

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements

Mark Davis

Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper

Jon Barry Rodney Ellis
Pete Rowland Bill Brittenham

Prayers

Hayden Ellis Pete Rowland

SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements

Mark Davis

Scripture Reading

Clay Morris

Song Leader

Jack Calvert

Lord's Supper

Hunter Byrd Pete Rowland

Prayers

Daniel Allgor Danny Davis

WEDNESDAY

Announcements

Cole Meador

Song Leader

Hayden Ellis

Prayers

Mark Davis Bill Brittenham

Invitation

Jack Calvert

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.

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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; 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

2301 Franklin Drive ■ Texarkana, AR 71854 ■ (870) 772-0746



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Issue 9

Worry – The Devil's Acid

Bill Brittenham

One of my favorite songs is “Don’t Worry, Be Happy!” by Bobby McFerrin. In addition to the happy and whimsical music, it’s a good reminder that worry isn’t good. But as Christians, we should already know this lesson.

In the Old Testament we clearly see God taking care of the needs of His people when He provides manna and quail and water for the Israelites. During the forty years of wilderness wandering, He kept their shoes and clothing from wearing out. (Dt. 8:4; Neh. 9:21). Then He sent the ravens to feed Elijah (1 Kings 17:4-6) and when the brook dried up, God sent him to the widow in Zarephath where He miraculously provided flour and oil for Elijah and the widow and her son. (vss. 8-16)

Jesus often tells His disciples not to be anxious, or to take no thought for the things of this world; food, clothing and

where to lay our heads at night. (Matt. 6:31-34) He gives examples of the providence of God for the birds and the lilies of the field. (Luke 12:22-34)

In Phil. 4:6-7, Paul encourages the Philippians to “be anxious (*take no thought of*) for nothing” but to pray and be thankful.

However, in spite of all the scriptures and assurances from God, we often fail in our faith and conviction to fully trust God to take care of us. And that is where the devil seizes the opportunity and steps in. The great deceiver uses governments, the media, our friends and even naturally occurring disasters to chip away at our trust in God and encourage us to worry, worry, worry. He corrodes our belief in God’s providence and replaces it with anxiety. He consumes our thought about the cares of this world and eats away at faith. Just like acid, he uses fear to

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.

Bryan Garlock's mother, **Jennifer**, is recuperating from surgery last week.

Maxine Burnham had a blood transfusion last week and is not in good health.

Nancy Rowe's brother, **Johnny Walker**, is now under hospice care.

The next **Ladies Bible** Class will be Tuesday, **Mar. 12th**. The morning class will be at Tyna Armstrong's and the evening at Karen Calvert's.

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

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

Rom 8:31 *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?*

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destroy us. Some acids burn when they first touch us. Others do not start their destruction until after they have soaked into our skin making them impossible to remove. Worry acts both ways. Some things bother us immediately while others lodge in our minds and slowly erode our faith.

Look at some of the ways we allow Satan to deceive us and rob us of our trust and reliance on God and His promises.

1. "You're going to lose your job."
2. "Your wife (or husband) is going to leave you."
3. "You will all die because you are polluting the world."
4. "Being a Christian isn't worth it. Just look at the all the immorality."
5. "There is no hope the government will ever turn back to God."
6. "Nuclear war is inevitable."
7. "The world is overpopulated and there won't be enough food."
8. "What if the electric grid fails?"
9. "You will all die from some global disease."

These are all lies devised by Satan in his battle against our God. Remember who the devil is: **the enemy** (Matt. 13:39); **the father of lies** (John 8:44); **the adversary** (1 Pet. 5:8); **the tempter** (1 Thess. 3:5); **the wicked one** (Matt. 13:19, 38). Would we really rather listen to our enemy and God's?!? Of course not!

What can we do to strengthen our faith and renew our confidence in God and His

promises? Again, God provides us with the answers. **James 4:7** *Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.* That requires us to know what God requires and promises. It also means we need to recognize the wiles or schemes of the devil. (The Greek word for "wiles" or "schemes" is the origin of our word "methods".) And in truth, anything that is against God is from the devil. Which means the more we know God's Bible, the better we will be at seeing the devil's methods and lies.

God created us. He knows what is best for us. And He has revealed what is good for man through scriptures. Solomon told us "Don't worry, be happy!" (**Ecc. 5:18** *Here is what I have seen to be good and fitting: to eat, to drink and enjoy oneself in all one's labor in which he toils under the sun during the few years of his life which God has given him; for this is his reward.*)

And God has equipped us to resist the devil and defend ourselves against all of his methods.

Eph. 6:10-17 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, **so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, **so that you will be able to resist in the evil day**, and having done

everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, **HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH**, and **HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**, and having shod **YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE**; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with **which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.** And take **THE HELMET OF SALVATION**, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pay attention to the contrasts:

2 Cor. 4:17 *For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, (ESV)*

Whatever afflictions we may now have are **TEMPORARY** (for a **MOMENT**) and are **LIGHT**. While in eternity we will have **HEAVY** (WEIGHTY), **ETERNAL GLORY**.

Are you using these temporary, light afflictions to **PREPARE** for the eternal weight of glory? Or are you bogged down and distracted by something light and momentary? If you are, you may very well miss that eternal weight of God's glory.

It's Your Choice!

Choose Wisely!