

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements

Randy Ellis

Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper

Mike Davis Daniel Allgor
Cole Meador Rodney Ellis

Prayers

Bill Rinehart Jon Barry

SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements

Randy Ellis

Song Leader

Hayden Ellis

Lord's Supper

Mike Davis Cole Meador

Prayers

Hayden Ellis Gerald Eaton

WEDNESDAY

Announcements

Jack Calvert

Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

Prayers

Hayden Ellis Cole Meador

Invitation

Randy Ellis

ABOUT US

Elders

Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis

Deacons

Jon Barry Bill Brittenham
Mike Davis Clay Morris

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.

WWW.TXKCHURCH.COM

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 XXIV

January 13, 2019

Issue 2

Pearls Before Swine

Bryan Garlock

Many believe that we cannot judge others because Jesus said, "Judge not, that you be not judged." (Matt. 7.1) However, the context of Matthew 7 demands that we judge. In verses 1-5, Jesus taught that we are to avoid hypocritical and censorious judging by correcting our sins first, prior to correcting others (cf. Gal. 6.1; John 7.24). In verses 15-20, Jesus explains that we must judge who is faithful and who is a false teacher by their fruit, that is, their conduct and teaching. Next, judgement is a major part of the charge in verse six. Immediately after Jesus' instructions concerning how to judge individuals, He taught, "Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you."

Jesus identifies a type of character that is not open to reason, that is, the kind of character that does not appreciate the divine treasures found within God's word: those who behave like dogs and pigs by biting, devouring, and attacking the one who

feeds them. Neither animal understands the concept of value; the dog returns to his vomit and the pig wallows in filth (cf. 2 Peter 2.22). Likewise, neither character understands the value of the gospel (Matt. 13.45-46); both resolve to not mind the things of God. Thus, it is impossible to obey this directive without judging. One must determine when someone else finds the gospel worthless.

Everyone has a right to hear the gospel (1 Tim. 2.4) and it is evil judging to determine who gets to hear the gospel and who does not. For example, if you teach those who are educated and wealthy but turn away from teaching the dirty and smelly homeless man on the street, you would be judging by appearances, something clearly condemned (John 7.24; James 2.1-13, etc.). However, Jesus is not telling us to judge *who* to teach, but to judge *when* to stop teaching. There is a time to say, "I am done teaching 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.

The next **Ladies Bible** Class will be Tuesday, **Feb. 12th** at 11:30 AM at the **Tyne Armstrong's** or 6 PM at the **Calvert's**.

There will be an elder's, deacon's and preacher's meeting today at 5:00 P.M.

Singing: The Annual Singing at Mt. Pleasant is Jan. 18th at 7:30 P.M.

Please plan to attend. It's enjoyable, edifying and an opportunity to worship our God in song.

Cont. from Page 1

person – they have counted themselves as unworthy to receive the truth”.

When Jesus sent out his disciples to preach the gospel of the kingdom, He instructed, “And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” (Mark 6.11) Elsewhere we read, “But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.” (Luke 10.10-11). To continue to teach the gospel to a person that did not want to listen was to give

something holy to dogs and to cast their pearls before swine; Jesus forbade it.

Read Acts 13.44-51 and see an example of when it was necessary to “shake off the dust” of their feet. Interestingly, Paul argues that the people who rejected the gospel thrust it aside and *judged for themselves* that they were unworthy of eternal life (v46). Accordingly, when one is bent on opposing God's word and is filled with anger and personal insults, it is time to move on to those who are interested in the things of God.

It is not necessary that we move on from teaching a soul when they simply oppose the truth. Remember, God's servants must be patient and diligent in teaching those who oppose (2 Tim. 2.24-26). It will take some time to help a person to forgo their traditions and false ideas and to see the truth, as it may have been for some of our readers. However, when a person is no longer willing to be gentle during discussions and has fits of anger when he is gently corrected, or perhaps when a person is reasonable and loving but determines to not change his mind, then he is not one who is worthy of the gospel.

The bottom line is we must not force people to accept what they clearly do not want to accept. That is hard. That is uncomfortable. That is discouraging. That seems to go against our mission of seeking and saving the lost. Yet, Jesus still calls us to judge when not to put our pearls before swine. Are they angered by our teaching? Do they display arrogance that they know better than God? Do they stubbornly contradict God? Do they refuse to repent for selfish reasons? Do they see no value in spiritual things? While each case is different, we must judge accordingly; we must not give that which is invaluable to those who find it worthless. In love, BG

Remember When?

Aaron Kemple

Today, I would like for us to consider two passages of Scripture where God calls us to our former days. Remember When? This is a great exercise for a church, for individuals and for married couples. It's time to revisit how we used to be, what we used to feel like, and what our perspective was back then.

But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.

(Hebrews 10:32-36)

These Christians were about to give up and go back to Judaism in order to avoid the persecutions they were facing. They were just done, and they were tired and discouraged. Sadly, some just wanted to quit. This is a very real situation for many Christians, many churches and many marriages. What does the Hebrew writer ask them to do? Remember what it was like when you first became a Christian? Do you recall what you felt like? How did you feel about living for Jesus, even when you were being persecuted for it? What happened to that fire and that enthusiasm? It's time to go back to the beginning like you were on the honeymoon with Jesus.

Here's another passage in which Jesus is speaking to the church of Ephesus. They were “doing” everything right, but they were about to lose their fellowship with Jesus. Why? The love they had at first was gone. As one writer said, “They were gun barrel straight on doctrine but without any gun powder in the bullets.” What does Jesus say is the remedy? Go back to the beginning. Get back to your roots. Remember

what it was like when you first became a Christian?

“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: ‘The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands. “I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.’

(Revelation 2:1-7)

I think those of us who are older should spend more time just listening and observing those who are younger. Instead of constantly being in teacher mode, maybe we as the teachers need to be the students. Those young Christians have a lot of zeal and idealism, and we would do well by remembering what it was like when we were that on fire for Jesus. Instead of accusing them of being young, arrogant and idealistic, maybe we could get stirred up again by working with them.

It might be that we observe a young married couple that is just gushing with love for one another. We can gag at that and make fun of it, or we can say to ourselves, “Remember when?” Maybe our romance, and idealism, and fire is gone and we need to do some rekindling. Instead of making fun of that young couple by telling them the “reality” of what's coming, maybe we can rejoice with them and help bring our fire back once again.