

## SUNDAY MORNING

**Announcements**  
Mike Davis

**Song Leader**  
Hayden Ellis

**Lord's Supper**  
Preston Ellis      Bill Rinehart  
Pete Rowland      Jerry Schnelle

**Prayers**  
Jerry Schnelle      Pete Rowland

## SUNDAY EVENING

**Announcements**  
Mike Davis

**Song Leader**  
Daniel Allgor

**Lord's Supper**  
Bill Rinehart      Preston Ellis

**Prayers**  
Bill Brittenham      Mike Davis

## WEDNESDAY

**Announcements**  
Daniel Allgor

**Song Leader**  
Jack Calvert

**Prayers**  
Randy Ellis      Wendell Mobley

**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



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Issue 47

## Speaking Evil of Our Brethren

Bryan Garlock

Are you hungry? Someone once said, "Roasted preacher, grilled song leader, sautéed class teacher are all commonly served as appetizers before Sunday dinner."

**When we speak evil of our brethren, the Spirit is grieved.** "Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." (Eph. 4:29-32)

**When we speak evil of our brethren, we are not thankful for them.** "Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving." (Eph. 5:4)

**When we speak evil of our brethren, we do not love them; instead, we bite and devour them.** "For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another." (Gal. 5:14-15)

**When we speak evil of our brethren, we disobey God.** "...speak evil of no one..." (Titus 3:2)

**When we speak evil of our brethren, our religion is worthless.** "If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless." (James 1:26)

**When we speak evil of our brethren, we expose our true heart - lips that honor God, but a heart that is far from Him.** "With it [our mouth] we bless our

## 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** came home on Tuesday. He is still recovering but doing much better. We are all very thankful for his recovery.

**Beth Ellen Rowland** is scheduled to have a pacemaker install in Little Rock on Wednesday. Please pray for her.

**Joey Avance's** father, **William (Bill) Avance**, is quite sick. He underwent a serious surgery last week but will take a while to recover at Wadley. Please pray for him and Joey's family.

Remember the **Ladies Bible** Class Tuesday, **Dec. 4th** at the **Brittenham's**. Times are 11:30 A.M. or 6 P.M.

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Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so." (James 3.9-10)

**When we speak evil of our brethren, we do not obey the law – the law that says to not speak evil – but instead judge the law to be “unworthy” of our obedience.** “Do not speak evil against

one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.” (James 4.11)

**When we speak evil of our brethren, we will face a wrathful Judge.** “Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.” (James 5.9)

**When we speak evil of our brethren, we are filled with unrighteousness and are deserving of death.** “They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil... They are full of envy... strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful... foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die...” (Rom. 1.29-32)

When we speak evil of our spiritual family, the fruit of the Spirit is not present. Paul wrote, “...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...” (Gal. 5.22-23) Notice that when we bear the fruit of the Spirit, we treat our brethren in a godly manner and will not maliciously talk about them. Likewise, when we practice the works of the flesh – bitterness, grudges, wrath, malice, envy, divisions, slander, selfish ambition, and withholding mercy and forgiveness – then we mistreat our brothers and sisters in Christ. Honestly, the problem is not with our brethren – as if they deserve unkind words said behind their backs – but with the one who does the speaking. His heart is not pure.

When God's children are on our lips and malicious words are being upheld, we do not “walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (Eph. 4.1-3) Nor do we put on “compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience” and therefore we will not bear “with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you....” (Col. 3.12-13)

For example, when we are jealous of our brethren, we do not rejoice with them when good things happen – *we are bitter that they have something to rejoice about* – nor do we weep with them when bad things happen; instead, we secretly rejoice that they are weeping, and *we enjoy talking about their downfall.* (see Rom. 12.15)

What kind of example is it to our brethren, children, and unbelieving family members, friends, and co-workers, if we speak evil of and complain about our family in Christ? (John 13.34-35)

Will they view us as children of God? John wrote, “If anyone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen... Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.” (1 John 4.20; 5.1-2) BG

## Are You a Negative Christian?

Bryan Garlock

I was talking to a friend who said that atheists are negative because they do not have God. While I realize that not *all* atheists are negative, I certainly understand the sentiment. I immediately responded with, “Why, then, are Christians so negative?”

Paul said, “Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world...” (Phil. 2.14-15)

The elephant in the room has been exposed. Perhaps one reason there are negative atheists is there are negative Christians – *they have no example!*

**Ecc. 12:13-14** *This is the end of the matter; all hath been heard: Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every work into judgment, with every hidden thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.*

When a wise man like Solomon sets his goal to examine all that is life – the good, the bad, the pleasurable and the evil – and concluded that **ALL HAS BEEN HEARD** and has determined the **WHOLE OF MAN**, a wise man of today would be even wiser to heed Solomon's conclusion.

**FEAR GOD AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS!**