

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements

Rodney Ellis

Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper

Jack Calvert, Alec Capel
Jerry Schnelle

Prayers

Bill Rinehart, Joseph Barry

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Announcements

Mark Davis

Song Leader

Clay Morris

Prayers

Randy Ellis, Daniel Allgor

Invitation

Jon Barry

it your goal to get around to as many as you can in the short time they are there. When you have done that, then return to your "circles." The greater number of brethren who can make less involved brethren feel welcome, feel attachment to the body, feel a sense of belonging, feel a bond of love — the greater becomes our oneness and their encouragement to serve the Lord faithfully.

Greeting one another is a great work and an important act of usefulness. Show yourself friendly!

ABOUT US

Elders

Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis

Deacons

Jon Barry Mike Davis
Clay Morris

Evangelist

Bryan Garlock

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

Bible Study9:30 A.M.
Worship10:15 A.M.

Monday (Zoom)

Bible Study7:00 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



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Issue 14

**Some Inspired Name-Dropping
Kenny Chumbley**

"Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego ... Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego." (Daniel 3:12–30)

Thirteen times in nineteen verses three Hebrews, best known to us by their Chaldean names, are mentioned. Offhand, I can't recall any other place in Scripture where we have such a remarkable repetition involving proper names. At the very least, I think the inspired writer wants us to remember the names of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

And why should we? Surely, the reason is indicated in Hebrews 11 where we read of those who quenched the violence of fire by faith (11:34). We ought to remember Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego because the faith they possessed was the genuine commodity.

Theirs wasn't a conditional bargain that offered to exchange trust in God for deliverance from a superheated furnace (which, by the way, is mentioned or alluded to fifteen times in Daniel 3). They didn't know if deliverance would come—"If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it ... but even if he does not ... we will not serve your gods" (3:17–18)—but they knew what they would do.

And in this, they give us an unforgettable glimpse into true belief. Conditional faith isn't faith at all. "I believe in God because He answered my prayer"; but what if He had not answered your prayer? "I believe in

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.*

We had a wonderful gospel singing this past Friday. If you are interested in a copy of the singing, please see Daniel.

Next week is our gospel meeting with Don Truex (April 8-10).

Next week after the assembly we will be having lunch at Clay and Laci's house (Sunday, April 10).

God because He gave me a job"; but what if He had not given you a job? What if you lost your job, would you still believe? Satan claimed Job's faith was conditional ("he only believes in you because of how you've blessed him — take away all his things and he'll curse you"). So in a single day Job lost all his things but instead of cursing he said, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." "The problem," countered the Accuser, "is that the furnace isn't hot enough. Take away his health and he'll curse you to your face." So Job lost his health, not to a lingering cold, but to some hideous sickness. But instead of cursing, Job's response was, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust him."

Real faith isn't a quid pro quo, something for something. It's a conviction that says even if deliverance doesn't come, I'll still stand up for Jesus!

Is there reason for us believing in the God revealed in the Bible? And is there reason for continuing to believe even when it seems God has turned against us "without cause" (Job 1:3)? If the answer is yes (and it is!), THEN LET US BELIEVE, even if it kills us! False faith believes because it's beneficial; real faith believes because it's right.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—these names forever testify to the fact that true faith isn't believing in spite of evidence, but obeying in spite of consequences.

I'll close with how my friend Jim McGuiggan concluded his comments on Daniel 3 — "The promotion of the believers follows [their deliverance from the furnace]. But it's not what happened on earth that was of real consequence; it was how they were viewed in heaven. If heaven smiles, then all is really well." At the end of Daniel 3, heaven was smiling.

Wednesday Night Services Whit Sasser

- At Wednesday night services, the Bible is taught, the word of God Almighty.
- Wednesday night services increase our faith as we better understand and appreciate the unsearchable riches of God.
- Wednesday night services are a midweek respite from life in a sinful world, a recharge of our spiritual batteries.

- Wednesday night services help prepare us to meet life's challenges.
- Wednesday night services help build stronger character.
- Wednesday night services provide an opportunity to associate with brethren and encourage each other.
- Wednesday night services provide an opportunity to bring others with you to hear the gospel of Christ.
- Wednesday night services enable us to join our hearts in prayer and praising God in song.
- Wednesday night services may be the time when you hear some truth that will change your life forever.

If you don't attend Wednesday night services...

- What do you do with that time?
- How does that activity compare to these blessings?
- Which activity will better help you go to heaven?
- Which is a better use of your time?

Get Out of Your Circle L.A. Stauffer

Greetings and salutations were a standard part of Christianity in the first-century church. It is still seen centuries later as an avenue of good will — a universal way of showing friendliness or expressing best wishes.

"Hello" or "How are you" are common greetings today that open up conversations; that provide opportunities to question people, express feelings, develop acquaintances, or

find out needs; that let people know we are interested in them. Among brethren the ultimate goal is to create a bond of affection among all — from the richest to the poorest, the youngest to the oldest, males to the females, and the noblest to the commonest. All of this brings me to the point of this writing. Brethren, "get out of your circle!" It is so easy before and immediately after services to drift or slide into comfortable relationships and spend all our time visiting and bonding with people we already know, appreciate, and love dearly. It is a prevalent practice everywhere I have had opportunity to visit.

I see, for example, the same old groups visiting together at every service. I see the young folks congregate at the same location in the auditorium; I see older couples standing around together as though they had an appointed place; and I see certain families at their same spots week after week.

Now you understand, of course, that nothing is wrong with this. We all need those close, intimate friends with whom we can relax, laugh, and exchange pleasantries. But, my point here is that we have plenty of time to do this after lesser known brethren are gone. Get around to brethren who are less involved, who will be gone within a few minutes, who do not feel a connection, who are gone so soon because they feel no bond among us.

Now I also understand that with some this is not possible. Many are gone before you could possibly get around to them. But there are still a good many brethren who are there but have no strong sense of belonging. Make