

## MARC'S REMARKS

### Plenary Inspiration

Do you believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God? It certainly claims to be. Paul, for example, states that “all Scripture is given by inspiration of God” (2 Tim 3:16, NKJV).

The phrase, “given by inspiration of God,” takes five words to translate what took Paul only one. In fact, other translations use different words to convey its sense.

- “breathed out by God” (ESV)
- “inspired by God” (NASB)
- “God-breathed” (NIV)

Not only did Paul tell us that the Bible is inspired, but he demonstrated it. For example, in Gal 3:16, he bases a significant part of his argument on the singularity of a noun, emphasizing that it wasn't plural.

Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “And to your Seed,” who is Christ.

He is quoting from Gen 12, when God promised to Abraham that “through your seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed.”

How's that for a demonstration of the Bible's word-for-word inspiration!

This is called “plenary” inspiration, which means that the inspiration and divine authority of the Bible are full and complete. Every word is just as God intended it.

### ABOUT US

#### Elders

Jack Calvert  
Rodney Ellis  
Sam McJunkins II

#### Deacons

Jon Barry  
Mike Davis  
Dave Massey  
Phillip Moore

#### 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

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## Is God Really in Control?

Rickie Jenkins

**D**o you ever find yourself wondering, “Does God really have things in hand here, or is my life spinning out of control?” Do you feel like if you trust in Jesus Christ and do enough of the right things, your Christian life will be a steady climb toward maturity? After numerous setbacks and failures and a series of dead ends, are you still sure God is in control? Are you left wondering, “Maybe my mistakes were more than God could handle.”

Haven't we all looked at our lives at times and thought, “Can anything be made of this mess?” On the outside, at least, life at times looks bleak and chaotic. It often looked that way to people in the Bible. Think of Joseph sitting unjustly in a prison cell, David on the run from a murderous Saul, or Hezekiah facing an overwhelming Assyrian army outside the gates of Jerusalem. How had things gone so wrong? Was God's plan still on course? Had He taken a vacation?

One of the writers of Scripture addressed this issue in a most unusual way. The book of Esther never mentions God, yet it relates a part of Jewish history that has God's fingerprints all over it. It's as if the writer wanted to emphasize that God is active behind the scenes, even when things seem out of control.

Things definitely seemed that way for the Jews living in Persian exile. Being dragged off to a cruel, foreign land was bad enough. Now, the king's right hand man had talked him into signing a decree to exterminate the Jews. The details of the plan just happened to become known to a Jew named Mordecai living in the capital city. And this man just happened to have raised a beautiful Jewish orphan girl named Esther. Among countless candidates, Esther just happened to be the one selected as queen by the king, who incidentally had just demoted his previous queen.

Thanks for worshipping with our church family!

## FAMILY TALK

### Rejoicing with the Angels

On Friday, May 14th, **Mindy Winters** was baptized at our church building. She is the 22-year-old granddaughter of the **Winters** and **Rowland's** and is **Jaimee Thomason's** older sister.

### Congratulations

**Cory** and **Amber Easley** are the proud parents of a healthy baby boy named **Cullen Shawn Easley**. He was born on Monday around 12:30 P.M. He measured 21 inches and weighed 7 lbs. 11 oz.



The Easley's wish to thank everyone for their prayers.

### About Our Sick

**Lenita Lansford's** husband, **Charles**, has been at UAMS Medical Center in Little Rock off and on for the past few weeks. Please keep them in your prayers.

Continue to visit and keep up with **Pat Winters**. He is permanently residing in Room 412 at Bailey Creek.

## SUNDAY MORNING

*Announcements*  
**Jon Barry**

*Song Leading*  
**Josh Moore**

*Lord's Supper*  
**Jack Calvert**  
**Mark Davis**  
**W. H. McFerrin**  
**Sonny Monaghan**

*Prayers*  
**Mike Davis**  
**Rodney Ellis**

*Scripture Reading*  
**Hayden Ellis**

*Bulletins*  
**Hayden Ellis**  
**Nathan Scott**

## SUNDAY EVENING

*Announcements*  
**Jackie Jamison**

*Song Leading*  
**Daniel Allgor**

*Lord's Supper*  
**Preston Ellis**  
**Zack McJunkins**

*Prayers*  
**Mark Davis**  
**W. H. McFerrin**

## WEDNESDAY

*Announcements*  
**Sam McJunkins III**

*Song Leading*  
**Phillip Moore**

*Prayers*  
**Josh Moore**  
**John Marc Hinds**

*Invitation*  
**Marc Hinds**

## Is God Really in Control? concluded from previous page

This young woman had the inner fortitude to risk her life by approaching the king on behalf of her people. And the king just happened to have been reading the records of the kingdom in which he discovered that Mordecai had never been rewarded for uncovering a plot against the king's life. So when Esther pleaded for the lives of her people, the king, who loved her, was now favorably inclined toward the Jews. Thus, the Jews just happened to be saved, and their enemy was sentenced to be hanged.

What a story of intrigue in the king's court! And what a story of a young woman whose faith caused her to trust in God's providence, even when God's plan for His people looked as though it would be permanently derailed!

The New Testament writers assure us that our Father does indeed have everything under control in our lives. God has a plan, and nothing is going to derail His plan as a whole or for us individually (Eph 3:11). We can be

assured that God is using even the smallest details and most insignificant events to accomplish His good purpose in our lives, so that we become like Jesus (Rom 8:28–29). Even our mistakes, many though they may be, won't thwart His plan. "Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass" (1 Thess 5:24).

Like Joseph, we may not ultimately understand in this life why God allows

### First, stay in God's Word.


When things get really bad, flood yourself with God's Word. It's the only way to consistently see things from God's perspective instead of our earthly perspective.

**Second, don't try to read the tea leaves.** Don't try to figure it all out. We're not very good at it anyway. Besides, when we try to make sense of what appears to be senseless, we are choosing to trust what

## Nothing is going to derail God's plan for us individually.

events to transpire as they do (Gen 50:20). Like many Old Testament saints, we may never be able to put the puzzle together this side of heaven (Heb 11:35–40). But that's okay. We are not the tapestry-makers. God is. Currently, we see only the backside of our life's tapestry—a disorderly tangle of yarn. When we are tempted to doubt that a beautiful picture is actually being created on the other side, here are some things we can do.

we can see rather than the God we cannot. Accept that we are incapable of comprehending the complexities of so vast a universe.

**Third, trust our heavenly Father.** Trust that He is sovereign, that He does have everything under His control. And trust that He is good, that His heart is only a heart of love for us and that He is weaving "an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison" for us (2 Cor 4:17). 

## Sermon Notes

### TONIGHT ...

#### Can You Hear Me Now?

Exodus 5:1–2

When Moses demanded that Pharaoh free the Israelites from slavery, the Egyptian king at first refused. When Moses said, "Thus says the LORD..." the arrogant Pharaoh responded by defiantly saying, "I do not know the LORD." Throughout the plagues (Ex 7–11), God emphasized that he was unleashing them so that all of Egypt would "know the LORD."

Pharaoh finally listened and let the people.

Can you hear God today? He is talking to you, but how? And are we even listening?