

## SUNDAY MORNING

### Announcements

Randy Ellis

### Song Leader

Tim Stevens

### Lord's Supper

Mike Davis Bill Rinehart  
Dave Massey Dee Minter

### Prayers

Rodney Ellis Wendell Mobley

## SUNDAY EVENING

### Announcements

Randy Ellis

### Song Leader

Tim Stevens

### Lord's Supper

Mike Davis Bill Rinehart

### Prayers

Jerry Schnelle Mark Davis

## WEDNESDAY

### Announcements

Preston Ellis

### Song Leader

Meeting

### Prayers

Mike Davis Bryan Garlock

### Invitation

Meeting

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



Volume XXIII

April 8, 2018

Issue 13

## A SEARCH FOR GOD'S WILL

April 8-11, 2018 with Dee and Russ Bowman

"Whatever a Man Sows" Russ, Sun. 9:30am  
"Teach Me, O Lord" Dee, Sun. 10:15am  
"What Is Good?" Russ, Sun. 6pm  
"The Sufficiency of God's Word" Dee, Mon. 7pm  
"Except God Be With Him" Russ, Tues. 7pm  
"A Well Orchestrated Life" Dee, Wed. 7pm

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## "Choose for Yourselves"

Russ Bowman

The book of Joshua chronicles the conquest of the land of Canaan - the land which God had promised the children of Israel. Though the reading is tedious, the book records the victory of God's people over the kings and military forces throughout the region of Palestine, along with the survey of the land and appropriate division of tribal inheritances. While God offers some specifics as to the local and personal conquests within the various tribes, the book is predominately a general overview. And perhaps the most

familiar part of the book is the address of God to the nation in Josh.24:1f, the climax of which is Joshua's personal challenge to the people in v.14-15, "Now, therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and truth...if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." On this occasion, Joshua challenges the assembled nation, and the ensuing exchange is interesting. Their response is, essentially, "Of course we will serve the LORD" (v.16-18), to which Joshua replies, "You can't serve the LORD and He won't forgive your sins...He will destroy you" (v.19-20 - in Deu.31:14-23, when Moses inaugurated Joshua to lead the nation, God told them that the people would forsake Him). Nonetheless, the people insist, "No, but we will serve the LORD" (v.21), after which Joshua calls them to witness to their pledge and sets up a stone of witness in Shechem as a reminder of their commitment to God (v.22-27). We are then told that the people departed, "each to his own inheritance." When Judges

## 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.

**Donna Mobley** continues to recover from her hand surgery

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begins, the first two chapters tell about the ongoing conquest of individual tribes and their general failure to destroy or drive out the Canaanites, setting up the pattern (apostasy; oppression; turn to God; provision of deliverer; peace; return to apostasy) which dominates the rest of Judges. It is a book both disheartening and inspiring.

In consideration of the challenges and commitments of Josh.24:14-28, please consider an observation or two.

First, it's easy to make grand promises when we are lost in a crowd (v.15-18, 21). We all are certain of our strength, diligence, and spiritual success when we are in the midst of others who are faithful. Individual commitment becomes swept up in the moment. All of the influence and peer pressure is positive, directed toward faithfulness and loyalty (v.16), and we are reminded of our blessings and God's victory, power, and promise (v.17-18). Moreover, our leaders are before us,

pledging their faithfulness and challenging our own (v.15,31). Obstacles are minimized and we cannot dream of ever forsaking the LORD who has delivered us (v.19-21).

Secondly, it's harder to maintain diligence when disassociated from our support group and leaders. Suddenly we are on our own (v.28). We fail in a couple of personal challenges to defeat the opposition (Judg.1:21,27,29f) and find ourselves surrounded by circumstances of our own making (Judg.2:1-3). We make poor choices, pave the way for poor influences, and end up sacrificing our spiritual identity on the altar of false gods (Judg.2:11-15). And it's most difficult to overcome a powerful environment when we are essentially isolated and fighting almost alone. The practical lesson should be a simple one: appreciate how important is a devout and regular connection to the group. The disciple who can thrive and be victorious in the absence of a strong relationship to the local church is rare indeed. Let's not overestimate our own strength.

### "And Jesus Said..."

Dee Bowman

"God thou and do likewise...." (Luke 10:37) – Do what he did: he ran the risk to be good.

"Well done, good and faithful servant..." (Matthew 25:21) – 5-2 talent men: well done.

"I am the light of the world" (John 8:12) – After the woman taken in adultery—"he that followeth me shall have the light of life."

"If any man will come after me..." (Matthew 16:24) – after – not before. Consider the dangers involved in following Him.

"I am the way..." (John 14:6) – to forgiveness, to true service, to holiness, piety.

"Go ye therefore and teach all nations..." (Matthew 28:18) – the gospel is for every man, regardless of race, background, past life.

"I am the bread of life..." (John 6:35) – bread is no good left in bread basket. Jesus will not save against a man's wishes, no man is forced to eat. It is ours to make it available.

"I am the resurrection and the life..." (John 11:25) – resurrection – the glorious result for all the faithful– yet shall he live."

"Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled" (Luke 18:14) – Pride is repugnant to Him who was the most humble servant ever.

"How hardly shall a rich man enter the kingdom..." (Luke 18:24) – you can't buy your way in.

Ultimately, it's not what you have, but what you are that's important.

"She hath done what she could..." (Mark 14:8) – What an announcement of approval!

"A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things he posseseth..." (Luke 12:15) – things don't save – and eventually don't satisfy.

"No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom.." (Luke 9:62)–nobody likes a quitter. Besides, if you keep looking back and you'll run into something.

"What doth it profit a man..." (Matthew 16:26) – put nothing in, take nothing out.

"But I say unto you..." (Matthew 5) – Life is a lot about who you listen to.

"If ye love me, keep my commandments." (John 14:15) – when it comes to God, love and obedience run on the same track. No keeping commands, no love.

"Why call ye me Lord, Lord and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46) – It's not enough to just know who He is, you have to do what He says.

*Psalm 119:11 Your word I have treasured in my heart. That I may not sin against You.*

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