

SUNDAY MORNING
<p>Announcements Mike Davis</p> <p>Song Leader Daniel Allgor</p> <p>Lord's Supper Jon Barry Mark Davis Cory Easley Clay Morris</p> <p>Prayers Jack Calvert Melvin Potts</p>
SUNDAY EVENING
<p>Announcements Mike Davis</p> <p>Song Leader Jack Calvert</p> <p>Lord's Supper Mark Davis Cory Easley</p> <p>Prayers Gerald Eaton Cole Meador</p>
WEDNESDAY
<p>Announcements Bryan Garlock</p> <p>Song Leader Daniel Allgor</p> <p>Prayers Rodney Ellis Joseph Barry</p> <p>Invitation Bryan Garlock</p>

ABOUT US
<p>Elders Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis</p> <p>Deacons Jon Barry Bill Brittenham Mike Davis Dave Massey</p> <p>Evangelist Bryan Garlock</p>
SERVICE TIMES
<p>Sunday Bible Study9:30 A.M. Worship10:15 A.M. Worship6:00 P.M.</p> <p>Wednesday Bible Study7:00 P.M.</p>
WWW.TXKCHURCH.COM
<p>GOD’S PLAN FOR SALVATION</p> <p>Hear the word of truth Romans 10:13-17</p> <p>Believe the truth..... Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24</p> <p>Repent from all sins Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38</p> <p>Confess the name of Christ ... Matthew10:32-33; Acts 8:35-30</p> <p>Be Baptized in His name Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Colossians 2:12</p> <p>Walk in newness of life and be faithful unto death Romans 6:1-4; Revelation 2:10</p>



Volume XXIII
 June 24, 2018
 Issue 25

Thirsty?

Bill Brittenham

The other kids and I had been playing hard at the picnic at Wolf Creek and I was really thirsty. (For a kid to stop playing just to get a drink, he must be awfully thirsty.) I asked one of the adults where the water was and they pointed to a thermos bottle on a nearby table. I took the top off and turned it up for a big drink of cool water. And then I spit the liquid out even faster than I had taken a drink! It wasn't water, it was coffee. Now even though my parents drank a couple of pots of coffee a day, I couldn't stand the stuff. I thought I had been poisoned. I don't remember if I ever found any water, but that memory of my thirst and the coffee has stuck with me. Needless to say, I was still thirsty after that incident because the coffee didn't quench my thirst like the water I was expecting. The New Testament contains familiar teachings on thirst and quenching that thirst. Jesus began His sermon on the mount with the blessings. "Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." (Matt. 5:6) In John

4:5-15 we find the account of Jesus and the Samaritan women at Jacob's well. And Rev.7:13-17 finds the saints in heaven hungering and thirsting no more. Two things stand out to me in these teachings. The first is that in order to be satisfied, we must truly thirst. There must be a strong desire. Those who come to Jesus out of curiosity or prejudice or even accidental exposure may not be satisfied with what they find. Only those who have a genuine desire to know the truth will be filled. And this isn't limited to those coming to Jesus for the first time. We who have accepted Jesus in obedient baptism will thirst even greater for the "way, the truth and the life" given to us by the Father and His Son. How long is your thirst satisfied after you have drunk your fill? (A friend and I once tried to see how much water we could drink at one time. Fortunately for us we couldn't hold more than a few glasses full. But even that experiment didn't satisfy my desire for water very long.) As children of God we

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.

Melinda Prynne is scheduled for surgery June 26.

Cont. from page 1

continue to hunger and thirst after righteousness. And as we drink of the sweet wonderful Jesus and His teachings, we want even more.

