

## SUNDAY MORNING

### Announcements

Jack Calvert

### Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

### Lord's Supper

Rodney Ellis     Bill Brittenham  
Joseph Barry     Kingsley Cummings

### Prayers

Jerry Schnelle     Clay Morris

## SUNDAY EVENING

### Announcements

Jack Calvert

### Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

### Lord's Supper

Rodney Ellis     Bill Brittenham

### Prayers

Jon Barry     Hunter Byrd

## WEDNESDAY

### Announcements

Cole Meador

### Song Leader

Jack Calvert

### Prayers

Bill Brittenham     Daniel Allgor

### Invitation

Jon Barry

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



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## Some Thoughts on Invite Cards and Bible Studies

Bryan Garlock

For almost a year now we have been advertising the need to pass out invite cards and ask for Bible studies.

However, the cards in the back are not disappearing which means that we are not passing out cards. Beloved brethren, why are we not doing this? We ought to be ordering 500 plus cards a month and instead we are stuck with the same cards we ordered 6 plus months ago!

It seems to me that if we cannot do something as simple as pass out cards, then we will not do something a little more uncomfortable and ask for Bible studies. It also means that we are not evangelizing in general. What I mean is, handing an invite card to a cashier indicates whether we are willing to do the hard things when it comes to evangelism. In fact, each time we invite someone to church it helps us to step more outside our comfort zone so that we can develop the character needed to speak the truth in boldness.

Part of being a faithful disciple is loving and teaching the lost. One of the issues facing the Lord's church today is that we

are not making disciples. This is not only because "people are set in their ways" or because "people do not love the truth" - it is also because we are not doing the work! Shame on us! I hope and pray that more Christians will come to realize their faithfulness to Him depends on their diligence to spread the gospel, among other things.

What happens when we do the work? Great things! The following are some paraphrased responses / results that I've gotten from simply passing out invite cards since starting this campaign at Franklin Drive. This is not meant to "toot my own horn," but to acknowledge that this works. All glory goes to God - I am simply a servant of my Lord.

- "Thank you! My family has been looking for a church." (Numerous people have made this comment.)

- "Thank you! I've never had anyone invite me before!"

- "Thank you! Do you have anything for the kids?"

## 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.

Please keep the **Masseys** in your prayers. Their daughter, **Melinda Prynne**, is facing some serious medical issues and **David's** brother, **Dillon**, is now in hospice care.

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- “Thank you! What do ya’ll believe about...”
  - Hundreds more responses of all kinds, both good and bad; many that have led to lengthy on-the-spot discussions.
  - Five Bible studies between four different individuals.
  - Six people have visited with us; one who has visited about 4 times now.
  - Dinner with one family (who visited with us); who later invited us to their child’s birthday party; coffee with the husband twice.
  - For the past three months, a weekly Bible study with more than five souls in attendance each time, fourteen being our best turn out.
- This is all from passing out an invite card. If these are my personal results, what can our results be if we are all taking advantage of this system? Remember, however, that God does not expect results or for us to meet a quota of conversions, He only expects us to do the work. Nevertheless, we will not have any conversions if we do not do the work.

The body of Christ grows when the members do their part. If every member passed out about 7 cards a month (to cashiers, waiters, etc.) we would reach about 500 people a month just through word of mouth. Besides passing out cards, ask for Bible studies! If you need help with any studies, please see Bryan.

Written in love for you and for the love of lost souls, your servant, Bryan

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### Law and Grace

Matthew Bassford

At least since Luther, and probably long before that, self-described Christians have been debating whether the law of Christ or the grace of Christ is more important. However, any scheme of religious thought that emphasizes law at the expense of grace, or grace at the expense of law, is logically incoherent. Law and grace aren’t opposites, such that one declines in importance as the other increases. Instead, the more we care about either one, the more we should care about the other.

#### GRACE

Let’s start with the logical problems on the grace side of things. It is certainly true that everybody who is saved is saved by grace through faith. However, that statement carries many implications with it. Saved from what? Sin, of course. What’s sin? According to 1 John 3:4, sin is a violation of God’s law.

Let’s say that we believe that God’s grace is magnificent, spectacular, incredible (which happens to be true). It follows from that first of all that sin is an awful, terrible thing. If sin is insignificant, God’s solution to the problem—grace through the sacrifice of Christ—is also insignificant. If, on the other hand, we exalt the cross, we are also acknowledging that sin is the worst problem that the human race can have. The greater grace is, the greater sin must be.

What makes sin so significant? It can only be the fact that God’s law is also extremely significant. If God’s law is unimportant, such that we can gesture vaguely in the direction of its essentials while ignoring the tithing of mint and dill and cumin altogether, sin will also not be very important.

It would be more like my son neglecting to pick up his room every evening. Would it be nice if he did that? Sure. However, as long as the path to his bed is Lego-free (so that I don’t cripple myself when I come in to wake him up in the morning), I don’t care too much. He knows that and acts accordingly.

However, I have a different standard when it comes to him disrespecting his mother. Every instance of disrespect will end in a tearful apology and sincere promise to do better, regardless of what correction must be undergone before that point is reached. He knows that too. Once again, he acts accordingly.

What, then, can we say of the importance of a standard if the punishment for violating it is eternal death in hell? God’s law is extraordinarily significant, and we need to treat it as extraordinarily significant, searching out every nuance of every command so that we can obey. Our object in this is not to justify ourselves, which is impossible. It is to show our love for God by our reverence for His commandments. A proper understanding of grace will inevitably lead us to a zeal for law.

#### LAW

The logic works in the other direction too. Let’s say that we believe that God’s law is extremely important (which also happens to be true). If that is our conviction, we can’t hand-wave in the direction of obedience or attempt to substitute in our own Pharisaical checklist. We have to devote ourselves to studying and honoring that law. No tithe, no

matter how insignificant, is unworthy of scrutiny! This is, of course, to say nothing of the weightier matters.

However, there’s a problem. The law of liberty, though it is a perfect mirror, is not a flattering one. The better we come to know it, the more we see our own shortcomings. If we don’t see them, we aren’t looking in the mirror. Nobody who truly cares about God’s law can avoid being convicted, and deeply convicted, of sin.

Thus, our shortcomings are written in letters of fire. Here God has given us this amazing, wonderful law, and we have utterly blown it by violating that law six ways to Sunday! God is not being tyrannical when He condemns the sinner to spend eternity apart from Him. That’s a fitting punishment for so awful a crime.

Here we are, then: in awe of God’s law, in despair at our sin. How great is the grace that offers us salvation! How sublime is the sacrifice of God’s own Son! The more we know the law, the better we see our need for grace, and the more we will celebrate that we have received it.

#### CONCLUSION

These things must always move in tandem. If we shout God’s grace to the skies while showing indifference toward His law, we reveal that we truly don’t care much about grace either. If we talk loudly about how important it is to submit to God’s authority, but we never mention grace, we show that our reverence for His law is only a sham.

Law and grace are not opposed to one another. Indeed, they can’t be. Both proceed from God, and His house is not divided against itself. If we want to glorify one, we necessarily must exalt the other. If we glorify one while diminishing the other, we prove that we care about neither.