

**SUNDAY MORNING**

**Announcements**

Mark Davis

**Song Leader**

Daniel Allgor

**Lord's Supper**

Jack Calvert Cole Meador  
Rodney Ellis

**Prayers**

Jerry Schnelle Willie Standokes

**WEDNESDAY EVENING**

**Announcements**

Jack Calvert

**Song Leader**

Clay Morris

**Prayers**

Rodney Ellis Joseph Barry

**Invitation**

Jack Calvert

**The NEW Normal**

Reread **Revelation 21**. In beautiful language, God presents a picture of heaven. He knows our understanding now is limited by our physical nature and cannot understand or comprehend the true nature of heaven. But in language that comes closest to what we can understand, He tells us of the grandeur and beauty and the peace that await His faithful. All that He, the Only True God, has prepared for us eternally. Brethren, this is the true NORMAL that should be our goal. Let us never forget!

**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.  
~~Worship .....6:00 P.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



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**Are You Thirsty For God?**

Berry Kercheville

Jesus and other inspired writers offered invitations based on hungering and thirsting on dozens of occasions. We often pay little attention to the metaphors, being more interested in the message of the surrounding text than in the question of our own thirst.

Consider Jesus' opening statement: "If anyone thirsts..." So, are you thirsty? I am persuaded that everyone is thirsty for something, though most understand neither the nature of their thirst nor how to quench it. Everyone recognizes thirsts for basic necessities such as food, clothing, and shelter. But our thirsts go far beyond these basic needs. We don't just thirst for food; we thirst for fine dining. We are not simply interested in clothes to wear; we want the latest fashions. We are typically not content with a place to live; we want a nice house in a nice neighborhood with nice schools. Our lives are filled with desires. Somehow a \$30,000 SUV, truck, or sports

car will provide far greater fulfillment than a 1995 Ford Taurus that will just as easily get us to the desired destination. The material world dazzles our eyes and makes grand promises of joy, laughter, and comfort if only we owned the newest and the latest.

These desires indicate that we are thirsty. John summarized these thirsts by placing them in three categories: "the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life" (1 John 2:16). Satan tells us that by fulfilling these desires our thirsts will be quenched. When we find that we are still thirsty, Satan argues that the problem is we need to "drink" more. People lost at sea die of thirst even though there is water everywhere. That's because it's the wrong kind of water. That water will not only make people thirstier, it will kill them. In the same way, trying to quench our thirst by fulfilling material desires is like drinking salt water to quench physical thirst.

## FAMILY TALK

Continue to remember and check on our shut-ins/sometimes shut-ins: **Bonnie Allgor, Pat Buls, Maxine Burnham, Ann Thomas, Sonny & Cathy Monaghan, Pete & Beth Rowland, and Francine Davis.**

**Bible Study: 9:30 AM (and Zoom)**

**Services: 10:15 AM (and Zoom)**

**Monday Class: 7:00 PM (Zoom)**

**Wednesday: 7:00 PM (and Zoom)**

## Prophecies of Living Water

First century Jews had a keen awareness of the coming of a second “Moses/Deliverer” who would provide an abundance of life-giving water. Isaiah said, *“With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation”* (12:3). Ezekiel revealed an elaborate vision of water flowing from the threshold of the messiah’s temple that eventually became a mighty river causing all the desert areas to flourish and giving life to all the nations (Ezek. 47:1-12). Zechariah offers a similar vision of living water flowing from Jerusalem, God becoming King of all the earth, and the righteous going up to Jerusalem to worship during the Feast of Tabernacles (Zech. 14:1-19).

With this as a background we are better able to understand Jesus’ cry on the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles: *“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water’”* (John 7:37-38). Jesus is the one offering life-giving water. Jesus is the

source for thirst-quenching, so much so that an abundance of living water (“rivers”) would flow from one’s innermost being.

## Satisfying the Thirst

Let’s get down to it. What dazzles your eyes? What gives you that adrenaline rush? What activity sounds wonderful and promises an out-of-this-world experience? Your answer to these questions will determine your level of maturity and give you an idea of where you are on the “growth-scale”.

There is certainly nothing wrong with enjoying the fruit of one’s labor, but that must not be one’s highest goal or greatest joy. Isaiah calls out to a world that endlessly spends their paychecks and their energies for *“that which is not bread”* and labors for *“that which does not satisfy”* (Is. 55:1-2). But at the same time, the Lord is offering wine, milk, and rich food that do not require any of this world’s goods to purchase. Only His food will satisfy.

Paul said, *“I count everything as loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.”* What will fill us and quench our thirst is knowing the Lord, giving up our life for Him, and becoming like Him in His death (Phil. 3:10). Jesus said, *“For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it”* (Matt. 16:25). A sure way to never quench your thirst is to try to save your life.

So, are you still growing? If you are, you are thirstier than ever for God. Possessions are nice, but you know they will not last or bring joy. Fun activities are just that – activities that are fun for a while, but they aren’t what

really puts a smile on your face. This world’s knowledge is interesting and stimulates a curiosity, but nothing compares to drinking in the very words of the Creator. A faithful husband or wife, children and grandchildren are precious relationships, but only when they are centered on the One through whom all relationships are meaningful and will endure. Sin holds a promise of a fleeting pleasure for a season, but truly righteous living is as pure and refreshing as the cold water in a mountain stream.

Indeed, *“As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God”* (Ps. 42:1-2).

## Humble Yourself Under God’s Mighty Hand

Nathan Lee & Eric Wallace

Like drowning swimmers, Christians are called to realize they cannot save themselves and instead must submit to God’s saving hand. This is done through humility of spirit. In speaking about humility, Peter told Christians to humble themselves “under God’s mighty hand.” This is another instance of anthropomorphism (i.e., the idea of ascribing physical qualities and characteristics to God). God’s mighty hand was a common metaphor used in the Old Testament (e.g., Exodus 13:3f; Deuteronomy 9:26f; Jeremiah 21:5). WE know pride is the opposite of humility, according to I Peter 5:5, so putting ourselves under God’s mighty hand is to ask God to crush our pride beneath Him. The juxtaposition is that by crushing our

pride, God will raise us up (Luke 18:14). The raising up is not something that comes from us, but rather from God (Cf. I Samuel 26:9f). However, God does not always raise us up immediately, but rather in due time. Part of being humble means we should be willing to wait patiently for things to happen according to God’s time and not our own. God exalted Israel when He brought them out of Egypt, but it was years before His plan of release was carried out. Likewise, the exalting from God will only happen at His appointed time (Most likely referring to the end times when Jesus will return).

Excerpt from Drawing Out: I & II Peter & Jude

## The New Normal

Since all of our established comforts and routines were shaken or destroyed last year, we have been looked forward to getting back to a degree of normalcy.

We want to be able to eat inside a restaurant or go on a vacation or even feel free to hug those we love. Our sense of security was severely challenged by all the changes to “routine” lives.

However, we should understand that even before the pandemic, what we took as routine, normal or secure were not true security or even normal.

**James 4:13-16** tells us that nothing in this life is truly assured. Verse 14 especially (and the disruptions of the past year) should remind us: ***Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow.***

**BB**