The second message I see from the scriptures is that we must thirst for and drink the right stuff. Just as that coffee didn't take care of my thirst as a kid, anything other than the truth from God will leave us parched and dying. Civic or fraternal or social clubs, philosophies and other religions cannot extinguish the thirst God created in man for Him and His word. We may think we have satisfied our thirst, but the only real fulfillment comes from seeking and serving God as He has revealed. As Christians we have "tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the age to come". Heb 6:4-5. How can we ever be satisfied with anything less? How can we settle for something inferior to the genuine? How can our desire not grow for more and more of God's teachings? We must always be on guard for the devil's substitutes that will poison us and kill our souls. Are you thirsty? "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And he that heareth, let

him say, Come. And he that is athirst, let him come: he that will, let him take the water of life freely." Rev. 22:17.

Stained

Bill Brittenham

Have you ever tried to refinish a wooden chair or table that has been stained? If you have, or if you understand what stain is, you know that it is almost impossible to completely remove the stain without either damaging the wood or at least sanding a good portion of the wood away. Sometimes the only thing you can do is bleach the wood lighter and then try to refinish the piece. Why is that? Simply because wood is porous and the stain is absorbed down into the grains. People are kind of like that too. We are all porous to some degree and tend to soak up things around us. That can be good when we take in something good. But we can also absorb sin and evil. Sometimes just being someplace or being around some people causes us to take something in that later is extremely difficult to remove. A bad habit, bad language, a dirty joke can all stick with us even when we don't want them to. Even a good finish can be ruined by poor treatment or neglect.

We understand that every one of us has been stained by sin. (Rom 3:23) And the stain of sin is far more difficult to remove. It doesn't matter what we try. No amount of sanding, stripping, bleaching or anything else will even lighten our sin and guilt before God. But thanks be to our Father, we can have those horrible stains completely removed. We can be restored to that original unstained condition before we sinned. But it's interesting that in order to have our own stains of sin removed, it takes the blood of Jesus to purify us. Normally we think of blood as staining badly. But this is not so with God and our souls. The precious, holy, sanctified blood of

Jesus is the only thing that can cleanse our sinful stains.

So we might ask, "Do you need to be refinished?" "Do you need your stains removed?" If your answer is "Yes", then the Bible tells you to believe, repent, confess Jesus as your Lord and be baptized for the forgiveness of those sins. And to those who have been "refinished", remember that you can again be stained by sin. God offers you to humbly repent of your sins and pray for His forgiveness. Don't let sin stain and ruin your eternity.

Reinforcement

Bill Brittenham

A lot of things need reinforcement. Concrete usually does and houses and buildings often do, at least during construction. If I break my arm or leg, I will need reinforcement. And we all understand the need for such fortification. The extra support can be permanent or temporary until the final structure is complete and has the strength to stand by itself.

Have you ever noticed that in our public Bible studies, many of the comments made are reinforcements? They may reinforce or repeat in different words what the teacher just said, they can reinforce our conviction in what we have always thought or believed or they can simply reinforce our agreement with what is being taught.

Please don't misunderstand. Reinforcement is good and profitable. Peter tells us, "Wherefore I shall be ready always to put you in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and are established in the truth which is with you. And I think it right, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance;

knowing that the putting off of my tabernacle cometh swiftly, even as our Lord Jesus Christ signified unto me. Yea, I will give diligence that at every time ye may be able after my decease to call these things to remembrance." 2 Peter 1:12-15.

We need to constantly reinforce the truth for ourselves and for those who may not know the truth.

We need to reinforce what we know so we don't forget.

We need to reinforce others in what is right.

But keep in mind that one of the reasons for reinforcement is often to temporarily fortify something until it has the strength to stand on its own.

"I planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: but each shall receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow-workers: ye are God's husbandry, God's building." 1 Cor 3:6-9.

We are a work of God, both as individuals and as a congregation. We all should be growing and being built up. But if we only rely on repeated reinforcement of what we already know, our growth may be hindered.

If we personally study God's Word we can supplement the reinforcement by learning more of His perfect revelation. Not only will we grow personally, but also contribute to the growth of our brethren.

Should all comments in our Bible classes be new or different ideas? Certainly not. But neither should all our comments simply be reinforcements of what has been said so often.