

## SUNDAY MORNING

### Announcements

Mike Davis

### Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

### Lord's Supper

Bill Rinehart      Clay Morris  
Hunter Byrd      Pete Rowland

### Prayers

Dee Minter      Cole Meador

## SUNDAY EVENING

### Announcements

Mike Davis

### Song Leader

Cory Easley

### Lord's Supper

Bill Rinehart      Pete Rowland

### Prayers

Randy Ellis      Joseph Barry

## WEDNESDAY

### Announcements

Preston Ellis

### Song Leader

Cory Easley

### Prayers

Jack Calvert      Clay Morris

### Invitation

Gerald Eaton

## ABOUT US

### Elders

Jack Calvert      Rodney Ellis

### Deacons

Jon Barry      Bill Brittenham  
Mike Davis      Dave Massey

### Evangelist

Bryan Garlock

## 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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## 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 50

## Life, Death and Time

Max Thomas

There are experiences in life that make us all think about life and death. I have had such experiences myself, and they really drive home some points. I would like to tell you about them and encourage you to think about life, death and the time we have here on earth.

A few years ago I was injured in an auto accident. They say I came close to death. I don't remember much about the first few days, but I do remember the fight I had getting back to good health.

At the time of my accident, I was not a Christian. I attended services regularly, but if I had died that would not have been enough for me to have eternal life.

I thought a lot about life and how short our time is. After an eight-year-old boy was killed a couple of years ago, I was finally baptized. I was lucky to have been spared the time to make things right.

When my twenty-six-year-old cousin was killed a few years ago, this made me think again about what a short time we have and how we think about these things only when bad things happen.

My cousin was raised "around" the church; he had a good job, and he was a good person, but he never obeyed the gospel. He let his time run out before he could make things right.

The point I want to make is, we don't all get a second chance. Therefore, we should all be ready to do what is right at all times, so we won't be the victims of too little time. Let's all be ready for the judgment day.

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**Jas 4:14** *whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.*

## FAMILY TALK

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

**Max Thomas** passed away this past Monday morning. His funeral was on Thursday. Max had a very difficult life, but has now gone on and left this world behind. Please continue to pray for **Ann, Mark** and the extended family.

**Gladys Winters** fell and broke her arm badly. She is now home after surgery.

**Francine Davis** is improving from her recent infection.

**Maxine Burnham** fell recently but is doing okay.

**Bryan's** mother had surgery this past Thursday. All went well and she is now recovering.

**Sonny Monaghan** had a trip to the ER with his heart. He is home again.

**Dee Minter** continues to have problems with his blood pressure.

**Bill Rinehart** is scheduled for double knee replacement surgery in Tyler the day after Christmas. Then he will go directly to St. Michael rehab.

## Speaking to Us from beyond the Grave – Some Personal Thoughts about Our Beloved Max Thomas

Bryan Garlock

“By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.” (Heb. 11.4) The Bible speaks of men who have died yet still speak to us today. In Abel’s case, his example teaches us lessons about faithfulness to God. Likewise, though our brother Max has passed on, he still speaks.

The most prominent way in which Max speaks to us today is how he lived a life free of complaint. Those of us who knew Max knew that he was paralyzed, yet from my experience with him and speaking with those who have known him, not one time did he complain or murmur about his situation. Paul taught, “Do all things without complaining...” (Phil. 2.14-15) What a way to sum up the life of Max Thomas! This is how he speaks to us from the grave.

While we live in a world that is full of both blessings and suffering, we often focus on the suffering and are not content with the blessings. If there is one thing we can learn from Max, it is that we are not to worry about this temporary life; instead, we should live in hope of eternity. I am reminded of Paul’s thorn in the flesh. He wrote, “...Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of

Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Cor. 12.7-10) While the apostle Paul lived a life of suffering and hardship, he learned to be content with God’s grace which made him spiritually strong even though he was physically weak. Until we learn to be content with the sufficiency of God’s grace and salvation, we will not do all things without complaining. Only when we focus on eternity do we seem not to worry about the temporary.

John wrote, “...Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’ ‘Blessed indeed,’ says the Spirit, ‘that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!’” (Rev. 14.13) Elsewhere he wrote, “He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” (Rev. 21.4) Those who are content with God’s grace and do not complain about their lot in life will enter a state of rest – experiencing no more pain and suffering, comforted by our Lord and Savior.

However, spiritual comfort is not found in this world; it is found in the world to come, and only for those who love God. It is this hope that is to comfort and sustain us in time of suffering and grief. Paul wrote, “...if children [of God], then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be

revealed to us.” (Rom. 8.17-18) No matter what we suffer in this life, we will be glorified with Christ in the life to come. No wonder Paul said, “...to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” (Phil. 1.21) In other words, faithful children of God live for Christ and profit in death.

Max would want all to gain. If you are not a child of God, Max would tell you to believe and trust in Christ, repent of your sins by changing your mind and ceasing the practice of sin, confess Jesus as your Lord and Savior, be baptized in His name for the forgiveness of your sins and live faithfully unto God by living a life free of complaint and content with God’s grace.

The world would not have considered our brother Max to be someone significant. One will not find his name in the history books nor statues erected in his honor nor buildings bearing his name; to the world, Max was nobody. However, as Christians we know that his greatness pertained to spiritual things, and though he died, he still speaks. Are we listening? In love, BG

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**Ecc. 7:1-4** A good name *is* better than precious ointment, And the day of death than the day of one's birth; Better to go to the house of mourning Than to go to the house of feasting, For that *is* the end of all men; And the living will take *it* to heart. Sorrow *is* better than laughter, For by a sad countenance the heart is made better. The heart of the wise *is* in the house of mourning, But the heart of fools *is* in the house of mirth.