

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements

Jon Barry

Song Leader

Jack Calvert

Lord's Supper

Rodney Ellis Jerry Schnelle
Joseph Barry Pete Rowland

Prayers

Clay Morris Melvin Potts

SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements

Jon Barry

Scripture Reading

Joseph Barry

Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper

Jerry Schnelle Rodney Ellis

Prayers

Gerald Eaton Pete Rowland

WEDNESDAY

Announcements

Daniel Allgor

Song Leader

Bryan Garlock

Prayers

Bryan Garlock Wendell Mobley

Invitation

Jon Barry

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 47

Building a Relationship with God Through Prayer

Bryan Garlock

God desires and demands that those who belong to Him must resemble Him (Eph. 5.1). Peter said, "As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'" (1 Peter 1.14-16) Repeatedly, we learn that it is those who rid themselves of sinful attitudes and pleasures and who seek forgiveness in Jesus that draw near to God — where He can be found (James 4.7-9; Heb. 4.14-16; 7.25; 11.6). Thus, being holy demands one to separate from his or her former conduct and to dedicate themselves to serving Jesus.

One aspect of holiness is our practice of prayer. In fact, our holiness, or lack thereof, directly affects our communication with our Father. For example, Peter states that our prayers will be hindered if we mistreat our spouse (1 Peter 3.7). He continued, "...all of you, have

unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. For 'Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.'" (8-12) Notice that our aim to be holy provides us access to the Father's ears.

While we have established what is necessary to be heard by our Father, we must see that maintaining holiness is more than behaving in a godly way, it is the actual communication with Him.

Sometimes we sing "take time to be holy, speak oft with our Lord" (from the

FAMILY TALK

Continue to remember and check on our shut-ins: **Willie Margaret Mobley, 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.

Maxine Burnham was in the hospital for a few days this past week.

Elizabeth Eaton had knee replacement surgery this past week. She is at home recovering.

Amanda McWhorter had surgery on Friday.

Max Rankins had his tonsils removed on Thursday.

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

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song, Take Time To Be Holy). It is by speaking often with our God that we continue to be holy.

For example, consider a husband and wife that barely speak to one another. How is the relationship being nourished? While there will be growth in the relationship, the two parties will be growing apart rather than growing closer. We would all agree, then, that communication and spending time with

one another is vital to a loving and flourishing relationship.

Thus, we need to view prayer as something more than making our supplications — asking for wants and needs — known (Eph. 6:18; Phil. 4:6; 1 Tim. 2:1). In fact, prayers are so much more than just asking for blessings. We need to view prayer as a relationship builder with our Creator. If we want to grow closer to Him, it is necessary to spend time with Him, in communication. Even more so, as we devote real time to God in prayer, we are deepening our trust in Him. Ultimately, as children, we show our care for the Father by our desire to speak with Him. One would do well to study the Psalms to see how the Psalmist praises and offers thanksgiving and makes his supplications known as a way to grow closer to God.

Is your relationship with God flourishing? If not, is it because you are not communicating with Him? How, then, can you possibly remain holy? BG

A Living Sacrifice

A. Thornberry

Rom. 12:1-2 instructs me to be a living sacrifice, "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God — this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — His good, pleasing and perfect will." My sacrifice should be pleasant to God, (II Corinthians 2:15), not offensive as in Deuteronomy 17:1. Although we no longer live under the Old Law, we serve

the same God (Hebrews 13:8 & Malachi 3:6). Creator of all does not require animal sacrifices but He does require a living sacrifice — Me!

What do I offer to Him today?

Am I giving God my best each day?

Is there an effort made on my part in my Christian walk?

When it's time to worship, am I prepared?

Following are some examples of offerings.

1. A quiet life of focus that includes study of God's Word.
Psalms 118:24; I Thessalonians 4:11-12
2. An active prayer life.
Matthew 6:5-8; Proverbs 28:9; Romans 8:26-27
3. Be steadfast and vigilant.
Psalms 119:80, 97, 102-104, 128; Hebrews 3:14; 6:11; I Peter 3:17-18; 5:8-9
4. Practice producing fruit of the Spirit.
Galatians 5:22-26; Ephesians 4:30-5:2
5. Maintain a heart of gratefulness.
Romans 14:6-8; I Corinthians 15:57; Ephesians 5:20
6. Worship at appropriate times and ways.
Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 14:40; I Timothy 2:9-12
7. Display to the world love, not hate or racial prejudice.
Matthew 5:43-45
8. Service to others using the talents, gifts, blessings and resources given.
Proverbs 3:27; Galatians 6:9-10; Ephesians 5:13-15; I Corinthians 15:58

9. Teach others whenever possible — living a godly example before all people
II Timothy 3:15

What am I offering up?

FEAR!!!

"Bad News Makes Headlines!" And that is more true today than ever. Occasionally you will see a "good" story in the news, but not often. Why do you suppose that bad news has such an appeal? And why should we, as children of God, be caught up in this fear. After all, God through Paul tells us we have nothing to fear – from **ANYONE** or **ANYTHING**. Read these verses carefully:

Rom. 8:31-39 *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*