

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements

Jon Barry

Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper

Bill Brittenham Rodney Ellis
Jack Calvert

Prayers

Joseph Barry Clay Morris

SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements

Scripture Reading

Song Leader

Lord's Supper

Prayers

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Via Zoom

have observed before in this column, it is His world, we eat His bread, drink His water, and breathe His air. In addition to being ill-equipped by nature and inclination to determine "right", we belong to Him, and are obligated to be obedient. Man's way never "fixes" anything important, nor moves us one step toward fellowship with God. This may not be the popular line, but we are interested in TRUTH, not compromise, and all human objections aside, God's word is still TRUE, and His way is still the only way (John 14:6).

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

Think On These Things

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Volume XXVI

March 14, 2021

Issue 11

No Fear In Death

Marshall Reid

At the end of Hebrews 2, the Hebrew writer introduces the point that Jesus was a "merciful and faithful High Priest", a point he will more fully develop later in the epistle. He notes that it was important for Jesus to experience the same things we experience so that he might be the perfect High Priest.

One of the experiences that he shared with us was death. And as a result of his death, he was able to do something that nobody else can do - take away the power of death and the fear of death. "Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage." (Heb. 2:14-15)

Many people don't even like to talk about death. Death is scary on many fronts. It's the fear of the unknown. We don't know what death really feels like. We can't see the other side, so we don't really know what awaits

us. Nobody has died and come back from the grave to tell us what it's like. And death is so final. There is no return from death. Those who have died are not coming back to us. Death is the end...in many people's minds.

It's also scary for those who believe in being judged by God for the way they lived their life on earth. Knowing we have to answer for the things done in this life can be very scary - especially if we haven't lived according to how we are instructed to live in the Bible.

We will not have another opportunity, once we die, to fix any wrongs we have committed. It will be too late to say "I'm sorry" to those we have offended. It will be too late to ask God for forgiveness for our rebellious ways. God will not give us a second chance. Actually, when we think about it, he's already given us many second chances. Each day is another opportunity. But death is final. There will be no more last chances. That's scary. But these verses give us a couple of insights into death

FAMILY TALK

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

Cathy Monaghan is to start her radiation treatments Monday.

Rodney Ellis had his second cataract surgery last week.

Joey Avance is waiting on the results from his stress test.

The **Brittenham's** daughter-in-law, **Hannah Brittenham**, has returned to St. Michael to continue her recuperation.

Lyndee Brayley's father is waiting on results from his throat biopsy.

Donna Moble has returned home.

Please keep **Nancy Rowe's** niece, **Charlotte Sutton**, in your prayers.

The **Garlock's** are out of town today.

Bible Study: 9:30 AM (and Zoom)

Services: 10:15 AM (and Zoom)

Kids Only: 5:00 PM (Zoom)

Monday: 7:00 PM (Zoom)

Wednesday: 7:00 PM (Zoom)

Thursday: 7:00 PM (Zoom)

that are actually comforting for the Christian.

First, death is the power of Satan. Death was not in God's plan - life was. Remember

in the Garden of Eden there was the Tree of Life. God did not want man to die, but due to the sin that Satan introduced into the world, death was also introduced. Too often, people blame God for death, for allowing people to die, for taking people's lives. But death is not God's fault. It's our own fault for sinning, and death is from Satan.

God doesn't want death for man. He wants life. Death is God's enemy. Notice what Paul said to the Corinthians. "Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death." (1 Cor. 15:24-26) He will put an end to all authority and power. That includes Satan's authority and power and the death over which he has power. That's great news! Death will be defeated! God will overcome!

Because of this fact, we have no reason to fear death if we have been faithful to our God. While we don't know exactly what death feels like, and while we don't know exactly what we will experience and what we will see, we do know that ultimately Jesus is on the other side. We do know that death is not really final. We know it's really just the beginning for Christians. We know that we will no longer be in bondage to the mortal and imperfect body. And we know that we have nothing to fear because Jesus has secured the victory on our behalf. Satan and his power has already been defeated by the resurrection of Jesus. What comforting thoughts!

This is why the funerals of Christians are actually joyous occasions instead of sad ones. They are going home. They get to go be with their Brother and their Father. They receive the comfort that we all desire. They have overcome the power and fear of death through Jesus Christ.

So what does this mean for me and you? First, we don't need to let the fact of death cripple us in fear. Rather, we ought to use it as motivation. We know what lies ahead. Later in Hebrews, the writer says, "it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment..." (Heb. 9:27). We need to be living our life with the understanding that death is final and that we will face the judgment of God afterwards. This life on earth is not all there is. We need to live our life with eternity in view rather than our typical myopic view seeing only the here and now.

And this also means we can rejoice in the victory over Satan and his power of death. And we don't need to be fearful of death. Rather, we ought to look forward to it! Paul certainly did. "For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better." (Phil. 1:23) And Peter said we ought to look forward to the coming Day of the Lord (2 Peter 3:12). We can only look for and hasten the coming of the Lord if we are faithful to him. What a day that will be! A day of victory! And the beginning of an eternity with our Father.

It's Not How You Feel

Aubrey Belue

Does it "feel good?" Does it feel "right?" If so, today's culture says, "go for it!" Thus, we make "right" what our feelings say it is, rather than what it really is. Somehow, we have reached the point in contemporary reasoning that most say that one can pursue his individual dream without having to confront the consequences of bad or wrong choices. Believe in God, or not; accept Christ, or not; live morally, or not—to those people, it is all the same. Do what you want to do, what you feel like doing, what you think is right in doing, and God will just set aside HIS rules to approve of you regardless. We confuse civic freedom with divine approval,

and so long as it is "legal" (and some are not too "picky" about that), it is seen as acceptable.

The question is, "Is our standing with God determined by our feelings, or by the rule of divine law?" Is it a matter of God's will, or ours? Serious consequences follow the reasoning described above:

1. It nullifies the Bible as a defining book. In fact, the Bible becomes largely useless, since it can at any point be superseded by one's personal feeling. No doubt we "feel" like it has some value, but it can always be overridden by our feelings. There is no sense of responsibility to conform to its message.
2. It glorifies human wisdom and authority. The highest court of appeal becomes the human mind and thought, rather than the mind of God. If what I feel is right, even if it contradicts what God teaches in His word, then MY idea is seen as better than His; my authority as greater than His. In so doing we minimize the greater wisdom and power of an Almighty God.
3. It results in anarchy and chaos. Rejecting a common source of authority — the written word of God — each becomes his own source. There are as many "rights" as there are people to think them up. No wonder we live in troubled times. No wonder our children are so confused as to morals and religion. Countless competing human ideas bombard them (and us) with equally justifiable claims to what is "right".
4. It ignores God's place in our universe. He has defined right from wrong, sin from righteousness, truth from error. Any course conflicting with His "law" exacts terrible penalties.

The Truth? The solution to mankind's problems lie not in human minds, but in the unsearchable mind of an all-wise God. As we