

SUNDAY MORNING
<p>Announcements Jon Barry</p> <p>Song Leader Jack Calvert</p> <p>Lord's Supper Bryan Garlock, Bill Rinehart Mark Davis</p> <p>Prayers Cole Meador, Rodney Ellis</p>
WEDNESDAY EVENING
<p>Announcements Randy Ellis</p> <p>Song Leader Clay Morris</p> <p>Prayers Jon Barry, Mike Davis</p> <p>Invitation Joseph Barry</p>

ABOUT US
<p>Elders Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis</p> <p>Deacons Jon Barry Mike Davis Clay Morris</p> <p>Evangelist Bryan Garlock</p>
SERVICE TIMES
<p>Sunday Bible Study9:30 A.M. Worship10:15 A.M.</p> <p>Monday (Zoom) Bible Study7:00 P.M.</p> <p>Wednesday Bible Study7:00 P.M.</p>
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“On God my salvation and my glory rest; The rock of my strength, my refuge is in God. Trust in Him at all times, O people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us.”

(Ps 62.7-8)

GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION
<p>Hear the word of truth Romans 10:13-17</p> <p>Believe the truth..... Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24</p> <p>Repent from all sins Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38</p> <p>Confess the name of Christ ... Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10</p> <p>Be Baptized in His name Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Colossians 2:12</p> <p>Walk in newness of life and be faithful unto death Romans 6:1-4; Revelation 2:10</p>



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What Are We Expecting From Our Prayers?

Roger Shouse

We pray because prayer works! James writes: "The effectual prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much" (5:16). If God never listened, or if God never answered our prayers "Yes," then why pray? There would be no motive to pray. We would say, "It just doesn't do any good." But we know better. All of us can be thankful for the numerous prayers answered in our lives. Prayer works! God is moved by the prayers of His people.

But, what are we expecting from our prayers? The simple answer would be, "We are expecting God to answer them." Thus, we pray in faith that He will respond.

Sometimes, however, I feel that some look at prayer as the "magical fix all" to our problems. We make a mess of our marriage and then in desperation pray about our home and think God will now make it right. We mess up our health by poor eating habits and a lack of exercise and then lay in a hospital bed praying for our health to return. We think the church will grow just because "we have prayed for that."

It seems that in all of this, we are expecting God to right all the wrongs, fix all the mistakes, and make everything fine simply because we have prayed about it. Now this is not questioning the power of God but it is essential that we understand our roles and responsibilities and our need to work with Him.

We Find Ourselves In A Mess Financially! This happens because we spend instead of save. It will take more than words to right the wrongs of unwise decisions.

We Find Ourselves In A Troubled Marriage! Perhaps because of things like gossiping, nagging, dishonesty, and negativity, we have made a mess of our relationship with our spouse. A change of hearts and a renewed dedication are essential to turning that relationship around. God will not "fix it" without the cooperation of those "in it."

FAMILY TALK

Continue to remember the health concerns of *Francine Davis, Gerald Eaton, Joey Avance, Jerry Schnelle, Bonnie Allgor, Pat Buls, Sonny & Cathy Monaghan, Beth Ellen, and Pete Rowland.*

Mark your calendars for our upcoming gospel singing (April 1 at 7 PM) and our gospel meeting with Don Truex (April 8-10).

After the assembly, we will be having lunch at Clay and Laci's house (Sunday, April 10).

Please keep me (Bryan) in your prayers. I have been having some throat problems. I have an appointment with an ENT on April 27.

We Find Ourselves In A Stagnant Local Church! It is stagnant because of indifference. Such a church cannot grow by the members merely saying a prayer and then waiting with arms folded for something to happen. Obviously, God expects cooperation from us.

Whether financial or familial, are we to expect that all one has to do to fix the mess is pray and everything will be fine? Absolutely not! There are consequences to our choices and responsibilities that rest upon our shoulders. God will do His part but ... we must do ours!

