

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements

Bill Brittenham

Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper

Rodney Ellis Dave Massey
Cory Easley Sonny Monaghan

Prayers

Jack Calvert Cole Meador

SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements

Bill Brittenham

Song Leader

Jack Calvert

Lord's Supper

Rodney Ellis Dave Massey

Prayers

Cory Easley Sonny Monaghan

WEDNESDAY

Announcements

Clay Morris

Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

Prayers

Gerald Eaton Dave Massey

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.

WWW.TXKCHURCH.COM

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



Volume XXI

November 27, 2016

Issue 47

Evil Surmisings

Bryan Garlock

Paul wrote, "If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions..." (1 Tim. 6:3-4).

In this article we want to focus on the words "evil suspicions". The KJV renders these words as "evil surmisings" or "evil mistrust" (NCV). Dictionary.com defines "surmise" as "to think or infer without certain or strong evidence".

Paul places the word *evil* with "to think or infer without certain or strong evidence". Thus, to surmise evil is "to think or infer [wickedness] without certain or strong evidence". Obviously, it is bad judgment to surmise, but even more, it is sinful to surmise evil.

Many times brethren are guilty of surmising. We may notice someone make a facial expression that displays anger or

sadness. We may begin to ask ourselves many questions: "Why did they make this expression? Are they mad at me? Did I offend them? Was it something I said or did?" As you can see, it is easy to surmise.

Sometimes we imagine without any evidence that others are involved in wrong. We see or hear a brother or sister do or say something and automatically believe they are guilty of some wrong. This is evil surmising. For instance, a preacher hired a man to cut his lawn. The man not only mowed lawns, but also worked in a liquor store. One day the preacher went to the liquor store to pay for his lawn service. As he was entering the store, another brother saw him and made it known to many that this preacher had gone to such a sinful place.

While it may have been poor judgment on the part of the preacher, the brother who witnessed such an event had no right to automatically assume the preacher was there to do anything evil, let alone purchase alcohol. Thus, this brother

FAMILY TALK

Gladys Winters had successful knee surgery in Little Rock and is now at St. Michael Rehab. She hopes to go home Tuesday.

Joey Avance has a couple of doctor's appointments scheduled. Let us pray that they are able to diagnose and successfully treat his continuing throat problems.

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

Preaching: **Mike McLemore** from Huntsville, AL will be preaching for us this morning.

Front Page Article (concl.)

surmised evil. In fact, anytime we ascribe bad motives to a brother or sister "without certain or strong evidence" we are surmising evil!

There are many consequences that come from such surmising. More often than not, we run to other brethren, saying, "Did you see his or her facial expression? Did you hear the tone they said that in? Why did they say that?" Now let us apply this to our illustration, "I saw him go into that liquor store. Do you think he's drinking? Have you ever known him to drink?" This, brethren, is gossip. Further, surmising could lead to bitterness in the relationship between brethren. These are just a few of the many sins which come from evil suspicions.

Surmising evil is motivated by a lack of love. Paul penned, "Love suffers long and

is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things" (1 Cor. 13.4-7 NKJV).

All these things Paul mentioned are a culmination of love. We want to focus on verses five and seven. The apostle teaches two significant points that we should learn in our endeavor to not surmise evil. First, Paul teaches that love thinks no evil and second, that love believes all things.

To think no evil is to be longsuffering in our thoughts as to whether a brother or sister did us wrong. This causes us to "believe all things" good about our brethren until evidence is given to prove otherwise. On the other hand, the evil surmiser says, "I know what your real motive is!" and immediately believes the worst about them. When there is a lack of love, there is often bitterness and resentment.

Let's now apply that to our illustrations above. First, the preacher used poor judgment in paying for his lawn service at a liquor store. It would have been more beneficial for his and the church's influence for him to pay the man elsewhere. With that said, the brother who immediately began to surmise evil neglected to think no evil and to believe all things. He failed to believe the best about the preacher until proven otherwise. This brother failed to keep the most important commandment of all time, namely, love.

Sometimes we do things we ought not, like make angry facial expressions or say things unloving to our brethren. However, there are times when we do not, but are thought to have anyway. It is contrary to the

Scriptures for someone to rush to judgment about our actions. Their perception does not make us guilty. It is the truth that should determine guilt or innocence; Christians need to love enough to seek to find the truth.

Just because we believe a brother or sister to be in error does not mean they are. Unless we can prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that they have sinned, we have no right to think evil about them. Jesus taught, "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother" (Matt. 18.15). What happens if we go to our brother and we find that he has done no wrong? We have thought no evil, believed all things, obeyed Jesus and eliminated evil suspicions, which often lead to gossip and bitterness!

Finally, we must observe that evil surmising is nothing more than sinful judging. Jesus commanded, "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment" (Matt. 7.24). When we surmise without "certain or strong evidence", we form judgments that are unrighteous. That is sinful! Solomon taught, "If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame" (Prov. 18.13).

Evil suspicions have destroyed families, divided churches and caused hatred and bitterness between brethren, all because of a suspicious state of mind. This writer has witnessed it and has been guilty of it. While we need to avoid leaving the wrong impression, we likewise do not need to jump to conclusions established from limited knowledge causing us to make wrong judgments. Let us strive to go by our courts' motto when dealing with brethren, "innocent until proven guilty". BG

Remembering Our Shut-ins

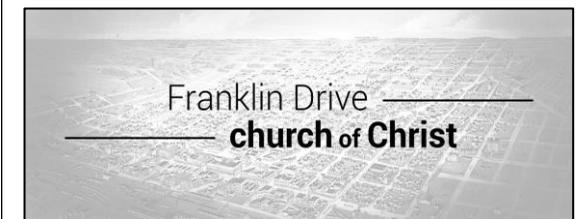
Beloved brethren, we would do well to be diligent in visiting and encouraging our sick, elderly and shut-in members. If you have not taken the necessary time to visit with them lately, please be aware that they are waiting and longing for you - some even with tears. We do not realize just how lonely our good brethren get when sitting in a room all day staring at four walls. If our Lord has taught us anything, He has taught us to serve one another. Let us serve them and not forget them. Their spirits are down and need to be lifted up. In this upcoming week, I encourage you to take a simple hour out of your day to bring joy to others. I can assure you it will bring joy to you too (Matthew 25.31-46).

Gladys Winters: St Michaels Rehab, Room 112

L.G. Clemmons: Little River Rehab
Willie Margaret Mobley: Little River Rehab

Max Thomas: At home
And all the elderly.

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



And don't forget our WEB site.

txkchurch.com