

**ABOUT US**

**Elders**

Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis

**Deacons**

Jon Barry Bill Brittenham

Mike Davis Dave Massey

**Evangelist**

Bryan Garlock

**Sunday**

Bible Study …………….9:30 A.M.

Worship …………...….10:15 A.M.

Worship …………..…….6:00 P.M.

**Wednesday**

Bible Study …………….7:00 P.M.

**ABOUT US**

**SERVICE TIMES**

**WWW.TXKCHURCH.COM**

SUNDAY MORNING

**Announcements**

Jon Barry

**Song Leader**

Daniel Allgor

**Lord’s Supper**

Mark Davis Cory Easley

Pete Rowland Bill Rinehart

**Prayers**

Mike Davis Dave Massey

SUNDAY EVENING

**Announcements**

Jon Barry

**Song Leader**

Jack Calvert

**Lord’s Supper**

Mark Davis Cory Easley

**Prayers**

Jerry Schnelle Pete Rowland

WEDNESDAY

**Announcements**

Gerald Eaton

**Song** **Leader**

Jack Calvert

**Prayers**

Clay Morris Cole Meador

**Invitation**

Bryan Garlock

**SUNDAY MORNING**

**Harvey, Irma and God**

Bill Brittenham

The past few weeks seem to have been filled with a larger number of natural catastrophes than usual. We have seen two devastating hurricanes hit the United States resulting in flooding and loss of property unseen for centuries. Huge uncontrolled wildfires are consuming millions of acres in our country, destroying homes, businesses and lives. A major earthquake shook a huge area of Mexico. There has also been deadly flooding in India and Europe. And while the number and scale of these recent disasters appear greater than usual, we know that natural catastrophes are a part of this world in which we live. But whenever there are floods or earthquakes or hurricanes that cause extensive loss of life or property damage, people try to find a reason or cause for these tragedies. Some try to find natural reasons like climate change or increased sunspots. But many people want to place the blame on God. From ancient history, man has looked to supernatural sources for the bad and good in our lives. Remember, the Greeks had a god for everything. And even though many people “refuse to have God in their knowledge” (Rom. 1:28), when disasters happen, He is the first one blamed. “Why did God cause this?” “How did God let this happen?” “Surely a loving God would not allow these people to suffer.” “God must be punishing them for their wickedness.”

I remember the earthquake in Alaska in 1964. At the time, it was reported that some of the greatest damage was in an area of Anchorage where many bars were located. This prompted many to conclude that God caused the quake.

Is God responsible for the devastation from recent disasters?  Is He punishing certain people?  Is He trying to get our attention?  To truly say, “God did this.”, God Himself must reveal the answer to men. In Acts 2:16, as Peter explained the miracle witnessed by the people, he said “this is that which was spoke through the prophet Joel”. Peter was inspired by the Holy Spirit to reveal with certainty that what the people were seeing was caused by God. And without the revelation of God’s Spirit to us, we cannot say, “God is responsible.”

Some may point to Old Testament records of the drowning of the Egyptians in the Red Sea or God withholding and then sending rain in the time of Ahab and Elijah (1 Kings 17 & 18), or other accounts of God using weather to punish the wicked, remind the fallen and generally show His glory. But the chronicles of God altering weather to accomplish His purposes are plainly revealed by God Himself through His prophets. In our time, God’s revelations to man have been completed. We no longer have inspired people to say, “this is that”. So, we must be very cautious about attributing cause to God.

Long before Houston, New Orleans, Miami, Charleston or Virginia Beach were populated, hurricanes made landfall along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts.  We have only been keeping records since 1851. When people began settling along these coasts, hurricanes had been a part of the area's weather for thousands of years.

In God's creation of "the heavens and the earth", part of that creation was what we call weather. Weather is vital to our lives and our survival. It is an extremely complex system of variables. Even with our super computers we can only predict the weather a few days in advance, and even then, the predictions frequently change. The number of hurricanes, their paths and severity cannot be accurately forecast from season to season and often change even from day to day. There seems no pattern to them.

When a particularly violent storm causes death, destruction and catastrophe to many, we look for a reason. And even though many people don't even believe in God, because we don't really understand the weather and we don't really understand God, we try to blame Him.

If we won't thank Him for the seasons, the sunshine and the needed rains, does it make sense to blame Him for destructive storms? And interestingly, if we will not attribute the cause of all things to God through creation, how could we possibly say He is the cause of natural disasters?

Weather, even seemingly random violent weather, is a part of God's creative cycle for life on this earth. Should we recognize Him in these storms? Certainly. Should we learn of His power from the violence? Absolutely. But instead of blaming Him for storms, we should praise and exalt Him for His wisdom, His glory, His majesty and His power in designing and creating this world with all its complex and perfectly balanced processes that allow us life.

Certainly, not to be insensitive to the death and suffering we have recently seen, but to paraphrase Matt. 4:45, *God sends hurricanes on the just and the unjust.*

If you would like to learn more about hurricanes and God’s grand design and purpose for these weather giants, please go to: *https://www.facebook.com/evidence4god/posts/1600532376633872*

***Psalm 19:1*** *The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament showeth his handiwork.*

Our Gospel Meeting with **Bubba Garner** was a huge success. Our members supported the meeting very well and we had several visitors from the community and many from other congregations. However, the real success was the excellent lessons brother Garner presented on **“Building Up The Lord’s Body”**. The messages were edifying and always scriptural. If you were not able to attend in person, you can listen to them on our web site, ***txkchurch.com*** or you can request a CD of the series or specific lessons by going to our web site and sending a message.



**Volume XXII September 17, 2017 Issue 37**

**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 ... Matthew10:32- 33; Acts 8:35-30

**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

**WEDNESDAY**

**SUNDAY EVENING**

**FAMILY TALK**

Continue to remember and check on our shut-ins: **L. G. Clemmons, Willie Margaret Mobley, Bob Buls, Bonnie Allgor, Max Thomas, Maxine Burnham** and **Mary Alice Turner.** Cards, calls and visits are ALWAYS needed and appreciated.

Our hearts are deeply saddened at the passing of our dear brother **L. G. Clemmons** from this life last Monday evening. Yet we rejoice that **L. G.** is prepared to stand before our Almighty Judge on that last day. We weep with his family but share in the wonderful memories we have. And we are humbly thankful to our God for hearing our prayers to give **L. G.** a peaceful and quite journey into His eternal life.

Remember to keep **Joey Avance** in your prayers as he continues to struggle with his ongoing health problems. **Joey** continues to explore medical options that we pray will give him relief. From his trip to Little Rock this week: *“Looks like I will probably have more procedures on vocal cords. They are not moving like they should. Said injection material used at Mayo in gone. Said it's possible it could be a neurological issue as well. Will review scope video in more detail and will call with a decision on what we will be doing. So not great news but at least they can do what needs to be done in Little Rock.”*

Please pray for **Maxine Burnham**. She would love to be at services, but her health will just not allow it.

**cont. from pg. 1**