

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements

Mark Davis

Song Leader

Jack Calvert

Lord's Supper

Jon Barry Rodney Ellis
Pete Rowland Bill Brittenham

Prayers

Jerry Schnelle Bill Brittenham

SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements

Mark Davis

Scripture Reading

Meeting

Song Leader

Hayden Ellis

Lord's Supper

Hunter Byrd Pete Rowland

Prayers

Clay Morris Pete Rowland

WEDNESDAY

Announcements

Cole Meador

Song Leader

Meeting

Prayers

Meeting

Invitation

Meeting

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

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Issue 13

LOOKING BACK OR LOOKING AHEAD?

Tim Stevens

Someone has said, "If you are constantly looking back, chances are pretty good you'll fall into a hole ahead." That reminds us of what Jesus said regarding the cost of being a disciple of His; *"No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God"* (Luke 9:62). A farmer can certainly relate to what Jesus is saying here. Just imagine how a freshly plowed field would look after the farmer has just plowed it - with his head continually looking back over his shoulder.

The apostle Paul wrote, *"Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 3:13-14). Yes, our "sights" should always be set "ahead" toward the goal of heaven.

If we're going to look back at anything, look back at the scene of the One who died for you on that old rugged cross at Mt. Calvary. Think of what that sacrifice means to you, personally. That "One" who died - was buried - arose from the grave - and then, ascended back into Heaven, has gone on to prepare a place for you. Jesus said, *"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know"* (John 14:1-4). Are you preparing yourself for that place? Look ahead!

As we prepare ourselves for that better place, we must continue to *"... lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith,*

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.

Pat Buls fell and broke her arm. After tests, it was decided not to operate. She will be in a sling for three weeks and then have rehabilitation.

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:
With Tim Stevens
March 31st-April 3rd.

Cont. from Page 1

who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:1-2).

Looking unto Jesus is looking forward. Don't look back, ALWAYS LOOK AHEAD!

IMPROVING OUR WORSHIP

R. J. Stevens
Tim Stevens

The New Testament tells us what early Christians did in their worship and also the manner in which their worship was done. It is not up to man to invent ways to improve worship "apart" from the word of God ("*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work*" - 2 Timothy 3:16-17). John 4:24 records, "*God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.*" If I practice something in worship for which there is NO scriptural authority or . . . if I have an attitude of bitterness in my heart when I worship, such is unacceptable before God (Matthew 5:23-24; 15:8-9). Therefore, worshiping God acceptably involves doing what God says and . . . doing it from a sincere heart.

Throughout the Bible, we can see that God has always required that His children give the best of themselves and of their sacrifices to Him. For ALL that He has done since the creation of the world, God deserves it! Today in New Testament worship, God deserves my best! Obviously, as a disciple of the Lord, I can worship God at any time and in any place. However, as a Christian, I have the responsibility and privilege to assemble with fellow disciples. Even though there are times when we worship with others in an assembly, worship is still an individual matter. What can I do, personally, to improve my worship before God? Please give the following areas of worship your consideration:

How can I improve my worship in song? Passages such as 1 Corinthians 14:15,

Ephesians 5:19, and Colossians 3:16 teach us to sing with spirit, with understanding, with melody in your heart and with a heart filled with grace. The command to sing involves MY learning something about singing. If I am a song leader in song worship, I need to learn to lead singing to the best of MY ability in order to encourage others, so that they, too, can give of their best in song worship as followers.

How can I improve my worship in partaking of the Lord's Supper? It's obvious that the early disciples partook of the Lord's Supper on the first day of every week (Acts 2:42; 20:7). However, according to 1 Corinthians 11:23-29, I must partake of the bread and the fruit of the vine in memory of Christ. I must discern the Lord's death till He comes again. Sometimes it helps me in my discernment to read scriptures and lyrics to songs that take my mind back to the cross of Christ.

How can I improve my worship in teaching and hearing God's word? A preacher is worshiping God when he preaches. As a preacher of truth, I can improve my worship in proclaiming the Word when I speak with all boldness (Acts 4:29). My worship in preaching will be more effective when I preach in the spirit of meekness and humility (Galatians 6:1-2). I must also speak with love in my heart; not only for my Lord, but also for the same people He loves (1 Corinthians 13:1). Those who hear the gospel are also worshiping while listening. As a hearer, I should receive the message with all readiness of mind – just like the Bereans (Acts 17:11). The worshipful hearer not only receives the Word but also embraces it (believes) and obeys. If I want to improve this part of my

worship, I will show reverence for the Word.

How can I improve my worship in praying to God? As one leading the prayer, I need to prepare myself. The lack of preparation in prayer often leads to wordy repetition. I need to pray loud enough that the congregation can hear the words and be able to say, "A-men." The scripture teaches me to pray with spirit, understanding and faith. I need to be enthusiastic when I pray and mean every word that I say. On the other hand, as a listener to a public prayer, I need to concentrate on what is being said while having an attitude of prayer in my heart.

How can I improve my worship in giving? The Bible teaches me to give on the first day of the week, as I have prospered, as I have purposed, and to give cheerfully, willingly and bountifully (1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8:7-8; 8:12; 9:5-7). It is essential to learn the truth about giving as much as it is to learn the truth about partaking of the Lord's Supper on the first day of each week or about singing praises to God without instrumental music. To not give as God instructs will make my worship vain.

My worship needs to be improved if, in any way, it is according to the commandments of men rather than instruction from God. My worship needs to be improved when it is only from my mouth and not from my heart. Whatever we can do that is in harmony with God's expressed will – to worship according to truth and to worship from our hearts – needs to be put into practice. And remember, true worship glorifies our heavenly Father and edifies our brothers and sisters in Christ.