

SUNDAY MORNING
<p>Announcements Mark Davis</p> <p>Song Leader Jack Calvert</p> <p>Lord's Supper Jerry Schnelle Pete Rowland Jon Barry</p> <p>Prayers Daniel Allgor Joseph Barry</p>
SUNDAY EVENING
<p>Announcements</p> <p>Scripture Reading</p> <p>Song Leader</p> <p>Lord's Supper</p> <p>Prayers</p>
WEDNESDAY EVENING
<p>Announcements</p> <p>Song Leader</p> <p>Prayers</p> <p>Invitation</p>

***Eph 5:6-8** Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them; for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light*

ABOUT US
<p>Elders</p> <p>Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis</p> <p>Jon Barry Bill Brittenham Mike Davis Clay Morris</p> <p>Evangelist Bryan Garlock</p>
SERVICE TIMES
<p>Sunday</p> <p>Bible Study9:30 A.M. Worship10:15 A.M. Worship6:00 P.M.</p> <p>Wednesday</p> <p>Bible Study7:00 P.M.</p>
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GOD’S PLAN FOR SALVATION
<p>Hear the word of truth Romans 10:13-17</p> <p>Believe the truth..... Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24</p> <p>Repent from all sins Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38</p> <p>Confess the name of Christ ... Matthew10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10</p> <p>Be Baptized in His name Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Colossians 2:12</p> <p>Walk in newness of life and be faithful unto death Romans 6:1-4; Revelation 2:10</p>



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Issue 27

Emptiness

Bill Brittenham

What do you do when your gas gauge points to “E”? What do you do when the milk carton is almost empty? What do you do with an empty stomach? The answer is the same as we used to say when we pulled into a full-service gas station, “Fill ‘er up.” The most common thing we do with something that is empty is to fill it up.

There is also an old expression that says, “Nature abhors a vacuum.” The thinking is that if a vacuum (nothing) exists, all the “somethings” around will rush in to fill it.

The Bible has a lot to say about “nothing” or emptiness. Consider **John 12:35**. “*So Jesus said to them, ‘For a little while longer the Light is among you. Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes.’*” While the comparison between light and darkness might lead us

to think that both light and dark exist, darkness is really the absence of light. For example, if it is night and you walk into a room, you can “turn on the light”, but if it’s daytime, you can’t walk into that same room and “turn on the dark”. A dark room is just empty of light.

Now think about our lives. Have you ever heard someone say, “Oh, my life is so empty”? They may mean they have nothing to do or don’t feel fulfilled or feel that they just need something in their lives. And while some actually say those words, I expect a great many more feel that their lives are empty or missing something. People want their lives to mean something. They want to feel like they matter. And they try to fill that emptiness with a job or entertainment or money or family or anything. Many make horrible choices attempting to fill their emptiness with drugs or alcohol or promiscuous sex.

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 Cronic** in your prayers.

Bill Brittenham is having tests on Tuesday regarding health issues

Brian Garlock's father is being tested for the Covid-19 virus.

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 14th.

Matt. 5:14-16 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

The self-help sections of bookstores are packed with volumes on how to fill our emptiness or correct the futile attempts we've made. But in reality, there are only two real sources that fill man's emptiness, God or the devil. One provides our lives with useless, hollow and rotten contents that still leave us empty. The other offers genuine, perfect and never-ending fulfillment and meaning.

Hopelessness. Just as darkness is the absence of light, hopelessness is the absence of hope. You may have heard "hope" defined as "a desire with a reasonable expectation of fulfilment." If you want something without any reason to believe it will happen, that is not hope. There has to be some reason to expect the desire to actually happen. Many people of the world want their lives to mean something. They want "more" out of life. But the world and the devil only offer false hope. People find themselves trying new things to fill their lives only to discover the fulfilment is short-lived or hollow or even non-existent. But since God is our Creator, He is the only One who knows perfectly what truly fulfills us. And since the devil is the father of all lies, we can absolutely rely on him to tempt us with wonderful expectations without giving us any true reasons to believe they will come true. In fact, because of his lies, his promises of happiness and fulfillment can only lead to misery and sorrow and disappointment.

Around us we see athletes or movie stars or millionaires who appear so happy and successful and we think, "If only I could be like them." We see people who

make more money than we do or live in nicer homes or have more "things" and we say, "I wish that was me." And maybe those people appear to be happy and fulfilled. But even if they are happy and contented with their lives now, remember the parable of the rich man and Lazarus. (Luke 16) We know, because our true and faithful God and Father has told us, that everything in this life is temporary and will pass away. (James 4:14; 2 Pet. 3:14-18) The apostle Paul knew riches and poverty, sickness and health, and fame and disgrace. (Phil. 4:10-13) Yet through everything he could say, "*I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am*". If our belief and faith and trust in God allow us to say those words with our brother Paul, we will not be empty or hopeless. We can with David say, "*My cup runneth over!*" (Psalm 23:5) And "*Jehovah is my hope!*" (Psalm 39:7; 71:5)

Do you want to be full? Do you want the peace and hope that passes all understanding? (Phil. 4:7) In John 8:12, Jesus proclaims, "*I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.*" Why look to the world for answers or examples to follow? They will only lead to disappointment, frustration and eternal darkness and misery. Turn to Jesus and diligently follow Him. He is the true light. Only He has eternal hope. (2 Thess. 2:16; 1 Time. 1:1; 1 Pet. 1:3) Overcome the emptiness and hopelessness of this world and obey and serve Jesus.

Preparing for Your Jericho

Nathan Lee & Eric Wallace

When tough times come and we're not sure how we can conquer our personal "Jericho," let's take some of the actions from Joshua 5 & 6 and develop a simple checklist to help ensure our priorities are in the right place.

First, we need to "look up" like Joshua did to the commander of the army of the Lord (5:13). Looking up in our context means to take our eyes off the problem for a moment and look to the solution – God. We need our first priority to be seeking God, who is the only answer to our problems.

Second, like Joshua, we need to "fall on our face" (5:14). When we understand from whom we're seeking help – the God of heaven and earth – we understand our humble and lowly state in comparison. We must humble ourselves before God and submit to Him and His will.

Third, Joshua took his shoes off (5:15). We too need to "take off our shoes and stay awhile." We need to spend time with God in prayer, meditation, study, etc. and not act quickly on our own. Only after we look to God, recognize our place, and understand His will is it time to "march around our city" and tackle trials, tribulations, and battles this life throws our way. The Israelites only defeated Jericho through their reliance on God; it's the same for us today. And even if we lose battles in this life, if we're faithful, we'll be battle-free in the next.

- excerpt from *Drawing Out: Joshua*