

SUNDAY MORNING
<b>Announcements</b> Randy Ellis
<b>Song Leader</b> Daniel Allgor
<b>Lord's Supper</b> Joseph Barry   Cole Meador Rodney Ellis
<b>Prayers</b> Bill Brittenham   Jon Barry
WEDNESDAY EVENING
<b>Announcements</b> Daniel Allgor
<b>Song Leader</b> Bryan Garlock
<b>Prayers</b> Joseph Barry   Cole Meador
<b>Invitation</b> Clay Morris

these conditions for answered prayer, we can see exactly what we have been talking about. God communicates with us in His word, and we communicate back with Him through our prayers and actions.

Consider these basic principles on relationships and you will have a good relationship with both God and man when these things are observed.

***Psalm 118:24** This is the day which the LORD has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

ABOUT US
<b>Elders</b> Jack Calvert   Rodney Ellis  Jon Barry   Bill Brittenham Mike Davis   Clay Morris
<b>Evangelist</b> Bryan Garlock
SERVICE TIMES
<b>Sunday</b> Bible Study .....9:30 A.M. Worship .....10:15 A.M.
<b>Monday (Zoom)</b> Bible Study .....7:00 P.M
<b>Wednesday</b> Bible Study .....7:00 P.M.
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GOD’S PLAN FOR SALVATION
<b>Hear</b> the word of truth ..... Romans 10:13-17
<b>Believe</b> the truth..... Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24
<b>Repent</b> from all sins .... Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38
<b>Confess</b> the name of Christ ... Matthew10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10
<b>Be Baptized</b> in His name ..... Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Colossians 2:12
<b>Walk</b> in newness of life and <b>be faithful</b> unto death ..... Romans 6:1-4; Revelation 2:10



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### Spirituality in Winter

Wayne Goff

Every year has four seasons: Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall (Gen. 1:14). Each season has a divine purpose and a divine lesson attached.

Winter is the time when nature is dead. Of course, not completely dead, but dead compared to other seasons. the trees’ leaves have died and fallen to the ground. Bare trees on a cloudy, gloomy winter’s day well illustrate the thought. In nature, winter is also a time of rest. Nutrients in the ground are being replenished by winter’s snow. Nothing is growing at the time. there is a haunting quiet and peace in nature.

Jesus attended the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and John records that it was winter, John 10:22. Jesus taught the disciples to pray that the destruction of Jerusalem might not be in winter, Matt. 24:20. the apostle Paul suggested that he might stay in Corinth and “spend the winter with you” (1 Cor. 16:6), realizing that this season is a time where travel is limited and local work might be done.

And at the end of his life, while he awaited his death sentence by Nero, he urged Timothy to come to him before winter, 2 Tim. 4:21.

There are opportunities which winter brings to us spiritually if we will take advantage of them.

First, the days are shorter, giving us more evening time. this affords us more time to read, and we can read the Bible, study a Bible commentary, or meditate on a lesson we have recently heard. Combine that with a warm winter’s fire in the fireplace and winter, 2 a warm cup of coffee or cocoa, and a quiet, peaceful, spiritual evening can be uprising.

Second, there are less outside duties to be done. We are not out this time of year mowing grass, trimming hedges, painting, or barbecuing on the patio. What are we doing with this time? Again, it is the perfect time to study God’s Word and get involved in a serious study before the duties of Spring and Summer return.

## FAMILY TALK

*Continue to remember and check on our shut-ins/sometimes shut-ins: **Bonnie Allgor, Pat Buls, Maxine Burnham, Sonny & Cathy Monaghan, Pete & Beth Rowland,** and **Francine Davis.***

Please remember **Francine Davis** as she adapts to the changes due to her health.

Third, we are not traveling as much or as far, generally speaking. With more time at home with family and friends, we can get to know each other better. Bible games are fun and educational for the whole family. One of my favorites is Bible Trivia “where trivia is not trivial.”

Just remember, winter is a blessing from God when we understand it and use it as He intended. there is always to be a period of rest.

