

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements

Rodney Ellis

Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper

Randy Ellis Jack Calvert
Pete Rowland Preston Ellis

Prayers

Wendell Mobley Joseph Barry

SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements

Rodney Ellis

Song Leader

Cory Easley

Lord's Supper

Preston Ellis Randy Ellis

Prayers

Daniel Allgor Dave Massey

WEDNESDAY

Announcements

Dave Massey

Song Leader

Cory Easley

Prayers

Randy Ellis Bryan Garlock

Invitation

Bill Brittenham

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 XXIII

February 25, 2018

Issue 8

Soldiers of Christ, Arise!

Bryan Garlock

“You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.” 2 Timothy 2:1-7 ESV

While Paul prepared Timothy for his coming death, he encouraged him to be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus. All those who carry out the Lord's work from day to day need this strength to continue steadfastly in the faith. We learn that part of this strength comes in numbers. Paul taught young Timothy to pass the gospel along to others for

safekeeping so they might be able to teach others also. To help Timothy determine who were the faithful deserving of entrustment, Paul gave him three qualifications. Let us examine the first one in this article.

Because he is a soldier, a Christian will not be entangled in civilian pursuits. Like all soldiers, they have a mission to fulfill and a battle to fight and win. Any distraction from their mission can mean defeat, death and/or captivity. The same is true in a spiritual sense. The Christian is fighting a spiritual warfare (Eph. 6:10-18). Any distraction from this and we are taken captive by sin and enslaved to it. We will experience spiritual death and may ultimately lose our salvation! It is necessary therefore that all soldiers of Christ stay focused and on course, always seeking first the kingdom of God in every opportunity presented (Matt. 6:33). Too many would-be soldiers are focused on the temporary and fleshly things in this world

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 rejoice that **Khrislyn Stinson** was baptized into Jesus Wednesday after services. We commend her for her decision to follow Jesus.

Please remember to pray for and encourage our new Christians. Help them keep their zeal for our Lord.

Cont. from page 1

– sports, television, money, themselves, possessions, opposition from the world, and the like – while souls are left endangered by sin. Are we so immersed in the things of the world that we have neither the time nor the energy nor the courage to fight the good fight of faith? (See 1 Tim. 6.12)

Paul knew soldiers were needed in the Kingdom of Christ. For example, soldiers understand authority (cf. Luke 7.8; 3.14). When good soldiers receive orders, they comply! Just as our military submits to their commanders, those who serve Christ must surrender to His authority. How else can they please the one who has enlisted them?

The faithful are also instructed to share in suffering. A soldier knows what it means to suffer sleepless nights in foxholes, unpredictable weather, surprise enemy attacks, hunger and thirst, and time away from family. Any soldier who is true to his uniform will be willing to suffer even unto death for all to be blessed and enjoy freedom. He'll even suffer to bring glory and honor to that for which he suffers (cf. 1 Peter 4.16). Christians ought to be willing to suffer for the gospel's sake in view of the same fate so that many might become free from sin and children of God. The Christian suffers with Jesus when they give up sin and anything else that may prevent them from being dedicated. No matter the outcome, whether it is loss of family, friends, work, money, etc., they will suffer knowing glory has been given to God and their reward is near.

Peter wrote, "Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps" (1 Peter 2.18-21).

Another characteristic of soldiers is their dependability. A common observance throughout the book of Acts is the soldiers' duty to guard or keep their prisoners (Acts 12.4, 6, etc.). These men were to keep their criminals from escaping or forfeit their own lives! Almost nothing, save supernatural means, would cause

them to lose that which they were entrusted to keep. Doesn't this sound familiar? Paul said, "...what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." Faithful men keep that which is entrusted to them. You can be sure they will guard the gospel with their own lives.

Are we good soldiers of Christ? Could Paul say with confidence that we are fellow soldiers? (See Phil. 2.25; Philemon 1.2) If we are to be faithful to the Lord we must put on our armor, stand firm, and always be on guard. We are the few, the proud, the soldiers of Christ. BG

Who Has the Prettiest Feathers?

Aaron Kemple

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

(Philippians 2:3-4)

In our relationships a lot of us like to strut around and show who has the prettiest feathers. What I mean by this is:

- When somebody tells you something you already know, how do you respond? Do you have to make sure it is known that you already know this, and that person is not giving you any new information?
- If someone uses your idea, do you have to make sure it is widely known that it was your idea?
- In a dispute, do you find yourself pushing your opinion, raising your voice,

interrupting, and pressing your way until the other relents and gives in?

- If someone doesn't do things your way, and it bombs, do you have to make sure he or she knows your advice wasn't followed?
- When you do good things, especially for your wife around the house, do you have to make sure she knows you did it?
- Do you have to instantly make a conversation about you when someone starts sharing things with you? In other words, that friend is sharing a trial he or she is facing, and you instantly switch or compare to what you are going through instead of really trying to understand the other person.

Aren't those feathers pretty?

We are not roosters or peacocks...God expects us to have a spirit of humility that was shown wonderfully in the person of Jesus Christ. If anyone could have walked around and strutted, it would have been Jesus, but He counted others as more significant to Himself.

Just a reminder that it ain't about us.

Try restraining that urge to say, "I already know that." See how it works. Do good deeds and don't say anything about them (see Matthew 6). If someone uses your idea, bite your tongue and say a prayer in your head of giving glory to God (hopefully it was a good idea that you shared!). Let's not try so hard to break our elbows patting ourselves on the back!