

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements

Randy Ellis

Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper

Jack Calvert Cole Meador
Rodney Ellis

Prayers

Jerry Schnelle Mark Davis

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Announcements

Mark Davis

Song Leader

Bryan Garlock

Prayers

Rodney Ellis Bill Rinehart

Invitation

Jon Barry

that final glory. They are surely missed. Only a few of those I originally met in 1968 remain with us. Many have finished their fight, others have moved away, and sadly a few have fallen by the wayside.

I pray that our Lord continues with those still here. May you all grow and prosper in His work and in His service. May you always remain faithful to Him and glorify His name. I have loved some of you for many years, and others for only a short time. Regardless of where we are, we will always be joined in the love and service of our Lord. May God continue to bless all of you.
Bill

ABOUT US

Elders

Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis

Jon Barry Mike Davis
Clay Morris

Evangelist

Bryan Garlock

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

Bible Study9:30 A.M.
Worship10:15 A.M.

Monday (Zoom)

Bible Study7:00 P.M

Wednesday

Bible Study7:00 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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Issue 46

Blaming Others

John Wells

In I Kings 18 we read about a meeting between two adversaries. This would be Ahab and Elijah. Ahab was the king of Israel and arguably the most wicked king Israel ever had (I Kings 16:30-33). In fact, we are told more about his reign than any other king of Israel, in part because he epitomized the evil men who led Israel. Elijah was a prophet of God, and his job was to remind this wicked king of his sin and to announce God's judgments on the nation because of their evil. In fact, Elijah had announced the drought and famine, from which the nation had suffered for three years leading up to this moment (I Kings 17:1).

It's no surprise that Ahab hated Elijah. If he could have found an opportunity to kill him, he would have. In fact, Obadiah – the man Elijah uses to set up the meeting – is afraid to make the

arrangements because of that possibility. All of this helps to give us a sense of the drama when these two meet each other in I Kings 18. Ahab's opening statement to Elijah is bizarre. Here, we have the wicked king who has disobeyed God, led his nation into idolatry, and brought God's judgment upon them and yet, he refers to Elijah as the "troubler of Israel." When in fact, it was Ahab who had brought trouble upon the nation. But his perception is so warped that he cannot see his own fault and believes that Elijah is the source of Israel's troubles. Under Ahab the nation would never turn from its evil, because he could not see his own faults and mistakes. There's a lesson to be learned here in this story. Sometimes we act just like Ahab, can't we?

This may be hard to accept, because we as followers of Christ know that Ahab is clearly in the wrong. But

FAMILY TALK

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

We are very sorry to learn that **Roger Clemmons'** brother, **Steve**, passed away. Please keep **Roger** and **Melodie** and all the family in your prayers.

The **Brittenhams** are planning to move to Kentucky at the end of this week. They will be missed. Their new address is posted on the bulletin board.

sometimes we do the very thing that Ahab does in this story. When we get into conflicts with others, we see only their faults and are completely blind to our own. We may create a list in our mind of all the faults of the other and hope that whoever we share the story with will agree. They probably will agree, if they aren't able to see the other side of the issue.

Worse yet, we may often find ourselves blind to our own faults and get angry when anyone suggests that our own behavior needs to change. We are closed to the possibility that the trouble is with ourselves. Having a lack of self-awareness, when examining issues in our lives, can prevent us from ever solving the problem.

Israel's situation would never improve under Ahab, because he was

unwilling to acknowledge his own failures. The same thing can happen in our relationships with one another. Brethren can have conflicts and remain alienated for years, because each party focuses on what the other did wrong and will not even consider examining themselves to see if any repair can occur on their end. This mindset, which says – our problem is with you – becomes a barrier that prevents us from reaching true resolution.

Notice Elijah's words to Ahab (I Kings 18:18). Ahab had neglected the commands of God and led the nation into idolatry. The only way things could get better is if Ahab was humble enough to take a long, hard look at himself, see his faults, and take some steps to change.

When facing a problem, we must stop focusing exclusively on the other person and their faults or failures. Our own point of view in matters cannot cloud our willingness to look at ourselves and see how we may be contributing to the problem.

Romans 12:17-21 discusses not seeking revenge and living peaceably with all men:

“Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved do not avenge yourselves, rather give place to wrath; for it is written, *“Vengeance is Mine, I will repay.”* says the Lord. Therefore, *“If your enemy is hungry, feed him, if he is thirsty, give him a drink, For in so doing you will heap coals of fire*

on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

In our earthly relationships and the conflicts we come across, there is usually fault on both sides in a dispute. It is possible one side is clearly in the wrong, like Ahab. But the point is, that we should be willing to examine ourselves to see if any fault could be within ourselves. I am the only person I can change. I cannot force the other to do what is right. We are in complete control of our own actions and our own behavior. We are obligated to do the right thing, no matter what the other does. Examining yourself offers the best hope of repairing the relationship. The alternative is to hold grudges, ignore the other, gossip, nag, or criticize. How well do these solutions solve the problem? God has a better way. We need to be willing to be the first to say, “Maybe the trouble with us is me.” When we have a conflict with someone, we need to honestly consider our words and actions that may have caused or contributed to the problem.

Thoughts On Leaving, AGAIN

In August of 1968, a young man, straight out of college in Arizona, moved to Texarkana. He would soon start an internship at the local Army Depot. But before he started work, he began worshipping with the saints meeting on Franklin Drive in Texarkana, AR. Little did he, or the congregation know, that the relationship between them would last at least 53 years. While there, he met and

married a young lady who would share his life for at least 53 years.

Only in the intern program for a year, he and his wife left Franklin Drive in the Fall of 1969. But during that year, deep, loving and lasting bonds of fellowship were formed.

Then in 1976, he, his wife and 2 of their 3 boys moved back to Franklin Drive where they worshipped with the brethren and found that even though it had been several years, the love and friendship remained. (Their third son was born in New Boston in 1977.) On Sundays he and usually the whole family drove to Ft. Towson, OK to preach on Sundays. During this time, he and his family moved to the Belt Road congregation to work but he still maintained a close and loving fellowship with the brethren in Arkansas.

Then in the early 90's he returned once again to Franklin Drive.

During these years with God's people at Franklin Drive, he was afforded many opportunities to learn and grow in our Lord, supported by the love of the brethren.

Now, as he and his family prepare for what is probably their last move, it with very mixed emotions that they are leaving Franklin Drive once more.

I wanted to take this opportunity to express my very deep thanksgiving to all the brethren I have known at Franklin Drive over the years. You have always been a great help and support to me. You have given me a multitude of opportunities over the years to learn and grow. Looking back, many of our fellow warriors have gone on before us to await