

## SUNDAY MORNING

### Announcements

Rodney Ellis

### Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

### Lord's Supper

Jon Barry, Alec Capel

Jerry Schnelle

### Prayers

Mike Davis, Clay Morris

## WEDNESDAY EVENING

### Announcements

Mark Davis

### Song Leader

Clay Morris

### Prayers

Alec Capel, Jerry Schnelle

### Invitation

Daniel Allgor

“When I think on my ways, I turn my feet to your testimonies; I hasten and do not delay to keep your commandments.”

Ps 119.59-60

## ABOUT US

### Elders

Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis

### Deacons

Jon Barry Mike Davis

Clay Morris

### Evangelist

Bryan Garlock

## SERVICE TIMES

### Sunday

Bible Study .....9:30 A.M.

Worship .....10:15 A.M.

### Monday (Zoom)

Bible Study .....7:00 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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## Stalking Its Prey Don Truex

Did you see the story on the news about the Tampa man who awoke to find a three foot alligator in his bedroom? It seems these good folks leave their garage door open a bit at night so their cats can go in and out. They also have a pet door that swings both ways entering their kitchen. The gator obviously came in the garage, squeezed through the small opening in the door and began to roam the house.

Does that remind you of anything? Isn't that much the way sin works in our lives? Remember what God said to Cain: "If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it" (Genesis 4:7).

Most people don't take sudden, dramatic, headlong falls into sinful behavior. No, it's usually much more subtle. A poor thought, an ill-chosen word, an unthinking action, and the door for the devil has been effectively opened. He's not an alligator, but a "roaring lion". And by the way, a lion roars, not while stalking its prey, but as it's about to pounce and "devour".

The upshot of that is a need to be sure that we don't give the devil a foothold, a launching pad from which to operate in our lives. We need to be sure that the devil is kept at bay by thoughts, words and deeds that make for peace with God, peace with others, and peace with our self. Make no mistake: It's much easier to keep the devil outside your life than it is to deal with him once he has free reign inside your house.

## FAMILY TALK

Continue to remember the health concerns of *Francine Davis, Gerald Eaton, Joey Avance, Jerry Schnelle, Bonnie Allgor, Pat Buls, Sonny & Cathy Monaghan, Beth Ellen,* and *Pete Rowland.*

Please continue to pray for Joey's dad, and for Joey!

Pete had a mild heart attack Friday night and is in the hospital. He may be going home today.

Unfortunately, Cathy's cancer is back and has spread.

I've tried talking some this week and the throat pain was gone, but now it is back. So, I am not done healing yet. I go back to the doctor on May 4.

## You're My Hero Don Truex, edited

"Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ."

So said Paul to the Christians at Corinth (1 CR 11:1). It seems God wants and expects the children's game, i.e., "Follow the Leader," much more than the Star Trek theme, i.e., "to boldly go where no man has gone before." I fear the latter is more popular than the former in many quarters in

2022. But that's another article for another time.

Paul assumes that we're in this together...that there are others who are following the same Biblical pattern as we are. He assumes there are spiritual footprints that mark the way; that Christ and the apostles left examples and teaching that, when followed, keep us from stumbling.

Some are ahead of us in this walk; they're older, wiser, more experienced. Empty nesters, veteran teachers, experienced leaders...there is much to learn from those who've walked where we haven't.

Some are behind us in this walk. There will always be some, because of youth or inexperience, who will look to you for an example of how to deal with success or disappointment or toddlers or teenagers. Someone is always looking to you and following your example. When they do, where will you lead them?

Who are your spiritual heroes? What is it about them that you admire? What is it about their walk, attitudes, words, choices and engagement in the kingdom that impresses you? And have you ever thought that your name might well be on someone's similar list?

Doesn't it make sense that if you "imitate" what faithful and strong Christians do, you'll be faithful and strong? But, too, if you "imitate" what weak or critical or lukewarm Christians do you'll be weak or critical or lukewarm?

More than just "going to church" on Sunday, what are the strong and righteous doing? What do they do at work to stay strong and righteous?

What do they read? What shows do they watch? What do they do in their spare time? What do they do to stay connected to God? What do they do to stay connected to their church family? If you don't know, find out. Have lunch with a spiritual giant and ask them.

"Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ." Do what Christ did. Do what His apostles did. Do what righteous, spiritual, heroes who are following Christ and the apostles do. Do what the strong do and you'll be strong. We need to look to others. And remember, others will be looking to you, too.

## "...And Nothing But the Truth" Don Truex

I love the story of the man who stepped on a scale that not only tells your weight but also gives your "fortune." As soon as the little card appeared, his wife grabbed it away. She read aloud to her husband, "You are courageous, intelligent, have leadership qualities and are respected by women for your character." Then she added, "It has your weight wrong, too!"

Ouch! Human nature simply doesn't change. We like to have our ego stroked. The cry through the ages has been, "Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits" (Isaiah 30:10).

There has always been risk involved in preaching the "whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:27). Paul realized this and having said some hard things to the Galatians asked, "Am I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?" (Galatians 4:16). And yet, God demands that we speak the unadulterated truth

without respect of persons. As older gospel preachers used to say, "Without fear or favor."

So what shall we do? Shall we speak solely of compassion and overlook the clear commands of God regarding the discipline of the wayward? Shall we overlook the denominational perversion of the scheme of redemption, security of the believer, or nature of the Godhead in order to placate our neighbors? Shall we stop affirming that Allah is not, never has been and never shall be, Jehovah, in order to be politically correct? Of course not.

Regardless of the reaction of the hearer, the truth must be proclaimed on these and a thousand other subjects: From the centrality of baptism to the error of instrumental music, from the abstention from ungodliness in every form to the practice of righteousness in every venue.

It is not, however, our prerogative to be either ungodly in attitude or underhanded in action in our work of preaching. C.S. Lewis is reported to have observed, "A man's message will always be heard in the context of his character."

Our obligation is to "speak the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15). Both sides of that equation are important to God and effective with man. I am grateful that our grand "brotherhood" is populated by men who preach faithfully, elders who demand it be so, and Christians who love truth and each other.