

**SUNDAY MORNING**

**Announcements**

Clay Morris

**Song Leader**

Daniel Allgor

**Lord's Supper**

Jon Barry     Rodney Ellis  
Cole Meador

**Prayers**

Mark Davis     Randy Ellis

**WEDNESDAY EVENING**

**Announcements**

Jack Calvert

**Song Leader**

Clay Morris

**Prayers**

Bill Brittenham     Bill Rinehart

**Invitation**

Meeting

**COME HEAR THE GOSPEL!**  
 GUEST SPEAKER DONNIE RADER | SEPTEMBER 26-29, 2021

Sun. 9:30 AM: Nevertheless  
 Sun. 10:15 AM: Help my Unbelief  
 Sun. 6 PM: Bring Me a Sword  
 Mon. 7 PM: Is One Faith as Good as Another?  
 Tues. 7 PM: Selling and Stirring  
 Wed. 7 PM: The Earnest Cry of Bartimaeus

**ABOUT US**

**Elders**

Jack Calvert     Rodney Ellis

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.

**Monday (Zoom)**

Bible Study .....7:00 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



**Volume XXVI**

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**Issue 38**

**Where Do I Fit?**

Dee Bowman

My Dad was a great fellow. He was rather introverted, even bordered on being timid. But there was a kind of inner stability about him that made you know that his timidity was not a sign of anything—except the wisdom it takes to be quiet and listen. He had a philosophical bent about him and when he did say something, you could usually put it in your pocket and use it later because it was something that made good sense.

We moved to the Plains of West Texas when I was 5 years old. My dad kept books at the cotton Gin for Hume Russell. Later, when we had saved up a little money, he bought a dry cleaning shop in Morton. In addition to cleaning clothes, Dad ordered tailor-made suits for the National Tailoring Company in Chicago. We still have a nice quilt Mom made out of the wool suit samples he would show to prospective buyers. He was an expert

at measuring a person for clothes and “that’s the key to having satisfied customers,” he would say. We didn’t always have much— didn’t even have a car until I was 12 or 13—but we had nice clothes, so everybody thought we were better off than we were.

One thing my Dad said about clothes has stayed with me all these years. “Things wear out where they don’t fit,” he said. In other words, if you buy things that fit you, you can wear them much longer. Things wear out where they don’t fit.

That’s true of humans, too, you know. Folks soon wear out where they don’t fit. If you’re in a crowd where you don’t fit, chances are you won’t stay long—mainly because you don’t think you look good there. When you feel welcome—that is, when you fit—you’ll more likely stay longer and be more of a part of the overall picture.

## 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.***

Where do you fit here? Let's look at some things that are necessary for a good fit.

A good fit begins with a good measurement. You have to measure yourself. Introspection may be the hardest kind of inspection. First of all, it requires complete honesty. You have to take a long look at your assets and liabilities and see how you can best use what you have and try and do better at what you lack. That's not easy, but just remember, not everybody fits into every slot, and you're apt to wear out if you force yourself into some area where you don't fit. Paul said, (Gal. 6:4), "But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone and not in another." Self-examination always begins with a good heart (Psalm 15:1-2).

You have to want to. You won't fit if you don't want to. Many times people who complain about not being a part, don't fit in because deep down, they don't really want to. If you want to, you can fit. How sad to see some folks who complain bitterly—and talk loudly—because they don't have a place when they never tried to fit in. The one talent man (Matt. 25:25) didn't fit into his master's plan not because he couldn't, but because he decided not to.

You have to stay in your own place. Not everybody fits everywhere and not everybody can do everything. Sometimes you have to just be satisfied with where you fit and try to fit nicely into your own spot. Actually, if you try and force yourself into a place where you don't fit, you mess up the whole picture and someone who actually fits where you're trying to is left to fit where he doesn't fit either. And that makes for trouble. The various parts of the body function together to make the whole body strong, but the liver doesn't try to be what's it not and the feet don't try and take the place of the ears (see I Cor. 12:14-f).

Everybody fits. There are no unimportant parts in this picture. Every single part—no matter how small or seemingly insignificant it may seem—has a place. When a part is missing, it messes up the entire picture and, rather than blending in to the whole, the void causes people to see only the missing part, thus distracting terribly from the big picture. And how wonderful just to know that you have a place, and one that no one else is fitted for. When Paul says we are "knitted together," he says the knitting is supplied by every joint contributing its part by "the effective working by which every part does its share" (Eph. 4:17). Only when every part does its part can the whole body be effective.

So, let's get together. Let's gather together all the parts of this church and fit them into the over-all scheme of things and get to the business of being lights in the world—a picture that will reflect to the world around us that we're serious about the business of going to heaven and that we're interested in taking as many people with us we can.

## Are You Willing to Be a Maintenance Worker?

(Unknown)

Near the end of the epistle to Titus, Paul writes, "And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful" (Titus 3:14). This verse teaches that Christianity involves maintenance work. Everyone enjoys a finished product, few like putting it together, and fewer enjoy repairing or maintaining it. In the same way, "maintaining good works" in the local church can be tedious business. Everyone enjoys a comfortable building, but who will help work on it? Everyone is concerned about the sick and hospitalized, but who will take the time to call, write, and visit them? Everyone likes hospitality and good fellowship, but who is willing to provide it? The church must be filled with maintenance workers.

On the personal level, it is sad but true that some individual Christians just "fall away." Jesus once taught, "They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away" (Luke 8:13). In this verse, Jesus laments the failure of some believes to do that necessary, personal "maintenance work." Preventatively, He teaches that we must maintain our joy of God's Word. Nothing does this like reading and studying the Bible. Only those who are involved daily in this come to truly appreciate the precious value of its truth. Christ teaches that we must maintain our faith in God's Word. It is hard to believe, but

Jesus says that individuals can cease to believe in Him. This is dangerous, as Peter teaches one is better off knowing Christ than rejecting Him (2 Pet. 2:20-21). Christ also teaches that we must maintain our strength by God's Word. Otherwise, temptation will pull us away from Him.

When Thomas O. Davis accepted the presidency of a civic club, he was not facetious when he prayed, "Now I get me up to work, I pray the Lord I may not shirk, and if I die before tonight, I pray my work will be all right." An old proverb goes, "God gives every bird its food, but he does not throw it into the nest." Too, God has given every man a Savior, but He will not just put salvation in our lap without our doing anything. In both the case of the bird and the man, there is work to be done to obtain and maintain what is needed. May all of us do good works eagerly ("be ready," Titus 3:1), thoroughly ("to every good work," Titus :1), blamelessly ("speak evil of no man," Titus 3:2), and gently (Titus 3:2). That's the way to excel in the maintenance business!

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***If you want to work but don't know where you fit, here are a few things you can do:***

***1. Study the scriptures. You will find a lot of faithful people doing work for God. You may find your place.***

***2. Pray. Make sure God knows you want to work. He may send something or someone your way.***

***3. Talk to the elders, the deacons, the preacher or others in the congregation. If you want to work, talk to workers. They will certainly help you find where you fit.***