

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements

Bill Brittenham

Song Leader

Jack Calvert

Lord's Supper

Clay Morris Daniel Allgor

Mark Davis

Prayers

Jerry Schnelle Rodney Ellis

SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements

Scripture Reading

Song Leader

Lord's Supper

Prayers

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Announcements

Song Leader

Prayers

Paul told Timothy to tell the rich that they are "not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy" (1 Timothy 6:17). Only when we trust in the Lord and follow Him will we find what we are looking for.

ABOUT US

Elders

Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis

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 4

Do You Need To Be Encouraged or Warned?

Gary Henry

Next Sunday morning, which kind of sermon do you need to hear: a comforting lesson that helps you deal with discouragement or one that gets in your face and warns you to take God more seriously? Depending on your circumstances, you will probably need one more than the other, but whatever your needs are, the Scriptures have what you need.

If, despite your best efforts, you've been struggling and doubting whether you're going to make it to heaven, you need to be encouraged. You need to trust a God who is greater than your hardships, and there are texts in the Scriptures that you need to pay particular attention to. You need, for example, to hear Jesus encourage His disciples: "In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

But if you've been lax and overconfident lately, your problem lies in the opposite direction. You need to be

warned, and there are passages that will do just that. You need to hear, for example, the Lord blistering the Laodiceans: "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth" (Rev. 3:15-16).

Passages that give us solace and security (such as Heb. 4:16: "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need") are not in conflict with those that stress reverence and responsibility (such as Heb. 12:29: "For our God is a consuming fire"); they just address two different needs, both of which we will have at one time or another. The Bible is a medicine cabinet that contains both sedatives and stimulants; which medicine we need at a particular time depends on what is happening at that moment.

FAMILY TALK

Continue to remember and check on our shut-ins: **Bonnie Allgor, Maxine Burnham, Ann Thomas** and **Francine Davis**.

Welcome to our new brother, **Willie Standokes**. He was baptized into Christ last Sunday. He and his family have been worshipping with us for several weeks.

Holland Meador has been diagnosed with COVID.

Melodie Clemmons' medical procedure was successful.

Chris Stinson's tests were normal. More tests are scheduled.

Cathy Monaghan's test results were not good, but the doctor is optimistic she can be treated successfully.

Bryan Garlock's father has returned home.

Donna Mobley has moved to Cornerstone to continue her recovery.

Here is the current schedule of services:

Bible Study: 9:30 AM (and Zoom)

Services: 10:15 AM (and Zoom)

Kids Only: 5:00 PM

Monday: 7:00 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Thursday: 7:00 PM

Sunday Kid's Class and Monday, Wednesday and Thursday Classes are via Zoom

Ladies Bible Class has been suspended temporarily.

Over time, of course, all will need a balance of both, and that is one good argument for learning all that is in the Bible. We need to be so familiar with all the book of God that in the exigencies of any moment we can turn to the passage we need to hear at that moment. And not only that, we need to be able open the Bible and read to someone else what they most need to hear at that moment.

Any time a gospel preacher steps into the pulpit, he faces a tough challenge: he must judge the needs of a group of listeners wisely and present a lesson that meets the main need of the group as a whole, without doing damage to individuals in the audience whose needs lie in the opposite direction! A group that needs to be encouraged may contain an individual who is already overconfident concerning his salvation, and a lesson that comforts the group is likely to send that overconfident individual away confirmed in his overconfidence. On the other hand, a strong lesson that warns those who think they stand to take heed lest they fall is likely to have a discouraging effect on that downtrodden soul in the audience who was already doubtful of her salvation and now goes away thinking the task is even more impossible than she thought.

So what is the answer? It is that we all need all of God's word. And not only that, we need all of those who preach and teach God's word. Some individuals need encouraging while others need warning. Some congregations need to be comforted while others need to be confronted. Some preachers tend to be better encouragers while others do a better job of warning. It is the net effect of all of us doing what we personally think needs to be done that —

over time — will be the mix out of which God will bring forth the accomplishment of His purposes (1 Cor. 12:14-22). The work is much too important (and much too big for any individual) for us to waste time quibbling about whether someone else is putting the emphasis where we personally think it needs to be put.

And what is the application for me personally? It is that I probably need to hear that which I think I least need to hear! The preacher who emphasizes things that I think don't need to be emphasized is probably bringing a helpful counterbalance to my thinking. And the passages of Scripture that seem least congenial to my thinking on a given day are probably those that I most need to listen to.

Variety is more than just the spice of life; it's a requirement for spiritual survival. Do you want a deeper devotion to God? Do you want to be more devout? Then study Bible passages you think you don't need to study and listen to gospel sermons you think you don't need to listen to. Somehow, you'll be encouraged. Sooner or later, you'll be warned. And in the long run, you'll be healthier spiritually.

Real Contentment

Shane Williams

Man frequently thinks that IF only he were rich and famous he would finally be content. Too often we look with envy at those who are celebrities, thinking how much better our own lives would be if that were us. Becoming rich and famous does not guarantee contentment. If it did, multimillionaire athletes would not jeopardize their careers by turning to drugs. If it did, the occurrence of multiple

marriages among celebrities would not be commonplace. Obviously, real contentment must come from a foundation other than money and fame.

In Ecclesiastes 5, Solomon said we shouldn't be surprised when the poor are oppressed and when justice and righteousness are denied (vss. 8-9). His words sound as if they were written in 2010, instead of so many years ago. "If you see the poor oppressed in a district, and justice and rights denied, do not be surprised at such things; for one official is eyed by a higher one, and over them both are others higher still. (9) The increase from the land is taken by all; the king himself profits from the fields."

The life of those who love money is not as glamorous as it seems. They are never satisfied with what they have, and they face the emptiness of watching other people consume their riches (vss.10-11). Again this sounds like it was written to our society. "Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless. (11) As goods increase, so do those who consume them. And what benefit are they to the owner except to feast his eyes on them?"

The modest laborer, content with what he has, can sleep soundly, while the rich man lies awake at night worrying about his money (vs. 12). "The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether he eats little or much, but the abundance of a rich man permits him no sleep." These indeed are great words of wisdom that all of us today need to take to heart.

How about you? Are you frustrated or content?