

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements
Mike Davis

Song Leader
Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper
Bill Brittenham Jack Calvert
Jackie Jamison Steve Rankin

Prayers
Rodney Ellis Clay Morris

SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements
Mike Davis

Song Leader
Jack Calvert

Lord's Supper
Bill Brittenham Jackie Jamison

Prayers
Mark Davis Randy Ellis

WEDNESDAY

Announcements
Randy Ellis

Song Leader
Jack Calvert

Prayers
Jackie Jamison Mike Davis

Invitation
Bryan Garlock

ABOUT US

Elders
Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis

Deacons
Jon Barry Bill Brittenham
Mike Davis Dave Massey

Evangelist
Bryan Garlock

SERVICE TIMES

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

Wednesday
Bible Study7:00 P.M.

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GOD'S PLAN FOR 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
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Issue 52

Why Does God Destroy the Innocent?

Bryan Garlock

Without question, there are difficult passages found within God's word - truths about God that are sometimes hard for fallible human minds to accept. One such "troubling" truth about the Bible is the destruction of women and children in the Old Testament. At times God had His people to destroy whole nations including men, women, children and livestock (see Josh. 8.24-26; 1 Sam. 15.3-4, etc.). These passages have always disturbed people, including Christians, and have been a stomping ground for atheists and Bible skeptics alike. Generally, their concern is: "Why would God allow innocent women and children to be destroyed?" Many (understandably) approach this topic emotionally. Since ignorance is grounds for all kinds of error and doubt, this writer is convinced that the "problems" people have with this topic can be eliminated with the knowledge of several facts. Let us prayerfully and honestly examine this difficult topic. Some may question or judge our Creator and even

make unwarranted assumptions about Him. Nevertheless, our Creator said, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55.8-9). Paul wrote "But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, 'Why have you made me like this?'" (Rom. 9.20). Similarly, Jeremiah wrote, "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter has done? declares the Lord. Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand..." (18.6). Through Isaiah God said, "Woe to those who quarrel with their Maker... Does the clay say to the potter, 'What are you making?'..." (Isaiah 45.9 NIV cf. 10.15). God said to Job, "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! ..." (Job 38). Simply put, we are

FAMILY TALK

Gladys Winters continues to improve from her recent knee surgery.

Joey Avance has a biopsy scheduled for his throat in January.

Remember **L. G. Clemmons, Willie Margaret Mobley, Bob Buls, and Max Thomas**.

Both **Terry and Tyna Armstrong** have surgeries scheduled for January.

Francine Davis had to go the ER Wednesday night. She is resting and doing better.

Remember to check on our members who miss services. Quite a few have been sick recently.

Front Page Article (concl.)

you know! ..." (Job 38). Simply put, we in no place to question or judge our Creator.

We serve an all-knowing and all-powerful God. He is loving, compassionate, just and merciful. As such He is the ultimate standard of authority and will rule accordingly. He is absolutely sovereign. In other words, God does not answer to anyone. Everyone answers to Him. Paul taught, "Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! 'For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who

has been his counselor?' 'Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?' For from him and through him and to him are all things..." (Rom. 11.33-36). Our Creator "...is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think" (Eph. 3.20). This is the God to whom every human is accountable.

As the sovereign Creator, God not only has the right to give life, but to take life as well. Job responded to his losses by saying, "...The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1.21). Some assume that when God takes life that He is unjust or immoral, but such is not the case. First, remember that He is the Potter and we are the clay. He has the right to discard any clay He chooses. Second, may we never forget that we do not deserve to live. Paul taught that "... all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3.23) and "...the wages of sin is death..." (Rom. 6.23). The very fact that God continues to give us breath from day to day demonstrates His long-suffering and mercy. All who have transgressed His law deserve to spend eternity in Hell. However, He bestows grace upon all who will call upon His name in obedience to His will. As His creation, we ought to praise the Lord continually for these undeserved blessings.

Moses recorded, "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us..." (Deut. 29.29). Can we fully comprehend our Creator? For instance, is it possible that God can be right in a thing and we just do not understand why? Since we can never fully understand all of the facts, we often question the unknown without trusting God's decisions. For example, this writer's child is of the age

Getting Ready for Worship

Aaron Kemple

Dads, as you are helping your kids in getting ready for worship, are you helping their minds get ready also?

Andy Harrison wrote an article earlier this year on "Leading My Family in worship." He made this observation, "Worship is not a place we go or an experience we have, it is something we do." He quoted a passage from Genesis 22 regarding Abraham and young Isaac.

*And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; **the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you**" (Genesis 22:5).*

GETTING READY FOR WORSHIP

Just like Abraham and Isaac, we are taking our family to worship. And just like Abraham and Isaac, there are preparations that need to be made before worship. We don't have a "turn-on-worship-mode" switch in our minds. Keeping that in mind, what is the spiritual and emotional climate of our family leading up to that time of worship?

Here are some ideas that will help:

- **Wake up earlier.** That may mean you go to bed earlier on Saturday. If you stay up so late on Saturday night watching TV, and then you are dragging out of bed on Sunday to worship God...that's a problem.

- **Listen to hymns or audio Bible.** Listen to something to help get your mind ready. Again, we cannot fool ourselves into thinking that we can just

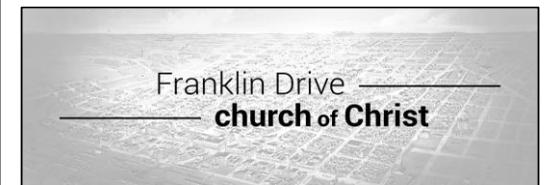
show up at the church building and "prang" the worship switch comes on.

- **Have a conversation with the family.** Emphasize the importance of what we are all about to go and do. Lead the way, dads.

Give unto the LORD, O you mighty ones, give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness (Psalms 29:1-2).

1 Chron. 29:11 Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all.

Check out our **Facebook** page, "**Franklin Drive Church of Christ**" (www.facebook.com/txkchurch).



And don't forget our WEB site.

txkchurch.com