

NOTICE

The elders have decided to begin meeting back at the building for Sunday AM services on the 24th. (Other weekly services will remain only on Zoom.)

However, if you do not feel completely comfortable with this, the services will also be broadcast on Zoom as we have for the past Sundays.

Please remember these safety measures:

1. Meet and greet outside the building and keep the 6' distancing.
2. Sit at least 6' from others (except your family) in the building.
3. Please wear a mask if you are able or remain 12' from others.
4. If you can, please bring your own communion items. (If you can't, juice and bread will be provided.)
5. The contribution will be collected, but the trays will not be passed.

Hand sanitizer and masks will be available if you need them.

If you have any questions, please call Jack or Rodney.

Again, please be safe.

Psalm 25:2 *O my God, in You I trust, Do not let me be ashamed; Do not let my enemies exult over me.*

Psalm 31:14 *But as for me, I trust in You, O LORD, I say, "You are my God."*

Psalm 56:3 *When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You.*

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.

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

Franklin Drive Church of Christ

2301 Franklin Drive ■ Texarkana, AR 71854 ■ (870) 772-0746



Volume XXV

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Issue 22

Are We Becoming Irrelevant?

Doy Moyer

Is it possible that we aren't really preaching the Gospel, and thereby becoming irrelevant in pointing people to Christ?

We preach politics. We preach morals. We preach do-goodism. But these are not the same as preaching the Gospel of the grace of God.

"But," someone counters, "these are not mutually exclusive." That is true. Yet how often do we speak of these matters without ever mentioning the Gospel, without ever pointing to Jesus as our King, or without showing that God's grace is readily available though we have all been immoral sinners who have rebelled against His glory?

The Gospel is not just some ideological vehicle for getting us to get involved politically or telling people that they need to do good things. The Gospel does

not take a back seat to other ideas and agendas. The Gospel is first and foremost (1 Cor 15:1-4), and if we treat it as secondary, we are not truly seeking first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matt 6:33).

It is possible to do the other stuff (politics, morals, etc.) without ever committing to the Gospel. Even unbelievers do this. In such cases the cart is well before the horse, and we are making ourselves irrelevant insofar as leading people to Christ is concerned. The idols of the world keep calling, and we need to continually deny self so that Christ can be seen living in us.

"For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified" (1 Cor 2:2). Let's not sideline the Gospel in our efforts to make a difference in this world.

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.

Pat Buls is back home.

Please remember **Maxine Burnham** in your prayers. Thankfully she is doing better than she was a few weeks ago.

Sonny Monaghan had another trip to the hospital this past week. Remember his in your prayers.

Also, please keep praying for **Joey Avance.** He continues trying to get answers and resolutions to his ongoing health problems.

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 June 9th.

Psalm 9:10 *And those who know Your name will put their trust in You, For You, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.*

(cont. from page 1)

This is not an invitation to debate political involvement— that would miss the point of this. The point is a simple one: we are either putting Christ and His Gospel first, which then informs everything else we do, or we are bypassing Christ in order to mold ourselves to a human agenda. Why do I write about these matters? Because I know that I need to keep myself in check. I suspect others do, also.

Self-Idolatry

Bill Brittenham

Recently I was reading an article cautioning Christians not to allow all the controversies related to the coronavirus divide us. Wear a mask vs. don't wear one. Social distance or not. Go back to work or stay home. One side accusing the other regarding which position is right or better. While I do not see or imagine such an attitude among us, the article used a very interesting phrase, "**Self-Idolatry**", to describe the attitude many have about differences between people. Instead of considering what is good or right for the other person, many selfishly think only what they want and what they think is best for them.

Idolatry. While the word literally means "image worship", we often define idolatry as "anything that either replaces our worship of the true God", or "something that is a 'God-substitute'". And because there are currently few people who actually bow down before images and worship them, we tend to minimize such passages as **1 Cor. 10:14** ("flee from idolatry"); **Gal. 5:20** (one

of the works of the flesh); and **Col. 3:5** ("greed, which amounts to idolatry").

Self-Idolatry. Yet I believe there is, in fact, a huge number of idolaters in our world which sadly include a number of our brethren. We talk about money and success becoming idols if we allow our pursuit of them to come before our service to God. But these, along with many other things are included in "self-idolatry".

Self-Idolatry is, as the words clearly indicate, allowing our "selves" to become idols. We do not create physical images to represent ourselves and bow to them, but we replace what God wants with **ourselves** (what **WE** want and what **WE** think is best for **US**). Consider the following:

1. Gal. 2:20 "**I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.**" Do we fully understand Paul's example in this verse? Is it something we realize that happened to us when we were baptized? Is this how we make decisions in our lives? Is this attitude shown in the way we conduct ourselves and is seen by others? What happened to Jesus when He was crucified? He died. And then He resurrected to a new life. What must happen to us when we die and are buried in the waters of baptism? We die and rise to a new life. (**Gal. 6:4**) Yes, **me, myself and I** should no longer exist. They all died when I was baptized. And I arose from baptism to a new life, one of willingly allowing Jesus to live in me.

2. Gal. 5:24 "**Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.**" **MY** fleshly passions

and desires have been **crucified**, they are **dead**, replaced by Jesus' passions and desires.

3. Rom. 6:4-9 "**Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him.**"

The full realization and practice of our transformation from "**ME, SELF**" to "**JESUS**" is a lifelong journey that begins with our confession and baptism. It is one that requires faith and trust and hope. In our everyday lives it is a scary thing to turn over control of parts of our lives to others. It makes us very nervous to allow others to make decisions for us or to realize there are many things beyond our power and control. But giving ourselves to Jesus, consulting and trusting Him and our Father in everything, should be greatly comforting. They created us. They have redeemed us from our death in sin. They are waiting in heaven to welcome us home. Surrender **YOURSELF** wholly in obedience. Destroy the idol of **SELF** and allow the only true God to have His rightful place in you.