

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements

Rodney Ellis

Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper

Randy Ellis

Pete Rowland

Jack Calvert

Preston Ellis

Prayers

Cory Easley

Hunter Byrd

SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements

Rodney Ellis

Song Leader

Cory Easley

Lord's Supper

Preston Ellis

Randy Ellis

Prayers

Jack Calvert

Cole Meador

WEDNESDAY

Announcements

Dave Massey

Song Leader

Jack Calvert

Prayers

Gerald Eaton

Sonny Monaghan

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

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 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 ... Matthew10:32-33; 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 7

What an Example!**Some Personal Thoughts about Mary Alice Turner**

Bryan Garlock

What an Example!

In the past year that I have been working with the Franklin Drive church of Christ, I have had the privilege and blessing of getting to know our dear sister and friend, Mary Alice. She told me wonderful stories about her past – her late husband and son, her business adventures, her love for art, and the friends she made along the way. However, if I learned anything in our time together, it was that she loved her Lord and Savior and that she shared that message with any who were willing to listen. It was her confidence in God's word that impressed me most about Ms. Turner. She was never afraid to speak about God – no matter the listener, no matter the place. What an example!

Another thing which amazed me about sister Mary was her diligent work habits. It did not matter her age or her health, if you were looking for Mary, she could be found

at her business! In fact, she promised her husband that she would oversee the business and she did so until her dying day. What an example!

As we can all affirm in our own lives, there were things in Mary's life that she was not proud of. She told me about some of her mistakes and her flaws, the bad decisions she made, and her weaknesses. Consequently, she loved the story of David – a man after God's own heart. She knew that if God would forgive King David, God would be gracious to a sinner named Mary Alice Turner. This is something she pondered often. She truly loved the Salvation God so willingly offers to those who will obey Him. What an example!

Prior to her death, Mary was painting a beautiful scene with a tree, a stream and plenty of flowers (the painting was showcased at her funeral). She told me that

FAMILY TALK

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

We weep with our sister **Amanda McWhorter** at the death of her grandmother, **Erma Witterstaetter**.

A number of our members have been sick recently with various bugs. We thank our Lord for those who have recovered and continue to pray for those still sick.

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the final part to her masterpiece was going to be a little squirrel near the tree – something that she was very excited about! Unfortunately, when I saw the painting at the funeral she had not painted that little squirrel. There is a spiritual lesson here. I will tell you what Mary would tell you: You may not have the time to get right with God in the future. Make sure you are right with God now. What an example!

Mary Alice Turner will be missed. Her love for the Lord will be missed. Her love for people and their souls will be missed. Her presence on the back row will be missed. Her smiles and hugs and

encouraging words will be missed. Her handwritten cards will be missed. What an example!

I love you Mary Alice Turner, Bryan

Sacrifice & Discipline

Bill Brittenham

As I write this, the Winter Olympics are underway in South Korea. The Olympic games remind us again of the great sacrifices and intense discipline some people put forth in order to receive recognition and perhaps a medal.

According to history the Olympic games started several hundred years before Christ, and the competition was still being conducted during Paul's time. In **1 Cor. 9:23-27**, Paul writes, *"I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it. Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified."*

Paul makes several comparisons and distinctions between the "games" and being a Christian.

The first distinction is in vs. 23 where Paul is striving to be a "fellow partaker". Where the Olympic games offer only a few coveted prizes,

the pursuit of heaven offers an equal reward to all who complete the course.

In vs. 24, Paul reminds the brethren that even though we can all be winners, we should put our total efforts into being a Christian as if only one prize was available. I am thankful that the Christian race is NOT a competition with others. However, to be successful, our spiritual selves must compete against our fleshly minds and win.

Verse 25 tells us we must exercise self-control. The Olympic athlete must deny himself many things in order to train for the actual competition. Sacrifice is a daily necessity. Training and preparation must come before the pursuit and satisfaction of personal desires. ("I'd rather sleep in this morning (*instead of attending worship services*).")

The prizes in the original Olympics were simple wreaths made from leaves and perished quickly (vs. 25). The medals today last longer, but are still far less valuable than the eternal prize for which we strive. The greater reward for the Olympians is the recognition they receive from their fellow athletes and the world in general. But our recognition will be, "Enter in thou good and faithful servant". (Matt. 25:21-23)

It's also interesting that in vs. 25, the word for "games" is the word from which we get our "agonize". Anyone who has ever seriously competed in sports can understand the association between "games" and "agony". One who truly competes to win the prize puts everything into the effort. So, we as children of God cannot be satisfied with a

meager or infrequent effort and expect to receive the reward.

In verse 26 Paul admonishes us not to be half-hearted or uncertain in our Christianity. In the Olympic games we see the boldness and certainty of the athletes. In Eph. 3:12, we are told we have "boldness and confidence".

Discipline or self-control is certainly required in our daily living as Christians (vs. 27). As the Olympic athletes must deny their own personal desires, we as seekers of heaven must deny the lusts of our flesh. We must place service to our Lord above all we personally desire. We must keep the goal of our reward foremost in our lives. As the Olympians, we must train and prepare ourselves for the course daily. A "weekend" athlete will never make it to the Olympics and a "weekend" Christian will never make it to heaven.

And just like the Olympians, we may not receive the prize. All must compete lawfully lest we be disqualified. And there is always the possibility that we may become distracted during our run and never finish the course.

Sacrifice, discipline, self-control, dedication, persistence. ALL of these are absolutely necessary if one hopes to even qualify for the Olympic games, let alone receive a medal.

Sacrifice, discipline, self-control, dedication, persistence. ALL of these are absolutely necessary if the Christian has any hope of receiving eternal life with our Father.