

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements

Rodney Ellis

Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper

Jack Calvert Randy Ellis
Sonny Monaghan Preston Ellis

Prayers

Mike Davis Matt Davis

SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements

Rodney Ellis

Song Leader

Cory Easley

Lord's Supper

Randy Ellis Sonny Monaghan

Prayers

Jerry Schnelle Dave Massey

WEDNESDAY

Announcements

Dave Massey

Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

Prayers

Jack Calvert Pete Rowland

Invitation

Jon Barry

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

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Issue 33

Have You Been Drawn by the Father?

Bryan Garlock

After many of Jesus' disciples withdrew themselves from Him because of His hard sayings (John 6.25-60), Jesus told the disciples who remained, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father" (John 6.65). When Jesus spoke these words, He was referring to His earlier statements: "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me" (John 6.44-45).

This passage is not without perversion. This author once attended a funeral where the preacher spoke about feeling "the drawing power of God". He taught it was miraculously done and supposedly felt it during his sermon which was accompanied by stamping and shouting.

While many are emotionally driven, it is imperative that we remain scripturally-focused and allow God's word to bring forth

unmanufactured emotions. Subsequently, this passage does not teach what the emotionally-charged gentlemen thought it did. How, then, does God draw us to Him?

First, the answer to our question is found within the text itself. It is often the case that when we experience difficulty in understanding His word, we find that God has given us the correct understanding within the verse itself or the immediate context. Notice that those who come to Jesus hear and learn from the Father. In other words, "they will all be taught by God". Therefore, it is only those who hear and learn from the Father (taught by Him) that are drawn to Jesus. This can only be done through the preaching of the gospel. Paul said, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10.17). As one hears the word of God he is called or drawn to Jesus (2 Thess. 2.14) and it is granted by the Father for him to come once he has, in obedience, answered the gospel's call. Interestingly, it is only when we obey the teachings of Jesus that we can have access to

FAMILY TALK

Continue to remember and check on our shut-ins: **L. G. Clemmons, Willie Margaret Mobley, Bob Buls, Bonnie Allgor, Max Thomas, Maxine Burnham** and **Mary Alice Turner**. Cards, calls and visits are ALWAYS needed and appreciated.

L.G. Clemmons is in St. Michael Hospital, Room 628N with an upper respiratory infection.

Please keep **Joey Avance** in your prayers as he continues to struggle with his ongoing health problems.

Mary Alice Turner will begin treatment soon.

Please remember **David Massey's** brother, **Dillon**, who has been diagnosed with cancer.

Cory Easley will be bringing is the invitation on the 30th.

Donna Mobley's heart cath went well. She has rescheduled her cataract surgery.

Bentley and **Maelie Garlock** have been sick but are now back with us.

Several of our college students are returning to school. Please pray for their safety and especially for the protection of their souls.

Front Page Article (concl.)

the Father (John 14.6). Thus, one cannot go to the Father except through Christ and one cannot be drawn to Christ except through the Father!

Secondly, consider that everything Jesus accomplished was not His will, but the Father's. In our text Jesus said that "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him". If we understand why God sent Jesus, then we can understand how God draws man to Him. In the context Jesus taught, "For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me... For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6.38, 40). The fact that Jesus did nothing on His own accord is rooted in the book of John. In John chapter fourteen we read, "Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"?' Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves'" (8-11). Elsewhere Jesus taught, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work" (John 4.34); "If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority" (John 7.17); and "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me" (John 8.28). Therefore, one of the purposes

of Jesus was to reveal the Father and His Father's will, nature, glory, and teachings. No wonder Jesus said, "And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent" (John 17.3)! Indeed, Jesus "is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature..." (Heb. 1.3) and God has chosen to speak to us through His Son (Heb. 1.1-2).

This helps us to understand the drawing power of God. It is not some miraculous event in which one is just sitting there and suddenly an irresistible force pulls them from their sinful ways, constraining them to faith and repentance. No! The drawing power of God is Jesus Christ, His beloved Son! Jesus said, "I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me. If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not true. There is another who bears witness about me, and I know that the testimony that he bears about me is true... For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me. And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life" (John 5.30-40).

Jesus continued, "But if you do not believe his writings [Moses'], how will you believe my words" (John 5.47)? If the Jews had listened to

Moses and the prophets, then they would have been taught by God. They would have understood that the inspired writings pointed them to Jesus and that in Him all Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled! Unfortunately, they were not willing to see the Father revealed in His Son because it was not their will to do the Father's will. Jesus claimed, "the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me" (John 14.24). How, then, can God draw those to Himself who are not willing to put their trust in Christ?

Have you been drawn by the Father? As noted, it is not some out-of-body experience or an irresistible force. It is simply your faith in Jesus' teachings. If you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that he has the words of eternal life (John 6.63), then listen to and believe those words. Take heed to do all that God has taught. Become a child of God today by putting away the sin in your life, confessing your faith in Jesus, and being baptized in His name (Acts 2.38). BG

*Our Fall Gospel Meeting with **Bubba Garner** from the Southside church in Pasadena, TX is Sept. 10-13. Please make every effort to attend all of the services. Also make an effort to invite others to attend.*

School has started again. But remember **spiritual education should never end.**