

**SUNDAY MORNING**

**Announcements**

Jon Barry

**Song Leader**

Jack Calvert

**Lord's Supper**

Rodney Ellis Cole Meador

Joseph Barry

**Prayers**

Cole Meador Mark Davis

**SUNDAY EVENING**

**Announcements**

**Scripture Reading**

**Song Leader**

**Lord's Supper**

**Prayers**

**WEDNESDAY EVENING**

**Announcements**

**Song Leader**

**Prayers**

**Invitation**

*Col. 1:9-10 For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;*

**ABOUT US**

**Elders**

Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis

Jon Barry Bill Brittenham  
Mike Davis Clay Morris

**Evangelist**

Bryan Garlock

**SERVICE TIMES**

**Sunday**

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

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

Worship .....6:00 P.M.

**Wednesday**

Bible Study .....7:00 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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**Unspoken Prayer Requests**

Bryan Garlock

On social media you have probably seen “unspoken prayer request” posted by a friend. Why do we solicit prayers but conceal the reason? We are brothers and sisters in Christ; what is there to hide from one another?

“Well, it’s nobody’s business.” True. People do not have to know the problem to offer prayers. However, let us not conflate things that must remain unrevealed with things that ought to be known.

**The Need for Transparency**

As God’s children, we need to be transparent. We are to “confess your sins to one another and pray for one another”. (James 5.16) If we must confess sin, a task both humiliating and difficult, why can we not even tell our brethren about

our daily struggles? What can be more humiliating than confessing sin?

The fact is, vagueness will not give us the support we need nor does it allow our brethren to “bear one another's burdens”. (Gal. 6.2) While bearing burdens certainly involves prayer, it also involves a sense of carrying our brethren in their needs. Sometimes a wise brother can help us think through our issues or a strong sister can help us overcome a temptation through accountability. Perhaps a sister needs a shoulder to cry on because she is emotionally drained from all the troubles this life has put her through (2 Cor. 1.3-7). Oftentimes, however, we view prayer as the be-all and end-all — as if all we need is prayer. When this happens, our problems are not necessarily properly addressed.

## 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.

Please remember **Maxine Burnham** and **Jean Cronce** in your prayers.

Here is the current schedule of services:

**Bible Study: 9:30 AM**

**Services: 10:15 AM**

**Kids Only: 5:00 PM**

**Wednesday: 7:00 PM**

Additionally, we are having studies on the life of Paul:

**Monday: 7:00 PM**

**Friday: 7:00 PM**

**Ladies Bible Class:**

**Next class will be July 14<sup>th</sup>.**

**Class will be at 7:00 PM on Zoom.**

**(Please use Bryan's Zoom address.)**

## Colossians 1:3

*"We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you"*

Can we, with our brother Paul, say the same thing about our brothers and sisters? Are we truly thankful for each other? Do we pray always for our "church family"? Do we see each other as God's family, the flock of Jesus or just "those people that go to the same church"?

**Phil. 2:3-4**

Openness among brethren allows mature brethren to share how they overcame their past mistakes, problems, or bad choices with the grace of God. This is where that wise brother or sister that God has given you is necessary. Keeping things to ourselves is how we deprive others of bearing our burdens. Furthermore, we are to develop brotherly affection for one another so that we weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice (Rom. 12.15).

Lack of transparency often causes unnecessary worry by those who receive the request. The post is made: "I cannot tell you what I am dealing with, but I need you to pray for me." Then friends begin to worry and comment: "What is going on?" "If you need me, call me." "What's wrong?" "Praying. Is there anything I can do for you?" "I'm worried about you, let's talk!"

Often, though, the next day's post shows them happy and problem-free. Was the problem resolved? Did the person overcome their issue? Was the worry and concern necessary? Brethren who love God will be worried about their spiritual family. Is their worry and concern being abused?

## The Motives Behind the Unspoken Prayer Request

What is the motivation for making vague prayer requests?

Are we just seeking attention? It is important to check our hearts when we

ask for prayer requests to be sure that we are looking for prayer to help us, not seeking attention by way of post "likes" and "comments".

Is it a quick fix to our anxiety or depression? Be careful not to fall victim to the "misery loves company" mindset.

Is it pride? It can certainly be humiliating for others to know the real reason we are asking for prayers. If we truly want help, we will be open with our request.

Is it because of the culture of the church? Some local churches have created an environment in which it is emotionally costly to share our problems openly. "What will people think?" "Will I be judged?" "Will people view me negatively?" Unfortunately, this keeps us from sharing ourselves with others. Brethren, we must change this by being understanding and merciful toward each other, and refusing to look down on one another (Luke 18.9-14). Remember, if you are saved, it will be by the grace of God. Treat one another with that in mind!

Is it shame? That is understandable. We are all ashamed of the things we have done in secret; it can be difficult to reveal these things. Consider Paul who was open about his past and used his sins to demonstrate the power of the gospel, glorifying Jesus for the grace he was shown. If we truly want help, we will be open with our request.

Let us make sure that our motives for posting these prayer requests are for the purpose of receiving help in a time of need.

Christians want the opportunity to pray to the Father on behalf of their brothers and sisters. However, Christians also want the opportunity to "bear each other's burdens" and to serve those who are in need. We cannot do that if others are not willing to make their needs known.

When we refuse to be open with our brethren, we tell unbelievers that we are unwilling to share our problems with our spiritual family. Perhaps it would be best to privately contact certain brethren for prayers rather than publicly plastering it all over social media. In fact, by going to your brethren in the local church, you will develop brotherly affection together.

Perhaps you are struggling with something. Ask the brethren for prayer so that we can pray for you, but remember that it might be necessary for you to be specific in your request so that we can join you in your struggles. In love, BG

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**1 Thess. 5:16-18** *Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*