

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements

Mark Davis

Song Leader

Hayden Ellis

Lord's Supper

Jon Barry Rodney Ellis
Pete Rowland Bill Brittenham

Prayers

Jerry Schnelle Clay Morris

SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements

Mark Davis

Scripture Reading

Danny Davis

Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper

Hunter Byrd Pete Rowland

Prayers

Jack Calvert Pete Rowland

WEDNESDAY

Announcements

Cole Meador

Song Leader

Jack Calvert

Prayers

Jan Barry Daniel Allgor

Invitation

Bill Brittenham

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; Romans 10:9-10

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

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Issue 11

Life Is Full of Choices

Bryan Garlock

"Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. 15 And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24.14-15)

Life is full of choices. For example, you made the choice to read this bulletin. In this passage above, Joshua exhorted the people to make the most important choice in their life: to serve the true and living God. Their service was to be driven by sincerity and faithfulness which included putting away all false gods. Notice, too, that Joshua was prepared to serve the Lord even if no one else would. What about us? Will we serve Christ in sincerity and in faithfulness? Will we choose to put away sin in our life? Are we willing to make this choice even if no one else will? What choices will you make this week? BG

When Love Is a Sin

Bryan Garlock

"...treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God..." (2 Timothy 3.4)

Paul explained exactly what is wrong with this world: we have become lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. Those who are lovers of pleasure purposely seek out and embrace it. In fact, pleasure has become their god! This is the consequence of a world that has forgotten and rejected God (Rom. 1.18-32). However, those who love God more than "the cares and riches and pleasures of life" will remain faithful until the end where they will find eternal blessings (see Luke 8.14-15; Heb. 11.6; 1 Peter 1.8-9). These blessings outweigh any amount of pleasure we can possibly imagine in our lifetime. Moses is a great example of one who chose to love the eternal God rather than the temporary pleasures of this world (Heb. 11.25-26; 1 John 2.15-17). What about you? Will you forfeit eternity because of passing pleasures of this life? Please understand

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.

Joey Avance had a stress test last week. The doctors are still trying to determine the causes of his problems. Please continue to pray for **Joey** that he can regain his health.

Rodney Ellis had a heart cath last week to check on his heart.

The next **Ladies Bible** Class will be Tuesday, **Apr. 9th**. The morning class will be at **Gladys Winters'** at 11:30 and the evening at **Karen Calvert's** at 6:00.

Please pick up some invite cards and ask for Bible studies. See Bryan if you need any help with home studies.

Our Gospel Meeting: Singing, March 29th and Meeting with Tim Stevens
March 31st-April 3rd.

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that worldly pleasures will not "fill the void in your life" nor give you true happiness; only Christ can do that. BG

The Comparison Trap

Tim Jennings

from *focusmagazine.org*

The human ability to detect differences is astounding! In an instant, we can discern how a person feels by the slightest fall of their eyebrow or upward curve of their lip. We can distinguish between thousands of colors. We can feel the smallest scratch on that smart phone we just paid too much for.

When used correctly our ability to notice what is different protects us from danger and can inspire us to tremendous growth (1 Cor. 11:1; 1 Pet. 5:3; 1 Tim. 4:12; Heb. 13:7; 1 Cor. 16:15-18). However, our ability to see differences has a dark side. It can drag us into the comparison trap.

Today, we can compare ourselves to others more than ever! Various forms of media confront us with the looks, skills, experiences and possessions of people around the world that are unattainable to most of us. These constant comparisons can lead to a deep sense of despair. Others exploit the platforms of comparison to show others how great they are. As a result, comparing ourselves to others can be more than a trap, it can become our prison.

Envy

The problem is we slip into the comparison trap without even knowing it. This happened one day to king Saul. David, his newly appointed commander, returned home from a successful campaign against the Philistines. The people poured into the streets to sing songs of joy to the king. However, the lyrics of their anthem struck a dissonant cord with Saul's self-esteem. They sang,

"Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands." ... this refrain galled him." (1 Sam. 18:7).

Saul didn't think about the security of the nation, the skill or David or the kindness of the women. Every good thing was hidden behind the thick cloud of comparison. So, the next day Saul tried to pin David to the wall with a spear.

Harmful comparison has a way of spoiling relationships, because envy sneaks in. Comparison becomes the sin of envy when we cannot appreciate the beauty, happiness or success of another person without immediately connecting it to us. Then resentment seeps in and anger begins to boil until our relationship is cooked!

In addition, comparisons can cause us to be obsessed with our limitations. Maybe David was a better soldier than Saul. So what? There will always be someone thinner, richer, smarter and better looking than you. Get used to it! If someone is good, that doesn't make you bad. Don't allow comparisons to cause you to focus on your limitations. God wonderfully gifted you to do what only you can do. So, do the best with what you have (Matt. 25:14-30). Otherwise the comparison trap will drive you into a fruitless life of bitter seclusion.

Compromise

The problem of comparison starts early in the story of Saul. The people said, "We want a king over us. Then we will be like all the other nations" (1 Sam. 8:19-20). Later, Samuel calls this request a "rejection of God" (1 Sam. 10:19). They wanted to be like the other nations rather than God's nation. This exposes another problem with making comparisons. It often leads to sinful compromise!

We compare ourselves to what others have and we compromise our commitment to God to get it. How constant and subtle is this temptation! We crave what others possess and slip into greed. We love what someone wears and fall into sensuality. We long for the fun others experience and drop into hedonism.

We remove the bait of the comparison trap when we see the danger of evaluating things by external appearances. God is not so impressed with the wrapping paper as we are. "The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward

appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (1 Sam. 16:7).

The next time you are so impressed with someone stop and ask, "Why do I find this so appealing?" If the answer reveals a fleshly appeal, say to yourself, "I value the condition of the heart, the destiny of my soul, and the pleasure of my Lord." Then the temptation to compromise will begin to melt away.

Arrogance

The most dangerous aspect of the comparison trap is it makes us arrogant. One of the first things Saul did as king was, "set up a monument to his own honor" (1 Sam. 15:12). Saul carefully crafted his "news feed" to show that he was a little better than you (1 Sam. 15:30).

We fall into the comparison trap when we gain our self-worth by thinking we are better than others. We brag, boast and post to be known and admired. The comparison game can cause us to be over-impressed with ourselves and blind to our defects.

Jesus told a story about a man who arrogantly compared himself to others and thought, "I'm really something special" (Luke 18:11). But another man compared himself to God and prayed, "Have mercy on me, a sinner" (Luke 18:13). When we compare ourselves to others, we are tempted to be proud. When we compare ourselves to God, we see ourselves more clearly.

The next time you are tempted to think, "I'm better than them," remind yourself, "God knows the real me; the selfish, ugly, hurtful me. Thank you, God for your mercy. Help me share with to others."

Defining our self-image by comparing ourselves to others is a dangerous game. It is a path filled with despair, deception and pride. It's time to get out of the comparison game and find your identity in Christ. In him, you'll find a love beyond comparison.