MORNING

### Announcements

Mark Davis

### Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

### Lord's Supper

Mike Davis                      Cole Meador  
Joseph Barry                      Sonny Monaghan

### Prayers

Bill Brittenham                      Melvin Potts

## SUNDAY EVENING

### Announcements

Mark Davis

### Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

### Lord's Supper

Melvin Potts                      Roger Clemmons

### Prayers

Randy Ellis                      Jon Barry

## WEDNESDAY

### Announcements

Dave Massey

### Song Leader

Cory Easley

### Prayers

Sonny Monaghan                      Joseph Barry

### 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 Study .....9:30 A.M.  
Worship .....10:15 A.M.  
Worship .....6:00 P.M.

### Wednesday

Bible Study .....7:00 P.M.

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## 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 XXIII

March 6, 2016

Issue 10

## Authentic Obedience

Andy Harrison

Obedience is a concept the world hates, especially when it comes to anything having to do with morality. The idea of obedience gets in the way of our freedoms and passions and pleasures. The one who faithfully obeys is often seen as weak or simple minded. Just take a quick look at some of the magazine covers at your local grocery store checkout line. They celebrate the rebels who are “brave” enough to cast off the chains of moral expectation and flaunt their perverse lifestyles. The church is not immune to this disdain for obedience either. Too often Christians follow their own desires, designing their worship and behavior and belief system with no regard for what God has commanded. But the word of God will not allow us to ignore the significance of obedience. Just three chapters into the book, the entire narrative of mankind changes because Adam and Eve fail to obey a simple command, “...from the tree of the

*knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat”. (Gen. 2:17) Obedience plays a significant role in God’s plan to reconcile man when He makes the promise to Abraham, “In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.” (Gen. 22:18) God’s relationship with His chosen people is based on obedience. In Exodus 19, when Moses is receiving the law on Sinai, God says “Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” (Exodus 19:5-6) Throughout Israel’s history God sends one prophet after another warning them of the consequences of their disobedience and pleading with them to return and obey the voice of the Lord. Jesus comes on the scene and constantly opposes the religious leadership because they have*

## FAMILY TALK

Please remember **Max Thomas**. He is still in very serious condition.

**L. G. Clemmons** continues to recuperate from his broken leg.

**Rodney Ellis** is scheduled for knee surgery this Tuesday.

**Mary Jamison** continues to recover from her ribs.

### Singing and Meeting

Our yearly Singing is Apr. 1 followed by our meeting with **Chuck Durham** from College Station, TX Apr. 3-6.

Announcements and invitations are at the back of the building.

### Preaching

While **Rick** is holding a couple of meetings, **Andy Harrison** will be teaching the adult class and preaching both services for us today. Next week, Mar. 13, **Mark Thomas** will be teaching the adult class and preaching in the morning and **Bill Brittenham** will speak that evening.

### Spring Cleaning

If you can, plan to be at the building Mar. 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM for a Work Day and little Spring Cleaning.

### Rejoicing

We, along with the angels in heaven rejoice in **Steve Rankin's** decision last Sunday to obey Jesus in baptism.

### Authentic (concl)

set their traditions above the commandments of God, disregarding the voice of the Lord. And it is in Jesus that we see the ultimate consequences of our choice to obey or to rebel. John 3:36 tells us, *"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides in him."*

If we love God and desire to spend eternity in His presence, we cannot ignore the importance of obedience. To please our Father is to obey His voice. But in this world of narcissism and selfishness and pride, what does authentic obedience look like?

*"Then He said to them, 'My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me.' And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.'" (Mt. 26:38-39)*

*"He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, 'My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done.'" (Mt. 26:42)*

Jesus made it very clear throughout His ministry that His purpose was to do the will of His Father. One example is in John 4:34, after He had spoken to the woman at the well He said *"My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work."* It was always the intention of Jesus to do the will of His Father, He always wanted to do what the Father wanted Him to do. However, just because He always wanted to do His Father's will doesn't mean His will was always consistent with

His Father's will. In the garden we have one illustration when Jesus' will was different than the will of His Father. We see from the text that this conflict deeply grieved Him and caused Him great stress. In Matthew 26:37 *"...and began to be grieved and distressed"*, verse 38, *"My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death"*, verse 39, *"...and He fell on His face"*. Coming face to face with the horror and reality of the cross moved our Lord to express His earthly will. He really wanted, if there was any possible way, to avoid the pain, shame, and humiliation of the cross. At this moment His will was not His Father's will and it is in this moment that the real test came.

And then we have this passage in Hebrews 5:7-9:

*"In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety. Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation..."*

It was the fact that Jesus yielded His will to His Father in the face of suffering that He learned obedience and in this, He was made perfect or complete. Before this experience, as obedient as He was, His obedience was not complete. In order for His obedience to reach its completed end He had to face the will of God, in contrast to His own will, and still obey. In this experience Jesus teaches the lesson of true obedience. Obedience to the Father does not come when it is easy or when

we agree with the Father or when His will is our will. Authentic obedience is when our will, our flesh, is in contrast to God's will and we submit anyway.

I believe most of us would say that we want to do the will of the Father. Like Jesus, it is our intent, our desire to do His will. But what happens when it is hard or uncomfortable to obey? What happens when our obedience will draw the ridicule and contempt of the world? How often do I rationalize a way out? How often do I convince myself that an easier route is OK? Do I obey God up to a point? As long as it makes sense or as long as my flesh doesn't violently rebel or as long as I don't have to sacrifice too much, I'll obey. Am I finding a way to avoid obedience? Authentic obedience that leads to salvation is that which faces the difficulties, the challenges, the hardships and continues to do the will of the Father. Jesus asks us to learn obedience as He did, through suffering. And it is through our obedience and God's grace that we have a home with Him for eternity.





