

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements

Jon Barry

Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper

Rodney Ellis Cole Meador

Joseph Barry

Prayers

Jack Calvert Pete Rowland

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 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



Volume XXV

July 19, 2020

Issue 30

Should we Tell the Preacher our Problems?

Bryan Garlock

We noted in a previous article titled "Unspoken Prayer Requests" that we might conceal the reason why we need prayer from our brethren due to pride or shame. We learned that we must evaluate why we keep things from our brethren so that we can overcome the sin or daily struggles in our life and so that brethren can better serve us through accountability or wise instruction.

Another aspect of this happens in the foyer after the assembly: "Don't tell anyone, but I have..." "Don't tell anyone, but I am going through..." "Don't tell anyone, but I need..." These requests range from confessing personal sin to health issues to matters between family members or church members. And the number of times sentences have started with "Don't tell anyone..." is *countless*.

Why Do We Tell the Preacher Our Problems but Refuse to Tell Others?

Admittedly, but unfortunately, the preacher is seen as the forefront of the

church and is often placed on a pedestal for all to see and admire. And, unfortunately, brethren sometimes assign roles and responsibilities to him that Scripture simply does not. This can lead to a belief that the preacher is the most important aspect of the local church — and this is false!

Consequently, a preacher can be seen as their personal confidant, counselor, mediator, or any other role that is convenient for the situation. This places preachers above others when God expects His children to be working together to build up the church.

What Happens When We Do Not Tell the Church

When we fail to talk to our brothers and sisters about our problems, cares and temptations, we deny the church the opportunity to "bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal. 6.2). Asking the preacher to keep your secret to himself causes trouble for

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.

Please keep **Nancy Rowe's** nephews, **Cedrick Daniel** and **Johnny Walker**, in your prayers. Both are suffering from the Covid-19 virus. **Johnny** is improving, but **Cedrick** is still in very serious condition.

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 August 11th.

him in regards to his relationship with the elders and other brethren. In addition, he is the only one checking on you or helping you work through the issue. Your problem becomes his burden to bear rather than the brethren's. The fact is, God has given us our brothers and sisters to be a good example, instruct us in wisdom, and to hold each other accountable; *He did not just give us the preacher.*

When you talk to the preacher alone, you circumvent the duty and office of the elders. Rather than telling the preacher, Christians should tell the elders their problems. By not talking to the elders, members are hindering them in shepherding the flock (1 Peter 5.2-3). This is why sometimes preachers will say, "You ought to let the elders know". In doing so, the preacher is not trying to avoid responsibility for those in need, but is giving the problem to the ones that are required by God to bear the responsibility (Heb. 13.17).

In sharing your problems with the preacher only, you circumvent your responsibility to others. In matters of sin, you should be aware that confessing your fault to the preacher does not qualify as "confess[ing] your sins to one another and pray[ing] for one another". (James 5.16) Perhaps there is a brother or sister that is dealing with similar temptations and the two of you can hold each other accountable. Perhaps one who has overcome that sin can give you valuable instruction and encouragement. Above all, prayers will be offered on your behalf and the church can strengthen you. In reality, the preacher does not always have the answer and is not always qualified to help you in some areas; that is why God has given us many brothers and sisters. And we — to our detriment — fail to receive this blessing.

While preachers appreciate the confidence, their brethren have in them, we should understand that when we place all the responsibility on preachers, we fail to appreciate and apply God's design and wisdom in dealing with our problems properly. In love, Bryan

Losing the Battle in the Brain

Aaron Kemple

Proverbs 22:13 - The sluggard says, "There is a lion outside! I shall be killed in the streets!"

I was having a discussion with my young son about math recently. He was trying to do his math, and I could see he really was struggling to keep going on it. He was working on multiplication problems, and he was just going downhill mentally and emotionally. He had gotten himself worked up to where he didn't remember 3x7, which he had used over and over. This wasn't a knowledge problem, it was a battle of the brain problem.

When I began to look at his work, overall he had done 90 percent of it right. But he was telling himself stories, like "I don't like Math." "This is too hard." "I don't want to do this." "I need help." "I can't figure it out." Yet he had done most of the work perfectly all by himself. But now he was at the brink of tears and unable to do a simply 3x7 because of the stories he was telling himself. He was shutting down.

So, I held him close to me and hugged him and told him that he wasn't losing the battle in the math workbook, he was losing the battle in his mind. I had him look at all the right things he had done on that page, and I had him say positive things about himself when it came to those he did right. "I am smart. I can do math. Look at all I did right. I can figure this out." By the way, brothers and sisters in Christ, do not disregard the power of meditating on the positive and telling yourselves hopeful things (Philippians 4:8). Paul says think about what is "true," so God does not want us to tell lies to ourselves.

You see, with this son, if he is doing art

or building Legos, there is nothing too hard for him. He is designing his own amazing and complex things out of Legos (good grief he is making his own Transformers out of Legos). His artwork for a young kid is just incredible. There is nothing too hard for him there. He certainly has a gift with art and designing things.

Maybe his "gift" will never be that he excels in Calculus or Nuclear Physics, and that is fine! We would not want to push him in a direction other than his natural talents and strengths. But what we do want for all of our kids is for them to learn to win the battle of the brain.

Don't defeat yourself before you even begin something by telling yourself I can't do this, or it's just too hard, or I'm just not able to figure it out. Maybe it isn't possible for you to do that task. That might be true. For example, the only way I'm ever going to dunk a basketball is if I use a step ladder or if the rim is adjusted to 7 feet! So there are limits to what we can do, no doubt. But that's not what I'm talking about. My point here in this article is to discuss how we can defeat ourselves from the beginning just by how we think and what we say.

I know I've lost that battle repeatedly, and I can see in my kids when they begin to go down that road. Look at that above passage from Proverbs, a person can tell himself there is a lion in the streets when no such lion exists. There is no real lion! The man did not step out to work because he told himself a wrong story in his brain.

What stories are you telling yourself? Are you losing the battle of the brain because of what you are saying to yourself?