

## MARC'S REMARKS

### The Birth of Jesus (Luke 2:1-7)

Jesus was not born in luxurious surroundings. He was born at an inn which was little more than a square or plaza surrounded by small rooms for travelers. Their animals were kept in the square. Shelter and feeding places were provided for them close to the rooms in which the travelers stayed.

But there was not room for the couple from Nazareth. They had come to Bethlehem to be enrolled for a tax which the Roman emperor was levying on the empire. No doubt the little city was very crowded.

Here, among all this, Jesus—the King of Kings—was born. He was wrapped in swaddling clothes which were actually just cloths, not garments. Then he was laid in a manger, the feeding trough of the animals.

Of all the people that God could have chosen for the task of being good stewards of his own Son, Joseph and Mary were the ones who received the task. Although born among humble circumstances, Jesus Christ was born in accordance with the promise God had made centuries before through the prophets.

... When the fullness of the time came, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman... (Gal 4:4).

### ABOUT US

#### Elders

Jack Calvert  
Rodney Ellis  
Sam McJunkins II

#### Deacons

Mike Davis  
Dave Massey  
Phillip Moore  
John Rinehart

#### Evangelist

Marc Hinds  
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### 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.

[www.txkChurch.com](http://www.txkChurch.com)

## THE PLAN OF 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; Acts 8:35-39

**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 xvii

January 31, 2010

Issue 5

## Dancing

Frank Himmel

**Y**ou may have heard that “a dancing foot and a praying knee are not found on the same leg.” On the other hand, the Bible says there is a time dance (Eccl 3:4). What is the truth about dancing?

### Definition

What is dancing? My dictionary gives as its first definition, “to move quickly up and down or about.” That may be as innocent as excited small children. But more commonly the term describes “a series of rhythmic and patterned bodily movements usually performed to music.” It may be slow or fast, with a partner or alone, close or separate, round or square, artistic or otherwise. Its origin may be folk, tribal, religious, theatrical, or sexual.

### Bible Mention

The actual term *dance* occurs about two dozen times in the Bible. These references

point to four kinds of dancing: 1) *religious*, such as Israel’s worship of the golden calf (Ex 32:19); 2) *celebratory*, such as Jephthah’s daughter coming out to meet him returning from battle (Judg 11:34); 3) *children’s play* (Matt 11:17); 4) *sensual*, such as Herodias’ daughter dancing before Herod (Mark 6:22)—kings do not offer their children half the kingdom for jumping up and down! Of course, these categories may overlap: idolatrous religious dances were often sensual, one might celebrate a religious event, etc.

Conspicuously absent is purposeful recreational dancing. “Of the social dancing of couples in the modern fashion there is no trace” (W. T. Smith, ISBE, p. 111).

### Bible Principles

**The Activity Itself.** Any dancing that is sensual is a work of the flesh (Gal 5:19-21). Two terms in Paul’s list apply.

Thanks for worshipping with our church family!

## FAMILY TALK

### Our Condolences

Rorie Hinds' aunt, Eunice Cox, passed away last week. We are very sorry for her family's loss.

### About Our Sick

Bessie McJunkins has been diagnosed with bronchitis. She is slowly mending from this and her constant back pain, too.

It was great to see Maxine Burnham out this past week, as well as Henrietta Vickers. Sam and Sue McJunkins are better but remain under the weather.

### Elder and Deacon Meeting

Because it was postponed last month, the eldership's meeting with the deacons will take place this Tuesday, Feb. 2nd, at 7 P.M.

### Duty List

Next month's duty list is available on the shelf. New responsibilities begin this Wednesday night, Feb. 3rd.

### Singing Night

This Wednesday is our monthly singing night. Men, prepare a song or two and come ready to lead them.

### Area Gospel Meeting

The Belt Road Church of Christ will have Shane Carrington with them from February 7–10. Weeknight services that week (Mon.–Wed.) will be at 7:00 P.M.

## SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements  
Rodney Ellis

Song Leading  
Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper  
Reese Lunsford  
Alex Spillers  
Preston Ellis  
Zack McJunkins

Prayers  
Jackie Jamison  
Jack Calvert

Scripture Reading  
Josh Moore

Bulletins  
John Marc Hinds  
Nathan Scott

## SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements  
Mike Davis

Song Leading  
Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper  
John Haley  
Dee Minter

Prayers  
Dee Minter  
Hayden Ellis

## WEDNESDAY

Announcements  
Gerald Eaton

Song Leading  
Daniel Allgor

Prayers  
Josh Moore  
Caleb Rinehart

Invitation  
Marc Hinds

## Dancing concluded from previous page

Carousing or reveling is a word closely associated with drunkenness (Rom 13:13). It first meant celebration, but is celebration out of control. "Komos expresses a lustful excess in physical and sexual pleasure..." (William Barclay, *Flesh and Spirit*, p. 62).

*Sensuality or lasciviousness* means "unbridled lust, excess, licentiousness, lasciviousness, wantonness, outrageousness, shamelessness, insolence: . . . wanton (acts or) manners, as filthy words, indecent bodily— movements, unchaste handling of males and females, etc." (Thayer, p. 79).

To be sure, not all dancing is sensual. Honestly, most of it is. Those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of heaven.

### The Atmosphere In the Which the Activity Occurs.

Typically, adult dancing takes place at "night spots," which feature drinking, ungodly music, and immodesty. Teen dancing sites may be somewhat more controlled with reference to alcohol, but not so with

the music and immodesty! Why would you choose to put yourself in a place of temptation?

## Good reputations are easy to destroy.

**Thoughts.** The thoughts dancing will arouse in you and others. Unless there is something extremely abnormal about you, these movements and/or close contact will arouse indecent thoughts. Remember, God knows and judges our thoughts (Heb 4:12–13). We cannot deceive Him. Remember, too, that you are responsible for leading someone else to sin (Matt 18:7).

**What Dancing Does To Our Influence.** The world associates dancing with worldliness, not godliness. When public advocates of Christianity attend dances, it makes news. Good reputations are hard to build, easy to destroy. For this reason, plus the fact that lines between various kinds

of dances are not always easy to draw, I and my family have chosen to abstain from anything that is called dancing.

## The Prom

Is it alright to attend the prom (for social reasons) and not dance? Before you decide to do that, ask yourself a few questions. Will the same sociability that makes me want to go now make me want to dance when I get there? Am I sure I will be able to control my thoughts while watching others? Will going make me a light to the world (Matt 5:16), exposing the works of darkness (Eph 5:11)? What do my parents think (Eph 6:1)? Am I 100% sure this is right (Rom 14:23)? What if the Lord should come while I am there? Surely these considerations outweigh any benefits.

Our primary concern in every decision is, What is God's will? His will is that we hold fast that which is good and abstain from every form of evil (1 Thess 5:21–22).

## Respecting the Authority of God

### AUDITORIUM CLASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 31st

LESSON 5  
Session 4

Rodney Ellis

Wednesday, February 3rd

SINGING NIGHT

Sunday, February 7th

LESSON 6  
Session 1

Jack Calvert

### YOUNG ADULT CLASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 31st

LESSON 3  
Session 5

Bill Brittenham

Wednesday, February 3rd

SINGING NIGHT

Sunday, February 7th

LESSON 3  
Session 6

Bill Brittenham