

## SUNDAY MORNING

### Announcements

Bryan Garlock

### Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

### Lord's Supper

Bill Brittenham

Mark Davis

Jack Calvert

Joseph Barry

### Prayers

Sonny Monaghan

Pete Rowland

## SUNDAY EVENING

### Announcements

Bryan Garlock

### Song Leader

Hayden Ellis

### Lord's Supper

Bill Brittenham

Jack Calvert

### Prayers

Daniel Allgor

Clay Morris

## WEDNESDAY

### Announcements

Bill Brittenham

### Song Leader

Jack Calvert

### Prayers

Daniel Allgor

Bryan Garlock

### Invitation

Hayden Ellis

## 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 ... Matthew10:32-33; 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

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## The Lukewarm Christian

Bryan Garlock

After inspecting the church at Laodicea, Jesus reported, "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." (Rev. 3:15-22)

How many of us fit this description? We have been abundantly blessed, we have no

real hardships in our life, and we have accomplished so much from our hard work and diligence – and we say to ourselves, "I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing."

It may be that you are loyal to Christ and are therefore content with your blessings and have no need for anything. On the other hand, it may be that you are content with your earthly blessings while you are living in spiritual poverty; as Jesus said, "not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked." It is an unfortunate thing, and a scary thought, that so many are ignorant of their spiritual negligence – even those who are so dedicated to attending worship.

Who is blind to their destitution? Those who claim allegiance to Christ and yet starve themselves of spiritual nourishment, those who are indifferent to sin, even minimizing it, and those who love the things of this world. They are neither cold nor hot; rather, they are lukewarm. For those who find lukewarm water to be repulsive, as this writer does, this

## 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.

**W. H. McFerrin** continues to recover at home.

**Beth Ellen Rowland** had her pacemaker successfully installed.

**Joey Avance's** father, **William (Bill) Avance**, remains in ICU at Wadley.

**Dennis Burnham, Maxine Burnham's** son, is having several serious health problems.

Remember the **Ladies Bible** Class Tuesday, **Dec. 4th** at 11:30 AM at the **Brittenham's** or 6 PM at the **Calvert's**.

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illustration is powerful. Notice that Jesus would rather they be cold or hot and spits them out. Can you imagine being in a spiritual condition that causes Jesus to find us intolerable, and even more so, nauseating? Do we even find our own lip service sickening?

Even more disheartening than those who are well provided for physically but are in fact spiritually impoverished, are those who boast of being spiritually rich but live in spiritual filth. When we are in either condition, we are not only blind, but we have deceived ourselves.

Fortunately, Jesus helps us to see our condition so that we can overcome

spiritual apathy. Through His written word, Jesus rebukes and disciplines us now so that we can correct our sin and/or remove any hindrances that keep us from being victorious. There are three things he wants us to do. First, He wants us to buy from Him what will make us truly rich – pure and undefiled religion. While one who owns precious metals such as gold is wealthy, only those who apply God's wisdom to their lives (James 1.19-27) are those who have a genuine and precious faith – able to withstand the trials of life (cf. 1 Peter 1.7). Secondly, Jesus instructed them to buy white garments (representing purity) so that their nakedness may not be seen – that is, their sins may be covered by Jesus' blood (see Rev. 3.4-5, 17-18; 4.4; 7.14, etc.). Finally, they were to buy medicine – the truth (Prov. 23.23) – to heal their spiritual blindness. When the truth is given preeminence, the truth sets us free from error and falsehoods and gives us the power to overcome this world. Thus, to be rich they were to have a sincere faith that endured through any hardship, they were to keep their garments from becoming soiled with sin, and they were turn to Jesus and His truth for healing their spiritual blindness.

Jesus wants us to be conquerors – to overcome spiritual laziness. He wants to come in and to eat with us – representing the fellowship that He yearns for with us. He wants us to reign with Him – to sit with Him on His throne. These blessings make us truly rich, not the physical blessings that are superficial and fading away. Are you a lukewarm Christian? BG

## Not Falling Away

Joseph Barry

There are many ways we keep ourselves from falling away from God. One way is spending time with the other Christians. Another way to stay faithful is to pray. Take a look at Hebrews 10:24-25 with me. Spending time with the other Christians is very important, one that many Christians fail to do. Philippians 4:6-7 says that

we should dwell on things that are good. One of the things we can do to accomplish this is to talk to God about how thankful we are for what He's done for us, like giving us air to breathe and just being alive. Other things to be thankful for are the ability to walk and talk, to spread the Gospel (Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:16), the sunshine, the rain, and the Bible.

## Our Tattling Priorities

Dan S. Shipley

As someone has wisely noted, "life is governed by esteemed values." It's what people consider important that really counts in the ordering of personal priorities.

Obviously, not all consider the same things important. What one views as trivial may be another's treasure, and vice versa. But this much is sure: no man ever treats his own "treasure" as a trivial thing.

On the contrary, one's devotion to his special interests will likely be conspicuously manifest, even when he might wish it otherwise. As Jesus has said, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). Again, "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (Matthew 12:34).

The heart is where the treasure is and the mouth will soon reveal where the heart is. Our priorities tell on us because we like to tell about them. Sooner or later, the topic of conversation will be centered on our interests — maybe not with the enthusiasm of a golf or fishing "nut", but like ants at a picnic, they'll keep on showing up. Our auditors hear what we are concerned about. What do they hear? Is it ever spiritual subjects? It may be enlightening to see a list of what friends consider to be our priorities. Chances are they wouldn't be far off because if our conversations didn't tell on us, our schedules would.

Like our speech, the employment of free time says much about our interests. That's why we always seem to find time for doing what we want and seldom find time for the don't-wants. Worse, we may even become unconscious to making such distinctions — even to the extent of habitually first doing what we want, then, if necessary, invent excuses for our failures. Mostly, Christians with excuses are just Christians with wrong priorities. Think, for instance, of how Christians could redeem the time, not only by attending Bible studies and worship, but by visiting the sick and weak and teaching the lost. Yet, it is not unusual to hear of those who put in more time watching TV in one or two evenings than on all of these activities put together for a whole week! We ought to be ashamed! Not for watching TV, but for neglecting the other. Redeeming the time (Ephesians 5:16) becomes an impossible task without right priorities.

Finally, the use made of financial resources says something about what we consider important. In fact, some say it says the most the loudest. Anyway, like time and tongue, it does tell where the heart is and its use can be a proof of love (2 Corinthians 8:24). Certainly, that which we profess to be the most important and urgent cause on earth deserves to be supported accordingly, financially and otherwise. Remember, our priorities do tell on us. And they always tell the truth! The Lord hears what they say. The brethren hear. So does the world. The real question is, do we? If so, we may conclude that changes are needed. Not superficial changes that force external "improvement", but the kind that get to the heart of the matter — the kind that come from facing up to our true condition and real needs and make us see the need for the Lord and seeking Him first.