

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements
Bill Brittenham

Song Leader
Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper
Mike Davis Bill Rinehart
Sonny Monaghan Jerry Schnelle

Prayers
Clay Morris Hunter Byrd

SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements
Bill Brittenham

Song Leader
Jack Calvert

Lord's Supper
Mike Davis Bill Rinehart

Prayers
Jon Barry Daniel Allgor

WEDNESDAY

Announcements
Jon Barry

Song Leader
Jack Calvert

Prayers
Mark Davis Sonny Monaghan

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 Study9:30 A.M.
Worship10:15 A.M.
Worship6:00 P.M.

Wednesday
Bible Study7:00 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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Issue 34

Why Do You Serve God?

Bryan Garlock

This question is necessary to help us recognize *why* we have allegiance to God and, if necessary, to determine *what* we need to correct to be right with Him. Why, then, do you serve God?

Do you serve God because that is how you were raised? Do not be deceived, inherited faith is not saving faith. Saving faith obeys God, not because “Momma” obeyed God, but because that is the right thing to do. Many grow up thinking they are right with God when all they did was adopt their parent’s faith. Do not misunderstand; God has instructed parents to train their children up in the Lord and any parent who rightfully does that is to be commended. However, training a child up right is training them to believe in God for themselves and seeking him with their *own* heart. A child must learn to believe something because God said it, not because “That is what my parents always taught

me” or “That is how my parents raised me”. That is not faith.

Do you serve God because you want to make your parents and/or grandparents happy? If your parents and grandparents were removed from the picture, would you serve God? If not, your roots are not established in God’s word, nor are you a servant of Christ because you are seeking the approval of man (cf. Gal. 1.10).

Do you serve God because you are trying to impress someone? Did you obey the gospel because your wife would not marry you until you did? Did you obey the gospel because you wanted to date that boy? If this is so, you are not practicing religion, you are playing religion – and that is not faith.

Do you serve God out of habit? Many practice religion because they do not know

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.

Wendell Mobley received a good report from his heart doctor this week.

Beth Ellen Rowland will be in Little Rock on the 28th for medical treatment.

GOSPEL MEETING

Gary Henry will be here for our Fall Gospel Meeting September 9-12.

Please see **Bryan** if you can volunteer your time to pass out fliers for the meeting.

Also, remember to sign the **Meal List** if you would like to have a meal with the preacher.

Also, we need as much help as possible from **the younger members and families** in preparing for the meeting.

name of Christ is forced from habit. This is not faith; this is mere routine or tradition.

Do you serve God so that others around you will not ask questions? Many continue to serve God so that their family and friends will not pester them or hold them accountable, while others obey the gospel to avoid conflict with their loved ones. This is not faith; this person's heart is far from God.

Do you serve God to help you socially, within the business world, and/or politically? There are some who financially or politically benefit from serving God. For these politicians, they are the godliest people during election time. For these businessmen, it makes for good business to be the faithful church member. Neither of these is faith – both are corrupt religion.

Do you serve God because your life is free of hardship? If your life was in ruins – you lost your income, your spouse receives news of stage four cancer, your house burns down – would you still serve Him, or would these worldly cares expose your lack of faith?

Do you serve God because everyone else is serving Him? Some obey the gospel because their friends obeyed the gospel, while others continue to serve God because their friends serve God. That is not faith – this is following the leader or the majority, but not Christ.

The only proper way to serve God is to obey Him from the heart (Rom. 6.16-18); to serve Him because of who He is (Psalm 18.1-3) and what he has done for you (Rom. 5.6-11) so that others may see Christ living in you (Gal. 2.20). You may believe there is a God, and you may

even do religious things, but if you serve God for any other reason than obedience from the heart, your service is meaningless (James 1.19-27).

How, then, can I serve God for the right reasons? First, recognize why you serve God and eliminate that reason from your life, and secondly, open God's word and establish your own faith (Rom. 10.17) that leads to loving Him with all your heart. Oftentimes we do not serve God properly because we do not invest the time and energy necessary to learn who God is and what His will is for our lives (Heb. 11.6). Instead we just accept God because it fits into whatever reason we serve Him. Sadly, those who accept God because it benefits them in some material way have not accepted God at all. This person has deceived himself; this person is lost in their sins. In love, BG

This World is Not My Home!

Doy Moyer

Christians are part of a kingdom that is not of this world and is eternal. This kingdom rises above and outlasts all earthly powers. Christians have a citizenship that is heavenly, far greater and more permanent than any earthly citizenship. They are not to be conformed to this world, nor are they to employ carnal tactics in dealing with this world. Their message is one that calls for repentance, yet offers hope in Christ. It is a message of love, grace, and forgiveness. It is not a political message. It has nothing to do with political power-grabs.

These matters, for the Christian, should be far more pressing, far more intriguing, far more pervasive, and far more encouraging than the winds and waves of the divisive politics that have taken over this world. We are dwelling on the ugliness of this world more than the beauty of Christ, and all the complaining in the world on social media won't change one thing when it comes to bureaucratic policies. It will make people mad at each other. It will make us suspicious of one another. It will divide us from one another. It will discourage and hurt. And the policies will remain the same. There are better things on which to dwell and better ways to foster godly relationships.

"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things" (Phil. 4:8).

"Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory" (Col. 3:1-4).

REMEMBER
Gospel Meeting
Sept. 9-12

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anything else. Sunday rolls around and it is time for church. They may not even feel excited to assemble with the saints, but it is Sunday – that is just what the family does! As an outgrowth, anything they do in the