

## SUNDAY MORNING

### Announcements

Bryan Garlock

### Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

### Lord's Supper

Jon Barry      Cole Meador  
Jerry Schnelle      Joseph Barry

### Prayers

Rodney Ellis      Melvin Potts

## SUNDAY EVENING

### Announcements

Bryan Garlock

### Scripture Reading

Clay Morris

### Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

### Lord's Supper

Cole Meador      Jerry Schnelle

### Prayers

Mark Davis      Pete Rowland

## WEDNESDAY

### Announcements

Mark Davis

### Song Leader

Clay Morris

### Prayers

Cole Meador      Jack Calvert

### Invitation

Bryan Garlock

## 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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Issue 3

## “Where Is God When I Really Need Him?”

Bryan Garlock

Occasionally you will hear people who are going through difficult times say, “Where is God in all this?” or “Where is God when I really need Him?” They perceive no divine help in a time when they believe God ought to do something on their behalf. Let us examine several problems with this charge against God.

First, this charge is hardly ever said in faith, that is, “Why does it feel like God has abandoned me? Regardless I will serve Him with all my heart.” In fact, this is the attitude found in several Psalms. While many Psalms open with a question of God’s whereabouts, the author does not lose confidence and pledges to love and serve God regardless of whether He offers divine help. Rather, those who often utter these words do so rashly and in anger. Their words indicate that God owes them something while they metaphorically beat their chest: “Where are you, God? I’m suffering! I’ve served you! If you love me, where are you?” It is one thing to question

God with a determination to serve despite the answer, it is another thing to demand God’s help, especially as if He owes you anything. The perspective we must have is that the only thing we have earned is eternal punishment for our sins; that is what He owes us! Anything God chooses to do for us is a gift of grace and mercy.

Secondly, this charges God with doing nothing, as if we know God is doing nothing about our situation. The fact that God works in our lives is seen in the creation around us: “he upholds the universe by the word of his power”. (Heb. 1.3) This means, that when you wake up to a risen sun each morning, it is God that caused that sun to rise. We will never understand nor fathom the intricate details that are necessary for the sun to rise, let alone to create the sun and all its glory from nothing, as He so effortlessly did in the beginning. God is constantly working in our lives. He

## FAMILY TALK

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

**Ladies Bible Class:** The next class is Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020.

### Mark Your Calendar

**Friday, April 3: Annual Singing**  
**April 5-8 (Sun. – Wed.): Gospel Meeting** with **Jonathan Glaesemann** from Stonewall. LA.

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

(cont. from pg. 1)

works in our lives when times are good and everything is going our way, and we never question Him, and He is working during the hard seasons of life too. The fact that some question God shows the futility of human control or power to do anything about it because we are completely helpless to the things that are beyond our control. Ironically, we admit this when we question God! Then we accuse God and abandon the only hope we have because we do not perceive any help from Him. Who, then, is the one at fault? The One who raises the sun or the one who in the height of arrogance says: "Where is God in all this?" The only appropriate response to One who can

bring light that sustains our well-being is humility, fear, and trembling at His power.

Interestingly, God sometimes treats us like we sometimes treat our own children. There are times when children need their parents to "step back" and let them learn some important lessons. Why? There is a point in each child's life where we can no longer "hold their hand" and make decisions for them. We pray that our training and the wisdom that we have imparted will go well with them in life. We practice things like "tough love" because, honestly, we do love them with all our hearts and so we put our children through painful training to teach them a better way — sometimes it is just necessary. Perhaps it is that God is teaching us through suffering. Honestly, that is the best training because it strengthens our character. We do not learn patience, trust, and self-control when life is in our favor and there will be no need to hope in Him.

Thirdly, this charges God with having no compassion, as if He is unconcerned with our problems. Do we really want to make this charge against our Savior who took care of our greatest need — sin — by suffering and dying? Once we realize that our sins would have damned us to eternal suffering without our Savior's help, our troublesome times do not even compare. What is cancer? What is financial problems? What is pain and suffering of any kind? (See 2 Cor. 4.17-18) Furthermore, where were we when Jesus was suffering for us? We were enjoying sinful pleasures and rejecting the goodness of God (Eph. 2; Rom. 5)! It is selfish to claim God is not there when we suffer and yet we had no concern for God when He was there!

We must understand that God feels everything His children have to endure in this

world. When Saul was "breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord" (Acts 9.1), Jesus appeared to him and said, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" (vs. 4). Interestingly, Jesus had been dead for some time and yet He said that Saul was persecuting Him. The reason is that when the church (the body of Christ) feels pain, the head of the body feels it too. This works the other way as well. When we do good to our brethren, Jesus experiences joy from those blessings. When Matthew recorded the judgment scene and one of the ways that Jesus will judge mankind, we read about Jesus blessing those with eternal life who did good to Him. However, they responded, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you? And the King will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'" (Matt. 25.37-40).

There are many more points we could make about this type of accusation. However, we must learn that when we feel like God has abandoned us, that is not the time to waver in our faith, to forsake assembling with our brothers and sisters, and to run from God. It is a time to strengthen our faith in the knowledge of God through meditating on His faithful word.

Where is God in our hardships? He is ruling on His throne. BG

## Are You A Crusader?

Greta Thunberg. Ralph Nadar. Jane Fonda. These are just a few of the people, past and present who make international news because they are working for a cause. We may question their motives or the worthiness of their causes, but for whatever reasons, they devote a great deal of time and energy and resources in an attempt to accomplish what they believe to be necessary goals. They are crusaders.

When we hear the word "Crusader" our first thoughts may be the historical "Christian" Crusaders who fought against the Muslims. But look at these current meanings of the word:

- someone who makes a determined effort to achieve or stop something because of their strong beliefs
- a person who campaigns vigorously for political, social, or religious change; a campaigner.
- a person who makes an impassioned and sustained effort to bring about social or political change

You already know the question I am going to ask. "Are you a crusader?" To answer "yes", you must have these qualities:  
1. You must have a cause.  
2. You must believe strongly in that cause.  
3. You must spend time, energy and resources on that cause. (Note the words I underlined in the definitions.)

### ***Are you a Crusader for God? For Jesus? For the Gospel?***

*(Or are your crusades more political or social? Are you more concerned about worldly causes and goals that spiritual? Social justice, world peace, political rights, the environment? Brethren, we MUST have our minds and hearts CRUSADING for God!*