

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements

Cole Meador

Song Leader

Jack Calvert

Lord's Supper

Mark Davis Clay Morris
Bill Brittenham Jon Barry

Prayers

Rodney Ellis Cole Meador

SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements

Cole Meador

Scripture Reading

Jack Calvert

Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper

Mark Davis Clay Morris

Prayers

Jack Calvert Pete Rowland

WEDNESDAY

Announcements

Jack Calvert

Song Leader

Bryan Garlock

Prayers

Clay Morris Jerry Schnelle

Invitation

Joseph Barry

ABOUT US

Elders

Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis

Deacons

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 11

Potluck Bible Classes

Matthew Bassford

Several weeks ago, I got a distressed phone call from one of the sisters at Jackson Heights. She expressed her concern that in one of the adult Bible classes, it didn't seem like anyone was talking. I sympathized with her and promised that I would write a blog post on the value of Bible-class participation, so here we are!

To me, one of the most beautiful things about the churches of Christ is our core belief: that ordinary Christians are equipped by God to read and understand the Bible for themselves. We don't need priests, pastors, or anyone else to tell us what to believe. We can figure it out on our own.

I think a Bible class is one of the highest expressions of this ideal. Maybe we don't know much about the Bible ourselves (though this assumption is often mistaken when it comes to brethren), and maybe we're in a class with other Christians who don't know much about the Bible either

(ditto), but the few things that we each know usually aren't the same things.

As a result, a good Bible class is like a potluck dinner. Nobody wants to make a meal out of nothing but their green-bean casserole. However, when we bring our casserole, and somebody else brings their Jell-O salad, and somebody else brings their ham, and somebody else brings their iced tea, and so forth, the result is a meal that will satisfy everybody. I've never heard anyone complain about being underfed at a potluck!

In the same way, even if that auditorium or classroom isn't filled with top-notch Bible scholars, it's probably true that everybody in the room has something to contribute. Maybe it's an answer to the who's-buried-in-Grant's-Tomb opening question. Maybe it's a related passage. Maybe it's a personal experience with the spiritual concept under discussion.

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.

Ladies Bible Class: The next class is Tuesday, **Apr. 14, 2020.** More details pending.

Gerald Eaton got a good report from his latest checkup.

It was good to see **Nancy Rowe** at services Wednesday.

Jean Cronce receive inconclusive results from her test.

We are sad that **Charles** and **Lanita Lansford** have moved. They will be greatly missed.

Doctors have decided **Chelsea Thomas'** lymphoma is not as advanced as first thought. She is starting chemo.

Mark Your Calendar

Friday, April 3: Annual Singing
April 5-8 (Sun. – Wed.): Gospel Meeting with **Jonathan Glaesemann** from Stonewall. LA.

Please pick up some invite cards and ask for Bible studies. See Bryan if you need any help with home studies.

Probably none of those things would be enough to carry a sermon, for instance, on their own. However, when you put them all together, what you really are doing is pooling the spiritual wisdom of the group. I respect ordinary Christians as individuals, but I have a whole lot of respect for what ordinary Christians come up with when they put their heads together! In fact, I can't recall having been in a discussion-based class without feeling nourished and edified by the discussion. As much as I love worshiping in song, I love studying the Bible with my brethren just as much.

Potlucks work. You're never sure beforehand just how they're going to work, but they always end up working. The only way they can fail is if the participants don't bring anything but show up expecting to eat anyway. In the same way, what sinks a Bible class is not the comments that the people in the class make. It's the comments they don't make. You've got the poor Bible class teacher up in front with his green-bean casserole all by himself, and it makes for a poor meal.

In conclusion, then, I have this to say: if you're used to sitting there in Bible class not talking, now's the time to start (unless, of course, you have conscience issues with participating). You know more about the Bible than you think you do, a lot more. Trust me! I've studied with folks who truly knew nothing about the Bible, and the difference is profound. You have insights that are wiser than you think they are. You have experiences that are more relevant than you can imagine.

Share what you have. If everybody will do the same, I guarantee that everybody will be well fed.

Nonconformity

Ryan Goodwin

As our young people prepare themselves for the great adventure of adulthood, they invariably find themselves at odds with the expectations of the world. Whether it is high school or college, marriage or a career, a best friend or a professor, the conflict between Christ and Satan manifests itself in ways that should be expected, especially by parents and leaders in the church. Yet, even with this knowledge and experience at their disposal, many young people still make the mistake of seeking the world's approval – often in the form of rebellion against parents and the religious ideas they were raised to believe.

“And do not be conformed to this world” (Romans 12:2) Oddly enough, in the Bible it is Christianity that is seen as counterculture, not the alternatives of the world. When our young people think they are “finding themselves” by striking out on their own and rejecting Christianity, they are actually enslaving themselves to sin and the flesh (Romans 6:20-23). True counterculture is achieved by rejecting the notion that satisfaction and purpose are found in putting stock in this present age:

“Those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace” (Romans 8:5f).

“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ” (Philippians 3:20).

“Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on the earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God” (Colossians 3:2f).

“I am the Lord your God, who has separated you from all other people” (Leviticus 20:24).

“Love not the world, nor the things in the world... For the world passes away, and the lust thereof; but he who does the will of God abides forever” (1 John 2:15-17).

Remember Your Heroes

It is important to remain aware of other young people who have managed to stay true to God, in spite of enormous societal pressures. You are not alone, and when you are faced with difficult situations and your faith is tested, you are in very good company.

By the age of 17 Joseph was an independent, spiritual young man who did the right thing regardless of the consequences (Genesis 37:2).

Daniel took a definite stand for God and His truth even though he was a young man, maybe even still in his teens (Daniel 1:8).

Timothy was selected by Paul to help him spread the gospel when Timothy was probably still in his teens as well (Acts 16:1ff).

Hezekiah was a godly and wise king at the age of 25 (2 Chronicles 29:2f).

Josiah began to seriously seek God and change the Jewish nation for the better when he was 16 years old (2 Chronicles 34:1-3).

The Ultimate Nonconformity? Faith.

When we consider the variety of individuals mentioned in Hebrews 11:1ff, something very striking comes to mind. All of these people were asked by God to break conventions, erase stereotypes, and go beyond the realm of what the world expects. Abraham left a life of comfort for a better country. Moses rejected the pleasantness of Pharaoh's court. Rahab and her family. Samuel. David. Enoch. Noah. All of these great individuals refused to conform to the world around them, and achieved more than all of their forgettable contemporaries. It was all by faith in God.