A Few Words about Our Thrill-Seeking Culture Edward O. Bragwell, Sr.

In the recent years, we have developed a thrill-seeking culture — a culture moved more by emotional stimuli than careful thought — that affects many facets of our lives. I have not been to a movie in years, but I have seen trailers on TV and digital video, and heard people talk about them. I have noticed many come away more enamored with the thrilling "special effects" while having only a sketchy memory of the plot or story behind the effects. At musical concerts, for the most part, the primary attention is given to special effects to create an emotional atmosphere than to thoughtful lyrics that convey real messages.

I fear this culture is affecting public worship. People are "going to church" — not to be challenged to think on spiritual things — but to be thrilled by the "special effects" generated by preachers and "worship leaders." Rather than songs, clearly worded and sung to praise God and to teach each other — words primarily appealing to the head rather than to the arms and feet — the order of the day is for "special effects" designed to give worshipers an emotional high. Sermons must be jazzed up with verbal and electronic special effects so that the audience can be thrilled rather than informed or convicted in their minds. I am not speaking of the use of visual aids, computer generated or otherwise. Visual aids are great tools when they truly "aid" the listener's understanding, but when used for emotional, thrill and awe value, they are questionable to say the least. I saw a video a while back of a congregation partaking of the Lord's Supper while an electronically produced large cross was "floating" around the auditorium. A little too much — me thinks.

As I read the New Testament, I get the idea public worship is to be done from the heart in a solemn

manner, glorifying God and seriously reflecting on the words uttered in the songs, prayers and discourses.

John 4: 23 & 24

23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Don't Break the Look Doy Moyer

Dress codes are common. They aren't always liked or appreciated, but they are still a regular part of many organizations and services. One of the more well-known organizations with a dress code is Disney. They have what is called the "Disney Look," and "Cast Members" (employees) aren't allowed to break that look. For example, they aren't allowed to dye their hair an unnatural color, have visible nose rings or tattoos, or wear wild nail polish. They aren't really allowed to have their own individualized look. They must conform to the "Disney Look" standards.

This gets me thinking about the "Christian look." I know there aren't specified codes in the same exact sense that organizations will spell out dress codes, but there is still a modest look that Christians are expected to demonstrate. Since Christians have "clothed" ourselves with Christ (Gal 3:27) and are to "adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect" (Titus 2:10), we need to realize that what we wear is a reflection of our inner character. Scripture plainly warns against the two sides of the "dress code" violations: 1) immodesty, or wearing that which is meant to draw special attention to yourself, and 2) nakedness, a failure not to wear enough.

We can get so wrapped up in trying to define the exact lines of what is too much, too little, too low, too high, etc., that we lose sight of an even more fundamental fact: as Christians, we are not to "break the look" of the adornment of Christ. Here, then, are some reminders about our "look" as Christians:

It's not about individuality, personal expression, or personal comfort. Christians recognize that we are to deny ourselves and take up the cross daily (Luke 9:23). When we try to make Christianity just another mode of personal expression, to make it our own look, then we have completely missed the point. This is true whether we are talking about dress or anything else. Our privilege is to glorify God, to make it all about Him. Christianity has never been a religion of convenience or self-will, but one of sacrifice and self-emptying.

On the other hand, it is about representing something (or someone) bigger. It's about being a team player, knowing that there are others who need to be edified and encouraged. No Christian will want to run over the sensibilities of others, even if it is something that is a personal "right" (Rom 14). It's about knowing our limits and understanding that we live by standards that are not our own. It's about submitting to others. You may disagree with a particular dress code. You might think it's all silly. But those in the positions of authority had reasons for doing it the way they did. They have reasons for asking you to abide by the code. Submission isn't about agreeing; it's about giving up self even when you don't agree or understand.

Don't break the "Christian Look." You have clothed yourself with Christ. You adorn His doctrine. Let your outer dress properly reflect godly inward character.