

SUNDAY MORNING
<p>Announcements Jon Barry</p> <p>Song Leader Jack Calvert</p> <p>Lord's Supper Jerry Schnelle Mark Davis Daniel Allgor</p> <p>Prayers Rodney Ellis Bill Brittenham</p>
SUNDAY EVENING
<p>Announcements</p> <p>Scripture Reading</p> <p>Song Leader</p> <p>Lord's Supper</p> <p>Prayers</p>
WEDNESDAY EVENING
<p>Announcements</p> <p>Song Leader</p> <p>Prayers</p>

Brethren, these things ought not to be so. Forgiveness may not always be easy. But it is always right (Col. 3:12-14). If we forgive we will be forgiven. If not, our sin remains. (Matt. 6:14-15)

ABOUT US
<p>Elders Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis</p> <p>Jon Barry Bill Brittenham Mike Davis Clay Morris</p> <p>Evangelist Bryan Garlock</p>
SERVICE TIMES
<p>Sunday Bible Study9:30 A.M. Worship10:15 A.M. Worship6:00 P.M.</p> <p>Wednesday Bible Study7:00 P.M.</p>
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GOD’S PLAN FOR SALVATION
<p>Hear the word of truth Romans 10:13-17</p> <p>Believe the truth..... Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24</p> <p>Repent from all sins Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38</p> <p>Confess the name of Christ ... Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10</p> <p>Be Baptized in His name Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Colossians 2:12</p> <p>Walk in newness of life and be faithful unto death Romans 6:1-4; Revelation 2:10</p>



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Issue 49

What Kind of a Fan are You?

Joe R. Price

The NFL season is approaching the playoffs and the college football bowl games are set; a football fan's dream come true.

Years ago I heard CBS radio advertising their NFL broadcasts and something caught my attention. Greg Gumble, the sports announcer at the time, was defining the sports fan's attitude toward football. Two points stood out. First, the true fan never complains about the amount of football games there are to watch. He is anticipating and ready for the action. Secondly, the true fan never gets enough; he always wants more. Gumble said not to forget that "fan" is short for "fanatic," and that is what true football fans are.

There was a lot of truth to that commercial. Football fans are fanatical about their teams. And, it takes something very important to keep them from watching their favorite team.

There is also a difference between sports fans and Christians. Unlike the football fanatic, we are not spectators; we are participants. We are in the game. This

is all the more reason why we must be fully committed to Christ (Matt. 22:37).

A fan is an "enthusiast" or a "devotee." The Christian should be a fan, too; he or she is devoted to Jesus (Lk. 9:23). The Christian's enthusiasm for Christ will be reflected in his whole life (Gal. 2:20). He does not grow weary of obeying Jesus and he does not complain about his duty (Gal. 6:9; 1 Jno. 5:3). The Christian cannot get enough of serving Christ and others. What about us? Are we as enthusiastic about being Christians as we are about football (non-football fans may insert their own interest)?

Let's be fans of worshiping God. The early disciples "*continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers*" (Acts 2:42). They daily worshiped together, honoring God and teaching His gospel (Acts 2:46; 5:12). In the face of threats and mistreatment they were unafraid and not deterred from worshiping the God who had saved them by His grace. These 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.

Please remember **Maxine Burnham** and **Jean Cronce** in your prayers.

Cathy Monaghan is scheduled for surgery Dec. 1.

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

Sunday and Wednesday Bible Studies are in Galatians.

Additionally, we are having studies.

Monday:7:00 PM

Thursday:7:00 PM

Ladies Bible Class:

Next Class is Dec. 8th

were obeying the command not to be “forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another” (Heb. 10:25). And, these early Christians suffered greatly for their faithfulness to Christ (Heb. 10:32-34). But, they were enthusiasts. How unlike us many times, when we allow most anything to keep us from assembling with the saints to worship God. Many have turned worship into an “I’ll be there IF I CAN” situation instead of having an “I’ll be there

WHATEVER IT TAKES” attitude. Fans of worship never complain about worshipping God because it is what they long for. They aren’t the clock watches who worry about what time it is. No, they can’t get enough of it! What about you?

