

## SUNDAY MORNING

### Announcements

Clay Morris

### Song Leader

Jack Calvert

### Lord's Supper

Jerry Schnelle      Rodney Ellis  
Mark Davis      Pete Rowland

### Prayers

Bill Brittenham      Melvin Potts

## SUNDAY EVENING

### Announcements

Clay Morris

### Scripture Reading

Jack Calvert

### Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

### Lord's Supper

Jack Calvert      Mark Davis

### Prayers

Jon Barry      Wendell Mobley

## WEDNESDAY

### Announcements

Jack Calvert

### Song Leader

Bryan Garlock

### Prayers

Clay Morris      Mark Davis

### Invitation

Joseph Barry

## ABOUT US

### Elders

Jack Calvert      Rodney Ellis

### Deacons

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.  
Worship .....6:00 P.M.

### Wednesday

Bible Study .....7:00 P.M.

## WWW.TXKCHURCH.COM

## 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

# Think On These Things

Franklin Drive Church of Christ

2301 Franklin Drive ■ Texarkana, AR 71854 ■ (870) 772-0746



Volume XXIV

September 8, 2019

Issue 36

## The Enemy of Worship

Bryan Garlock

God expects worship from the heart and not mere outward conformity to ritual form. In fact, those whose hearts are not centered on glorifying God offer unacceptable and worthless worship. However, those who are interested in giving God their best in worship (John 4:24) face a common enemy: *distraction*.

Why is distraction an enemy of worship? While there are many reasons, the most important reason is that it takes our focus off worshipping God and encouraging our brother and sisters — where it *solely* belongs.

*Distractions attack from every direction.* We lose focus when our stomachs are growling but the preacher keeps preaching, when the song worship leader messes up the song, when children misbehave, when two individuals whisper to one another about unnecessary things, when our backs hurt from sitting in

uncomfortable pews, when a cell phone rings during partaking of the Lord's Supper and/or even when a brother or sister wears something gaudy or inappropriate (1 Tim. 2:9-10).

*Distractions affect every aspect of worship.* For example, have you ever been singing Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs only to realize that the song is about to end? Interestingly, your lips were moving and those around you heard you singing, but your mind was in a different place. When this occurs, we are not learning anything from the songs nor are we praising God nor truly encouraging our brethren. Perhaps the church is partaking of the Lord's Supper but rather than focusing on the death of our Lord, you are thinking about \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank). Paul said, "For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself" (1 Cor. 11:29). If we allow outside forces to

## FAMILY TALK

Continue to remember and check on our shut-ins: **Willie Margaret Mobley, Bonnie Allgor, Maxine Burnham, W.H. McFerrin, and Francine Davis.** Cards, calls and visits are ALWAYS needed and appreciated.

The next **Ladies Bible** Class will be Tuesday, **September 10<sup>th</sup>**. The morning class will be at 11:30 AM at the **Brittenham's** and the evening class at 6:00 PM at the **Calvert's**.

Both **Jack Calvert** and **Beth Ellen Rowland** had successful surgeries last week.

The **Westside Church** in **Camden, AR** is having a gospel meeting Sept. 8-11 with **Jacob Hudgins**. The times are on the bulletin board in the foyer.

Our next **Gospel Meeting** is scheduled for **Oct. 13-18** with **Mark Roberts**.

**Please pick up some invite cards and ask for Bible studies. See Bryan if you need any help with home studies.**

### Have You?

1. Visited with a brother or sister at services that you don't usually meet?
2. Sent a card just saying "I'm Thinking of You" to a brother or sister?
3. Encouraged one of our young people recently?

Continued from page 1

enter the mind and control us during this time of reflection God says our souls can be lost!

If we allow distractions in our worship we are *forsaking the assembly* (Heb. 10.24-25). We may be there in person, but our mind is wherever the distraction takes us. You must reign that in and take those thoughts captive to obey Jesus (2 Cor. 10.5b).

Are you contributing to the distraction within the assembly? You are if you forget to turn off/silence your phone, if you use your phone for everything but Bible apps, if you allow your children to run up and down the pews, if you unnecessarily get up and down (and yes, I realize there are times that one must get up), or if you are whispering about things that have no importance in that setting. While there are many more distractions we could list, please be conscious of the things you do within the assembly. Do not be selfish and think that you may act however you please. Your brothers and sisters are trying their best to worship their Creator and they do not need you to be a hindrance.

Here are some suggestions to help make worship less distracting.

- Come to the assembly well rested. This will help you stay awake for the activities we engage in.
- Sit up front. Those who sit up front have fewer distractions — their only temptation is to not turn around at every noise!
- Make sure you are engaged in the singing, reading and/or praying during the

Lord's Supper, and following along with the preacher in your Bible. If your Bible is closed, you can get easily distracted!

- If you must get up during the assembly, try do so between songs so that you do not disrupt your fellow worshippers' concentration.
- Even more so, do your best to stop leaving the assembly during the invitation song. While there may be times when you must walk out, remember that sinners are in the audience contemplating their obedience to Christ. Imagine breaking their concentration by saying, "Excuse me" as you step over them to go to the back.

While we have all experienced wandering eyes and minds during the assembly, we must ever be on guard against these attacks to hinder our worship. In fact, when worship is over, we ought to be exhausted — exhausted from putting our whole being into the worship of our great and almighty God!  
BG

### Our Risen Lord

Joseph Barry

Jesus came to earth to die for us. The reason Jesus came to die for us was because of *our* sin. After Jesus' death and burial, on the third day, He was raised from the dead. What this established was that our faith would not be in vain. In 1 Corinthians 15:12-14, Paul said that if

Jesus is not raised from the dead, we are still spiritually dead, and our faith in God is hopeless. But, we serve a living Savior.

Now, when we sin, we not only hurt God but we also treat Jesus' sacrifice with contempt. The only thing that cleanses us from our sin that put Jesus on the cross is His blood. In Romans 6:1-4, Paul corrected their misunderstanding of God's grace. He said that since we are baptized, we should not be sinning anymore. Now, we all sin, as Paul said in Romans 3:23. But that doesn't mean we can't come back to God in prayer (1 John 1.9).

So where does that leave you? Are you lost in your sins? If you are not a Christian, we invite you to be washed in Jesus' blood by being baptized into Jesus' name. If you are a Christian and have sin in your life, we encourage you to pray to your Father and be healed.

*If David was delivered out of "the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear" by Jehovah (1 Sam. 17:37), do you think Jehovah can help you resist the devil so he will flee from you? (James 4:7)*

*Read Rom. 8:35-38. Carefully consider each of the things Paul says CANNOT separate us from the "love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord".*

*Our God has furnished us with His "armor of light" (Rom. 13:12), His "armor of righteousness" (2 Cor. 6:6) and the "whole armor of God" (Eph. 6:10-21).*