

## SUNDAY MORNING

### Announcements

Preston Ellis

### Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

### Lord's Supper

Randy Ellis      Sonny Monaghan  
Rodney Ellis      Clay Morris

### Prayers

Bill Brittenham      Mike Davis

## SUNDAY EVENING

### Announcements

Preston Ellis

### Song Leader

Hayden Ellis

### Lord's Supper

Randy Ellis      Sonny Monaghan

### Prayers

Wendell Mobley      Randy Ellis

## WEDNESDAY

### Announcements

Gerald Eaton

### Song Leader

Jack Calvert

### Prayers

Rodney Ellis      Jack Calvert

### Invitation

Bryan Garlock

## ABOUT US

### Elders

Jack Calvert      Rodney Ellis

### Deacons

Jon Barry      Bill Brittenham  
Mike Davis      Clay Morris

### 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



Volume XXIII

October 28, 2018

Issue 43

## Serving God Publicly While Serving Satan Privately

Bryan Garlock

Those who serve God publicly while serving Satan privately have the appearance of godliness, but deny its power (2 Tim. 3.5). They are the epitome of a corrupted and unconverted heart, and while they have the appearance of godliness, they deny its power to transform the mind and body to the image of God's Son.

Those who are in "sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves" are not just false teachers and immoral individuals; they are our brothers and sisters. How many of our brethren are given over to sin in their private lives while they sing praises to God in the assembly? If we were to examine our concealed lives, what would we discover? How many of us are lovers of pleasure and self, manifested by our enslavement to drunkenness, drugs, pornography, fornication, adultery, outbursts of anger and abuse, with hatred, bitterness, malice, jealousy, and greediness in the heart? (Rom. 1.29-32; 1 Cor. 6.9-11; Gal. 5.19-21; Col. 3.8; 2 Tim. 3.2-5, etc.)

How many of us commit private sins that our brethren, spouses and children never know about?

Fathers, how are you privately? Behind closed doors, do you love your wife as Christ loved the church? Do you influence your children for good and train them in godliness? Are you enslaved to any sins or addictions? Humbly examine yourself and determine what changes you need to make to be right with God and be more like your heavenly Father.

Mothers, how is your private life? Behind closed doors do you respect your husband and submit to his leadership? Do you diligently care for your children and your home? Do any sins or addictions keep you enslaved? Humbly examine yourself and determine what changes you need to make to be right with God. Seek to be like your heavenly Father.

Children and teenagers, what does your private life look like? Are you obedient and respectful to your parents? What are you like when you are away from your parents

## FAMILY TALK

Continue to remember and check on our shut-ins: **Willie Margaret Mobley, Bob Buls, Bonnie Allgor, Lahron McJunkins, Maxine Burnham, and Francine Davis.** Cards, calls and visits are ALWAYS needed and appreciated.

**Vera Ellis** continues to recover at home from her surgery.

**Melinda Prynne** received some wonderful news this week. Her latest MRI indicates she is cancer free. She will continue with treatments. We thank our God for hearing our prayers. **Dan** and **Melinda's** new address is posted on the bulletin board.

**Gladys Winters** had her cast removed from her latest surgery.

**Lahron McJunkins** remains in Encompass Rehab (the old HealthSouth), Room 224A. Please stop by and visit for a few minutes. He could use the encouragement.

Please remember to continue praying for **Joey Avance.**

Several of our number have been sick recently. Please check up on those who are absent to see if they need anything.

**Nancy Rowe's** sister, **Ann Lou Kie,** passed away last week. The services were in Dallas on Saturday. Also, her brother, **Johnny Walker,** who was in the hospital is now home. Please pray for **Nancy** and all her family.

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and think they are not watching? What are you doing when you are alone in your room? What do you do when your parents are not home? Humbly examine yourself and determine what you need to change to be right with God and seek to be like your heavenly Father.

If we are holy in the privacy of our homes, we will be holy in the community. What a tragedy it is when the church and the community recognize you as spiritually clean but inside you are spiritually corrupted. What is more, we are foolish to think that our private sins will not pour into our public life. Eventually we will have a slip of the tongue or improper conduct, and our true hearts will be exposed for all to see. We must be sure that our sins will find us out, whether in this life or in the life to come.

Our secret sins are the hardest sins to overcome because no one bears our burdens by praying for us, giving us godly wisdom, and holding us accountable. Consequently, we are in Satan's playground and are his puppets to carry his will. Therefore, confessing our sins one to another is essential to our faithfulness and beneficial to our spiritual growth. The ability to overcome private sins is motivation for us to obey this difficult command, but one that is both possible and worthy (James 5.16, etc.). We must want to do right; we must want to have a clean conscience that eliminates the miserable mental suffering that comes from practicing secret sins. Therefore, exposing our secret sins lifts the burden that keeps us from being spiritually healthy and effective. This sets the one weak in faith – the one who fights to do what is right but fails from time to time – apart from the hypocrite – the one who claims a moral standard to benefit himself but fails to live up to that standard.

Our character is not defined by what people think about us; it is defined by who we are.

Thus, what we do privately reveals our true self and character. Who are we? Are we who our brethren, family and friends think we are? Remember, God knows who we are and we will give an account at the judgment (Eccl. 12.13-14; Heb. 4.12-13)! If our private life does not match our blameless public life, we must correct these flaws through confession and repentance, not continual concealment (Prov. 28.13). If we serve God publicly and serve Satan privately, where is the consistency in our faith? What is our motivation? It is not the approval and praise of God but of man. In love, BG

### You!

Bill Brittenham

In 1 Sam. 13:14, God tells Samuel that He has rejected Saul as King over Israel and has found a man "after His own heart" to rule His people. That man was to be King David. And in the Psalms, we can clearly see why and how David was "after God's heart".

The 21<sup>st</sup> Psalm is about "Praise For Deliverance". But also notice how many times in these 13 short verses David refers to God. "You" is used 14 times, "Your" 10 times, LORD (Jehovah) 4 times and "Most High" 1 time. That is a total of 29 times that David mentions his God, Jehovah. Is it not obvious the message David is attempting to convey? Jehovah, the personal God of Israel, the personal God of David, is everything to him. As you read through the Psalms, David's pattern of repeatedly referring to Jehovah by His name, His titles, His nature and even His personal pronouns should cause us to clearly see why he was a man after God's own heart. He loved God. He relied on God. He trusted God. To Him, Jehovah was his cause for being, his protector, his redeemer, his hope. David's entire life revolved around His bond

with his God. The message of the Psalms is that David did not exist separate from Jehovah.

But what should be the lesson we learn from David's Psalms? If we want to be people after God's own heart, we must center our lives and our beings on Jehovah, the God of the Bible. We must develop a faith that directs us to love God with all our heart and soul and mind. We must rely on God for our existence in this life and our hope for eternity. We must trust in God to do exactly what He promises in His Bible. We must rely on God to provide for us, to protect us, to deliver us, to save us eternally. We must unite God in our thinking and our lives as David did. Not an artificial or purely intellectual unification, but a total and genuine acceptance of the fact that God is real and that His Bible is His mind revealed to us for our good and His glory.

We may not (**WILL not**) always understand everything about God or why He directs us to do certain things. The Psalms make it clear that David did not always understand all that Jehovah commanded him. But just as David did, we must have the faith and trust in God to say with Samuel, "Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth." (1 Sam. 3:9)

The apostle Paul wrote in Gal. 2:20, "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I that live, but Christ liveth in me: and that *life* which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, *the faith* which is in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself up for me." (ASV) Paul's assertion is exactly how David thought and acted. He no longer lived, but Jehovah lived in him.