## Worse Than Death

Bill Crews

Death awaits every living person (Hebrews 9:27), and we know it (Ecclesiastes 9:5). Many fear it, although, because of Christ’s resurrection, there is no need to (Hebrews 2:14-15). We usually put it out of mind as an unpleasant subject. We often dismiss it as if it were far removed from us. But it is always at hand because it can happen to anyone at any time. All who die do not die of old age, bodies worn out. Some are very young. Some are taken by accidents or diseases. Some are victims who die at the hands of others. But however, and whenever it comes, either to us or to those near and

dear to us, it has a way of getting our attention. Having said all of that, I now want to say this: THERE ARE MANY THINGS THAT ARE WORSE THAN DEATH. To name a few:

To live in sin, apart from God, spiritually dead, is worse than death.

To reject the gospel when you are given opportunity to be saved by it is worse than death.

To marry someone you do not love or who does not love you, with whom you will never be compatible or happy, is worse than death. (But this does not change the fact that marriage is for life.)

A divorce is worse than death. Only God can tell us all of the consequences, in time and eternity, that will follow a divorce -- for each of the two parties, their children and their children’s children and any others whose lives their influence touches.

To forsake the “assembling of yourselves together” (Hebrews 10:25), to quit attending Bible classes and worship assemblies is worse than death.

To lose your faith in God, Christ, the Holy Spirit and the holy scriptures is worse than death.

To deliberately do anything wrong, to deceive, to lie, to steal, to hate someone, to covet, to lust, to commit adultery or fornication, etc., or to deliberately choose not to do right is worse than death.

All of these things are true because sin is worse than death. It is not a sin to die, and it is not dying that condemns anyone.

## My Relationship With God

Wayne Goff

### How can I improve my relationship with God?

From time to time Christians ask this question. Sometimes I wonder if they

understand the concept of relationship in general, because one’s relationship with God is established and maintained just like any other relationship. For example, how do you establish a good relationship with a marriage partner, or a business partner, or the government, or the school? However, those relationships are established is similar to our relationship with God.

First, one must establish common ground. With God, man has been told that sin destroys our relationship with God, Isaiah 59:1-2. Man is unable to resolve that issue alone. By God’s grace, love and mercy, Jesus Christ died to wash away our sins, Eph. 1:7. Now man can be reconciled to God once Christ’s blood has removed his sin, 2 Cor. 5:20. This forgiveness of sins is found in the waters of baptism when a penitent believer accepts God’s gracious terms, Matt. 28:18-19; Mk. 16:16. At that point, man has a spiritual relationship with God. God is the Heavenly Father, and man is His child and heir, Romans 8.

The second question is then how do we maintain that relationship with God? The answer is found immediately following the instructions on how to establish a relationship with God (Matt. 28:18-19) -- “observe all things that I have commanded you” (Matt. 28:20). So, what are those things commanded by Jesus Christ? The answer is found in the New Testament, 2 Tim. 3:16-17. There are things we are obligated to learn and do as individuals, and things we are obligated to learn and do as a collectivity (church). Thus, when we read the New Testament and obey its instructions, we are doing our part in maintaining a good relationship with God because we are allowing Him to communicate with us.

Furthermore, we understand that all good relationships involve two-way communication. God is speaking to us through the New Testament, but how can we speak with Him? the answer is by prayer. Prayer is simply calling upon God in order to talk to Him. Prayer requires faith that God hears us even though we cannot visibly see or physically hear that He does. But we can often see the results of our prayers in our lives. So, to continually maintain a good relationship with God, we must talk to Him in prayer. That is why the New Testament says “Pray without ceasing” (1 Thess. 5:17). When we quit listening to God in His word, and we quit talking to Him through prayer, then our relationship with God is in grave danger! But if we are doing both of these things well, then our relationship with God is strong.

Just as in any earthly relationship, there is a proper way of speaking to God -- with faith, love, honor, and cooperation. Imagine a married couple’s relationship for a minute. Will their relationship together be good if one does all the talking? Or if one does all the work in the relationship? Or if one is doing what he/she alone pleases? Or if there is no respect between the two? The answer is no! The same is true in our relationship with God. God has done and continues to do His part. You and I, as His loving children, must continue to do our part. “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him” (1 Jn. 5:14-15). From