Let’s be fans of Bible study and its application. The Bible teaches us Christians to be like newborn babies and “*desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby*” (1 Pet. 2:2). Babies are fans of milk! Why aren’t we fans of God’s word? Oh, we enjoy hearing it taught a couple of times a week, but are we so devoted to it that we actually read it every day? Do we read it so that we can obey it in our lives? Knowing God’s word helps us be approved before God by teaching us how to live the truth of God in our lives (2 Tim. 2:15). The word translated “*study*” in the KJV is translated “*Be diligent*” in the NKJV. It sounds like we ought to be “fans” of Bible study and application doesn’t it? Otherwise, we will be ashamed of ourselves. If you feel ashamed of not studying God’s word as often or as diligently as you should, you can change that. Hunger and thirst for its blessings (Matt. 5:6). Never complain about the amount of time needed to study God’s word. Be a fan of the Bible!

Let’s be fans of spreading the gospel. The early Christians were (Acts 8:4; 17:6; 1 Ths. 1:8). They knew the power of the gospel to save souls and they knew that if they did not tell it to the lost, no one would (Rom. 1:16; 10:13-17). Like Jesus, the apostles and early Christians, we need to feel the urgency of reaching out to the lost (Matt. 9:36-38). It could be a weekly Bible study in your home, a conversation at work, a letter to a friend. There are many opportunities, but we must be devoted. Remember, fans love to talk about their team. Do we love to talk about Jesus and His gospel? Are we fans?

Self-Examination

___ Am I consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that I am a better person than I really am? Am I a hypocrite?

___ Am I honest in all my acts and words, or do I exaggerate?

___ Do I confidentially pass on to another what has been told to me in confidence?

___ Can I be trusted?

___ Am I a slave to dress, friends, work or habit?

___ Am I self-conscious, self-pitying, or self-justifying?

___ Do I read the Bible every day?

___ Am I enjoying prayer?

___ When did I last speak to somebody else with the object of trying to win that person to Christ?

___ Do I pray about the money I spend?

___ Do I get to bed on time and get up on time?

___ Do I disobey God in anything?

___ How do I spend my spare time?

___ Do I thank God that I’m not like other people? Am I proud?

___ Is there anybody whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold a resentment toward or disregard? If so, what am I doing about it?

___ Do I grumble or complain constantly?

-Anonymous

Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. (2 Cor. 13:5)

Remember Your Own Forgiveness

Joe R. Price

If you have ever paid off a debt you know how liberating it is. To be out from under the pressure of making that monthly payment is a relief, no question about it.

Have you ever been freed from a financial obligation without having to pay off the

debt? If so, I suspect you were very thankful for the kindness, generosity and mercy you were shown. At least, you should have been.

This is what happens in a spiritual sense when one is saved from his sins by Christ. By the mercy of God one is released from his debt of sin - a debt beyond his ability to repay. Divine compassion is extended to all through the death of Christ and obtained when the sinner will, in faith, obey the gospel instructions to repent of his sins and be baptized into Christ (Titus 2:11; Acts 2:37-41).

Jesus taught the motive and extent of forgiving those who sin against us in the parable of the unmerciful servant (Matt. 18:21-35). Is there any more tragic view of unmerciful selfishness than the one depicted by the Lord in this parable? The servant who was freed from an enormous debt to his master falls upon his fellow servant and demands payment of a paltry sum by compassion. Unwilling to show the same mercy and forgiveness he had been shown, the man reaped what he had sown. His master placed him under a torment which would last forever.

What is the point? “*So my heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses*” (Matt. 18:35).

Why are we unwilling to forgive each other when we have been forgiven a much greater debt? Perhaps because we do not appreciate the value and depth of the forgiveness we have received. Perhaps because we do not love each other as much as we love ourselves. Clearly, one reason is because we fail to love each other the way the Lord loves us (1 Jno. 4:7-11).