

## SUNDAY MORNING

### Announcements

Cole Meador

### Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

### Lord's Supper

Mark Davis    Bryan Garlock  
Clay Morris    Bill Brittenham

### Prayers

Jon Barry    Jerry Schnelle

## SUNDAY EVENING

### Announcements

Cole Meador

### Scripture Reading

Rodney Ellis

### Song Leader

Jack Calvert

### Lord's Supper

Mark Davis    Clay Morris

### Prayers

Daniel Allgor    Joseph Barry

## WEDNESDAY

### Announcements

Bill Brittenham

### Song Leader

Clay Morris

### Prayers

Jack Calvert    Rodney Ellis

### Invitation

Cole Meador

## 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; 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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## Learning To "Speak Jesus"

Steve Dewhirst

Essential to the spread of the gospel is a willingness of disciples to speak their faith. It is one-on-one influence that has led more people to Christ than anything else since Pentecost. When we mention the importance of "speaking Jesus," many begin to feel a sense of fear and dread, as though we were discussing performing an impossible task. We make it harder than it is. Many believe only "professionals" can teach God's word effectively. But that's part of the problem: most "professionals" stay ensconced in ivory towers, never teaching anyone. And besides, the work of evangelism is the work of every able disciple. Consider how we can help ourselves in this great work.

**Earnest prayer.** It's not that we don't pray; it's that we don't always pray for the right thing. How often have we heard men ask in public prayer that this church will continue to be an influence in this community? What influence? If the people

who comprise the church are not active in trying to share the gospel in this community, we're having no influence! A local church doesn't influence a community by merely existing, especially when most of us don't live here. Being "open for business" means little. Instead, we should pray earnestly that God would open doors for us to share His word - and we must really mean it. Paul wrote, "*Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word...*" (Col. 4:2-3). We don't need idle, halfhearted prayers that pay lip-service to seeking the lost. We need earnest and oft-repeated prayers for God's help. And we also need to pray that our hearts are willing and eager. Many of us lack motivation, not know-how. Pray that God will stir us up to see the urgent need for taking the gospel to others.

## FAMILY TALK

Continue to remember and check on our shut-ins: **Bonnie Allgor, Maxine Burnham, W.H. McFerrin, and Francine Davis.** Cards, calls and visits are ALWAYS needed and appreciated.

**Ladies Bible Class:** The next class will be on Tuesday, **Jan. 14, 2020.** There will be no class in December.

**WELCOME!** Please welcome **Brady Allen Ellis.** He was born on Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>. He and Audra are home and doing fine. (Randy is also doing great.)

Our hearts are saddened at the passing of **Willie Margaret Mobley.** She was a faithful and long-time member here at Franklin Drive. She had been unable to attend with us for a long time, but we hope to be with her again. Our deepest sympathies to **Sarah** and all of the family.

**Elizabeth Eaton** is at home recovering from her knee surgery.

**Amanda McWhorter** is home recovering from her surgery.

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

**Matt. 7:13** *"Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it."*

(Continued from Page 1)

**We must learn to mention spiritual things in everyday conversation.** This is what it means to "speak Jesus"; simply referring to Him in normal discussions with people. Why should we think it so difficult? If the Lord is truly in our hearts, shouldn't He also be on our lips? As Jesus explained, "*where your treasure is, there will your heart be also*" ([Matt. 6:21](#)). The question I have to ask myself is not, "Do I know how to teach the Bible," but, "Is Jesus really in my heart?"

Perhaps one reason Jesus isn't always in our hearts as He should be is because we lose the sense of urgency and passion we once had for salvation. Over time, that passion can cool to the point that we take our Christianity for granted. We settle into the routine of "going to church" and "serving the Lord" through ritualistic worship. Shame on us. The Lord is looking for men and women with a passion for salvation in Christ and for those souls still in desperate need of the Savior.

So how do we "speak Jesus"? We simply talk about Him. We refer to God and spiritual things in normal conversation with people. There's no secret formula. There are no magic words. It just takes normal language in normal conversations. How difficult is it to ask, "Hasn't the Lord given us a beautiful day today?" And if we're bold enough to ask someone about his relationship to the Lord, they may be quick to change the subject. But that's the nature of fishing. You don't catch every fish and shouldn't expect to. But occasionally, spiritual words will resonate with someone and you'll have a conversation on your hands. Here is your opportunity! You

can invite people to sit with you and read God's word together. You can invite them to be a part of a Neighborhood Bible Study. You can invite them to a regular Sunday assembly, although more private settings are most effective these days. The choice is yours. A few words fitly spoken can have eternal consequences for people we meet.

What if we have already tried to talk with those we know about the Lord and have run out of prospects? Then it's time to broaden our base of acquaintances. Our lives rotate around family, work, and church. For the most part, we see the same people all the time. We might be able to increase acquaintances when our kids are active in school or sports, but not everybody has that option. So what do we do?

To be sure, we can't just sit around bemoaning the fact that we don't know who to talk to! We must get out of our comfort zone and into the world around us. *If we're serious about taking the gospel to people, we must first take ourselves to the people.* It means we must become active and involved in our communities. Volunteer at the hospital or local library. Join Rotary or the Boys and Girls Club. Build houses with Habitat for Humanity. The opportunities are endless.

Immediately people will protest, "But I don't have time." It's true that some of us have more time than others. But let's be honest. Very often we're just too selfish with our time. Or maybe we don't manage our time well enough to allow for

anything extra in our lives. Yet somehow we find time for what's important to us, don't we? Taking the gospel to others *must become important* to us. It is not an "intrusion" into my life to spend time leading others to Christ. It should be a normal part of discipleship. It's what Christians do.

So what about us? We share with the apostles the mandate to "*Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.*" The world isn't going to come to us; we must get up and go to the world.

## The Way of the Cross

One of our songs tells us that "the way of the cross leads home". But what is the "way of the cross"?

The cross is often used as a symbol of Jesus and His life. Following Jesus is the only way home – to heaven. Loving, teaching and living as He did is necessary.

The way of the "cross" would emphasize Jesus' suffering and all things involved in the cross. Gal. 3:13 tells us of the "curse" associated with hanging on a tree. Although we will probably never be crucified, our lives as Christian may include curses from the world for our living faithfully.

The cross represents the beginning of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection. On the cross, Jesus provided the perfect sacrifice to afford remission of sins. Our "death" is to our old man of sin, followed by our burial in baptism and resurrection to a new life.

Truly, the way of the cross is the only way that leads home. In Matt. 7:13-14 Jesus speaks of the broad and narrow ways. Jesus is **the way** (John 14:6), **the only way** to an eternal home in heaven with God.