

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements

Song Leader

Lord's Supper

Prayers

SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements

Scripture Reading

Song Leader

Lord's Supper

Prayers

WEDNESDAY

Announcements

Song Leader

Prayers

Invitation

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.

WWW.TXKCHURCH.COM

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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Volume XXV

April 5, 2020

Issue 15

Barnabas

Bill Brittenham

Act 4:36 *Now Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth, who was also called Barnabas by the apostles (which translated means Son of Encouragement),*

I'm sure we've all heard the expression, "It takes all kinds". Frequently this is used to explain someone who is oddly different or irritating in some way. But it really is true. It takes all kinds to really do much of anything. It reminds me of a time when I was working, one of my colleagues made some sort of belittling statement about our messenger. I pointed out to them that without our messenger, none of us would get paid because she was the one who took the time sheets to be input so we could get paid. From trash collector to CEO, it truly does take all kinds.

This is of course true in the church. God gave us the example of the Corinthian brethren. The first letter from Paul starts out with the bias they had for their

favorite preacher. In chapter 12, Paul uses the body as an example of "It takes every kinds" and condemns the brethren for their jealousy over gifts and abilities. He talks about members and their differences in honor or presentability. (Which is more honorable, to preach or clean the baptistry?) Instead of comparing ourselves and our abilities to others, we should be thanking God for what we have and what we can do. And that brings us to Barnabas.

Barnabas plays a fairly active part throughout the book of Acts and we could spend some profitable time studying these passages. (Please look at all the references to Barnabas in the NT.) But I want to focus on his "nickname", Son of Encouragement. Paul told Timothy in 2 Tim. 4:2 to reprove, rebuke and exhort. (Exhortation is from the same word as

FAMILY TALK

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

Vera Ellis fell and suffered a bad break in her arm. Because of the current situation, she will not be having surgery at this time. Please pray for her.

Mike and **Debbie Davis** are doing better but please continue to pray for them.

Last Sunday we were able to begin meeting together on line. For now, the schedule is:

Bible Study:	9:30 AM
Services:	10:15 AM
Kids Only:	5:00 PM
Wednesday:	7:00 PM

Additionally, we may have short meetings or devotionals a couple of times during the week.

If you are not already set up to participate, please let **Bryan** know.

Also, a huge Thank You to **Bryan** and **Daniel** for all of their effort to make this possible.

Ladies Bible Class: *Suspended until further notice.*

Our singing, Friday, April 3 and our Gospel Meeting, April 5-8 have both been postponed indefinitely.

encouragement.) So, it seems that at least part of a preacher's work is to exhort. But again, I don't want to focus on preachers alone. What lessons can all of us learn from Barnabas' nickname?

Barnabas was known for encouraging others. The original word for encouragement literally means to "call near" or "call to one's side". The picture presented by the word is someone calling a friend close to their side (perhaps even putting their arm around their shoulder) to instruct or comfort or encourage. You can see the love and care shown, wanting to help in some way. This was Barnabas. He encouraged because he cared. Looking at the passages about Barnabas we can see examples of this. But what about you and me?

To encourage, we must first care. And true encouragement comes from love. Do we care about our brothers and sisters? Do I love them, actively seeking what is in their best interest? Real encouragement will not come from obligation. While we are commanded to exhort and encourage one another, being a Son of Encouragement comes from genuine care and love. Encouragement should be a goal toward which we work.

We are not told the different ways Barnabas encouraged those around him, but we can see several ways we can be Sons of Encouragement today.

Call someone close to your side. Think of something good you observed about this person or notice a quality that is special to them. Pull them aside after services and tell

them how much you appreciate them for what they do. (Or call them and tell them.)

Call someone on the phone.

Especially during this time, we cannot be together in person, let them know you miss seeing them. Or that you miss their observations made in class. Or just check to see how they are doing.

Mail them a card. Let them know you are thinking of them and wish them well, even if they are not sick or it's their birthday. (And if you don't do snail mail, email or text them a card.)

Look at the directory and call someone every few days just to say "Hi".

We could probably find many more examples. But if we just think about our brothers and sisters, we will find ways to encouraging them and be **Sons of Encouragement.**

REJOICE!

Bill Brittenham

Phil. 4:4-9 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, **rejoice!** Let your gentle *spirit* be known to all men. **The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing**, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And **the peace of God**, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is

lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, **dwell on these things.** The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and **the God of peace will be with you.**

This is absolutely one of my favorite passages in the Bible. Here are a few thoughts:

1. **Rejoice in the Lord ALWAYS; AGAIN I will say REJOICE!** Brethren, that's a **COMMANDMENT** if I've ever seen one. If we can't and aren't rejoicing in the Lord, then maybe we should reexamine our faith.

2. **The Lord is near.** While we don't know when Jesus will return for the final judgment, His coming is one day closer than yesterday. And I am one day closer to facing Him in judgment. And for that, Paul says, **"REJOICE!"**

3. **Don't Worry About It!** Instead, let your requests and prayers and thanksgivings be made known to God.

4. **The peace of God.** The peace we can have in Him is beyond all comprehension and will guard us in Christ.

5. **FINALLY!** Look at this list **very** carefully. Then think about what you have been thinking today, this week, this month. I suspect that many have been consumed with news about the virus. Now three challenges: 1) Where does dwelling on news of the virus fit into Paul's list??? 2) Make a list of all the things you have thought in the past week that **DO** fall within Paul's list. And, 3) Write down each thing Paul says to dwell on and actually spend time dwelling on each one of them - physical things and spiritual things.

I promise you, like Paul promised and God has promised, doing what Paul says in these verses will help.