

## SUNDAY MORNING

### Announcements

Cole Meador

### Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

### Lord's Supper

Mark Davis      Clay Morris  
Bill Brittenham      Jon Barry

### Prayers

Jack Calvert      Joseph Barry

## SUNDAY EVENING

### Announcements

### Scripture Reading

### Song Leader

### Lord's Supper

### Prayers

## WEDNESDAY

### Announcements

### Song Leader

### Prayers

### Invitation

## ABOUT US

### Elders

Jack Calvert      Rodney Ellis

### Deacons

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.

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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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## Why Assemble?

Marshall Reid

While I was at Florida College, I'm ashamed to say that there were times that I and others attended the "Mattress Springs church of Christ". That's the church of sleeping in on Sunday morning. Unfortunately, many people feel that attending the Bible classes and worship assemblies are optional. I rationalized skipping services because I only had 2-3 hours of sleep and needed more than that to function properly. Others may justify it by pointing to the fact that the weekend is the only time they have to get things done and to rest, especially since the week is chock full of activities like little league practice, soccer practice, piano lessons, band practice, homework, and science projects.

Maybe the reason some don't come is because they just don't get anything out of the classes or services anymore. Maybe the Bible class teacher just can't teach very well and it makes you wonder why he was chosen in the first place. Maybe the new preacher trainee can't preach very

well. We can all make excuses for not doing something. But allow me to give three reasons why we need to assemble, eliminating any excuses in the process.

**First, we're commanded to assemble.** No, God didn't directly command us saying, "Thou shalt assemble every Sunday." But the Hebrew writer said we are not to forsake the assembly (Heb. 10:25). That's as good as a direct command since he was inspired by the Holy Spirit. If we truly want to follow the example of the early Christians in all that we do, and if we truly want to be pleasing to the Lord, then we won't find ourselves making excuses for not coming to services. The command from Hebrews really should be all we need to convince us of the necessity of assembling, but there are also two very practical reasons I'll point out.

**We exhort one another.** Assembling with the saints

## 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.

### 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.***

allows us the opportunity to encourage one another, help each other, and uplift each other. If we're not together, how can we *"consider one another in order to stir up love and good works"* (Heb. 10:24)? We all need encouragement, and if you ever get the feeling that you just don't want to go to services, that's the time you need to go the most! That way, you receive the encouragement you need to keep going. And in turn, you help me and everyone else just by your presence.

**We grow spiritually.** One of the best benefits of assembling with the saints is the spiritual growth that we all receive. The first church *"continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and*

*fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers"* (Acts 2:42). Sure, you can study the Bible on your own at home, pray at home, even partake of the Lord's Supper at home, but a good portion of our spiritual growth happens during the Bible classes and worship assemblies. Part of it has to do with the encouragement we receive as I just pointed out. But part of it also has to do with studying with others, learning from others. I can't tell you how many times I've studied a particular passage or topic and thought I thoroughly understood it until I heard a point made by another that I never considered. From discussion in Bible classes and from sermons presented, we see things in a new light. Thoughts are further explained and difficult passages become easier. Applications to our present lives are made and suddenly the Scriptures become even more relevant.

Not only do we grow spiritually, but we help others grow. There will always be someone who can help us grow, and there will always be someone whom we can help grow. We're a family, a body, which means we're concerned with each member. We need to be concerned with the growth of all, not just ourselves.

All of these principles extend to the Bible classes as well. If there's one thing that I will never understand, it's why people do not come to the Bible classes when they have the ability to do so. I understand there are circumstances which prevent people from attending on a regular basis, mainly health issues. However, the same people who can make it to worship services, work, or school somehow can't make it to Bible classes. Bible classes afford us the opportunity to nourish our spiritual health. Without the benefit of

these classes, it is easy to become malnourished and atrophied.

If we truly want to love and serve God with all our heart, and with all our mind, and with all our strength (Mark 12:30), then we'll make every effort to assemble with the saints, no matter how inconvenient, no matter how bad the Bible class teacher is, no matter how bad the preaching is. The Lord knew what he was doing when he told us to assemble. Let's encourage one another. Let's grow spiritually together. Let's help each other get to heaven.

### What Are You Thinking?!?

Bill Brittenham

During this world-wide crisis when we are being told to practice "social distancing" and governments at all levels are restricting gatherings of more than a few people, why in the world would I print an article on the importance of assembling together for worship services?

Assembling together with saints IS important. God would not have commanded it or given use examples of brethren gathering if it was not. But now, when gathering together as we have probably done all our lives poses dangers to ourselves and our brethren, we are being told we cannot (and should not) assemble together. What are we to do?

**"First, we're commanded to assemble."** Many brethren, elders and preachers are agonizing over decisions of what to do when we are told we should not (and perhaps soon, cannot) assemble together. We know what God desires, but

we also know the potential this disease has to spread very quickly and cause great harm and death. I'm not smart enough or wise enough to provide a definitive answer. I will leave that to others and abide by our leaders' decisions. I will pray for our elders and others who are hurriedly trying to provide ways for our congregation to stay as connected as we can.

**"We exhort one another."** Brethren, we can still do this even if we do not assemble together regularly. Everyone has a phone. Call and text and snail mail. Stay in touch with each other (and not just those you usually talk to at our services.) EVERYONE, and especially our brethren need encouragement and exhortation during this time. Many are home and not occupied with other things like usual. Use that time to check with brethren, not just to see if they have needs, but to encourage them and receive encouragement yourself.

And when you talk to your brethren, don't focus on all the numbers and deaths and things pertaining to this disaster. Talk about spiritual things, positive things. Pray together. Yes, over the phone.

**"We grow spiritually."** Even during "regular" times, we often rely on our assemblies to provide our spiritual growth. But now that we are not gathering together, **DO NOT SPIRIUALLY STARVE TO DEATH!** You have a Bible. Read and study it. Many brethren are posting lessons and sermons on Facebook and YouTube. If you don't know where to find these, ask Bryan. Many of our brethren's internet sites include sermons, articles and study material. Use them.

Please! Do not let the adversities of this time weaken your faith. Use it as an opportunity to build your faith and knowledge.