

## SUNDAY MORNING

### Announcements

Bill Brittenham

### Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

### Lord's Supper

Cole Meador      Mark Davis  
Jerry Schnelle      Hunter Byrd

### Prayers

Cory Easley      Dee Minter

## SUNDAY EVENING

### Announcements

Bill Brittenham

### Song Leader

Jack Calvert

### Lord's Supper

Cole Meador      Mark Davis

### Prayers

Clay Morris      Pete Rowland

## WEDNESDAY

### Announcements

Gerald Eaton

### Song Leader

Jack Calvert

### Prayers

Sonny Monaghan      Joseph Barry

### 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](http://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

March 18, 2018

Issue 11

## Building Better Marriages

Paul White

God never revealed anything in His word just so we would know it. He **revealed** it so we would **respond** in obedience to it and **recommend** it to others. With that in mind, let me pass along some of God's wisdom found in His Word that will help purify our thoughts and protect our marriages. And let me encourage each of us on an individual level...make it a journey in building a better you. You'll be glad you did and so will your mate.

### ***DON'T BE DECEIVED; TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR OWN BEHAVIOR***

Just like cars, we all have "blind spots." We all at times have a hard time seeing what is reality and needs to be addressed both Biblically and boldly. Sometimes, we just don't see things the way God wants us to see them. Spiritually speaking, we have "blind spots." We allow ourselves to be deceived into believing something about ourselves or our marriages that is not true, and most

likely it prevents us from seeing what we need to see, in order to do what God would have us do. Too often we want to talk about the faults and failures of others before we're willing to honestly examine our own. Maybe because it's easier to deal with others than it is self. Or maybe we've been so overwhelmed by the sins of our mate that it has become too easy to rationalize a wrong response to an obvious wrong behavior. Usually, there are two common mistakes when it comes to taking responsibility. First, it's possible for someone to take **too much** responsibility. This can not only be discouraging but ultimately destructive. Second, it's possible for someone to take **too little** responsibility. This is the one being warned about here. And from my experience, it has been easier to help a person stop taking too much responsibility, than it has been to help someone start taking more. In taking personal responsibility, I must take ownership for

## 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.

**Rhonda Minter** is scheduled for knee surgery in Shreveport on Tuesday. She will probably stay there until Friday.

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both the feelings and actions I choose. It's always a toxic approach to tackling any tough problem when I start by saying, "My mate *made me* do it!" Adam blamed Eve, and Eve blamed the devil [Gen.3:12-13]. As hard as it may be, I must not seek to escape personal accountability by blaming my mate for the attitudes and actions I choose.

### **ADMIT YOUR FAULTS – BE READY TO FORGIVE**

Heart-felt and sincere expressions of "I'm sorry; I was wrong; please forgive me" can heal a broken marriage almost as fast as anything else. And even if your mate doesn't admit his or her faults, still you must in order to be forgiven by God. Humbly admit your faults and resolve to do better. When your mate honestly and humbly comes seeking your favor and forgiveness, freely give it! That will be hard to do at times, but Jesus says we must (Matt.6:14-15; Lk.17:3-4). Revenge and retaliation will

never solve any problems in a marriage. Ask the Lord for strength to forgive when you know forgiveness for you will be hard. Be determined to return good for evil. It's the right course to pursue; it will make you more Christ-like, and just may save your marriage. Remember, the one who ends up hurting the most when I choose NOT to forgive is me.

### **FLEE WHAT IS FORBIDDEN, DON'T FLIRT WITH IT**

Unfortunately, too often one or both in the marriage has made the choice to pursue what God says is either unwise or outright sinful. We must be advised...this will eventually weaken the marriage or worse still, destroy it! And while it may not end in divorce, it can still mean the eternal ruin of souls. We simply must stop feeding and fantasizing on what is forbidden [Matt.5:27-30; Prov.23:29-35]. We must stop drinking what is deadly! Adultery and alcohol are destroying marriages and it's time for us to wake up and wise up!

### **SEEK GODLY COMPANY**

It is very difficult to keep a marriage pure when your main associations are with impure people. You need friends who will encourage you to seek God first, love your mate, and be committed to your marriage. You don't need to associate with those who will encourage you to "divorce" your mate when you have problems. You don't need to associate with those who will seduce you to sin, or who will give unwise; unbiblical; unloving advice. Marriages will not get better as long as one or both in the relationship chooses to pursue a path that leads away from God and His favor [Jam 4:4-10]. It may be that you need to clean up your companions and stop conforming to the corruption of this world [1 Cor.15:33]. But, for

this to happen, you must be intentional and firm in your choices. You must sever the ties with the unwise and ungodly. You must actively pursue those who value what God values and who will be a source of spiritual strength and encouragement to you and your marriage. For some, this will be hard. But persevere! It simply could be a matter of life or death to you and your marriage!

As you lean on God and listen to His counsel, be impressed with how practical His wisdom is and how piercing His Word can be. It will *help us*, and in time...it can *heal our marriages*, if we will apply it consistently and courageously. We can build better marriages...or better still, God can through us! Let's tap into His wisdom. Let's treasure His counsel. Let's take action today, one day at a time in doing what we can do, and controlling what we can control.

paullwhite@gmail.com  
via *focusmagazine.com*

### **A Spirit of Fear**

Aaron Kemple

*2 Timothy 1:7 - For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.*

How much of our parenting is done through fear? I don't mean causing our children to fear, but I mean our own fears as parents? I've been thinking about this a lot lately, and I don't have a lot of advice on the matter, but I know that this is a problem for a lot of parents, this one included.

We are afraid that our kids are going to make the same mistakes we did, so we go overboard on trying to KEEP them from repeating those mistakes. Our fear of where something may lead influences us to such a

level that we make such strict guidelines and boundaries that are are not only unscriptural, they are smothering. We're so afraid of the wrong, that they are not allowed to do what is clearly right. This can happen in our approach to sex, to dating, to technology, to finances, etc.

I've seen this as a preacher for a long time. Folks are so afraid of being too excited and outwardly emotional because they don't want to appear like those "other churches," but the result is stiff and stoic people that don't express the joy of the Lord. We can be so determined to keep ourselves from making a wrong Biblical decision that we don't make the right ones. Just as in parenting, this approach to religion is unscriptural and smothering.

Being afraid of doing wrong, by itself, will not guide you into wise decisions and godly living. Mere fear of our kids going down the wrong pathway will not give us the wisdom to help them navigate the pathways of life.

Being afraid of doing wrong, by itself, is not the spirit God gave us. Yes, we are to be warned of dangers and we are to warn others, especially our children. The Proverbs are full of such warnings. But we must remember the words of 2 Timothy 1:7 that God did not give us a spirit of fear that overwhelms us and immobilizes us. He gave us power, love and "self-control." If He is working in us to produce self-control, is He not also working in our kids to do the same?

Hopefully this helps a little. There will probably be more on this later.

via *mensdailybriefing.com*