

**SUNDAY MORNING**

**Announcements**

Jon Barry

**Song Leader**

Jack Calvert

**Lord's Supper**

Rodney Ellis Mark Davis  
Bill Rinehart

**Prayers**

Randy Ellis Bill Brittenham

**WEDNESDAY EVENING**

**Announcements**

Bill Brittenham

**Song Leader**

Bryan Garlock

**Prayers**

Bill Rinehart Mark Davis

**Invitation**

Jon Barry

God in prayer, meditation, study, etc. and not act quickly on our own. Only after we look to God, recognize our place, and understand His will is it time to "march around our city" and tackle trials, tribulations, and battles this life throws our way. The Israelites only defeated Jericho through their reliance on God; it's the same for us today. And even if we lose battles in this life, if we're faithful, we'll be battle-free in the next.

- excerpt from *Drawing Out: Joshua*

**Col. 3:3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.**

**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.

**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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**How To Live With Sin**

Bill Crews

Through the years I have talked to many Christians who were negligent and unfaithful and freely confessed their negligence and unfaithfulness. They were sinners; they were lost; they knew it; they acknowledged it. But almost without exception, those Christians I have known who have completely forsaken the Lord, who have abandoned their faith and good conscience and made shipwreck of the faith (**1 Timothy 1:19**) were of an entirely different mind and spoke in an entirely different vein.

They had rationalized their situation (as human wisdom is prone to do) to the extent that they thought they could justify their past conduct and present circumstances. At the beginning of their road to apostasy they **knew** they were sinning, but along the way they convinced themselves that they weren't. They became so hardened in sin that it wasn't sin any more — in their own eyes.

To accomplish this at least two things were necessary: (1) they had to still, if not silence, the voice of their own conscience, and (2) they had to stop being reminded of their ungodly lives by their contact with and contemplation of the godly people around them. It took a while, a lot of effort, and a lot of practice, but finally the conscience was so seared, so repeatedly ignored and violated, that it finally stopped tormenting them.

The second feat was accomplished by making hypocrites of all the godly people around them — if all of the people whose lives ever served to denounce the lives, they are living can be imagined to be hypocrites, then who is going to feel guilty when compared to a hypocrite? After all, isn't a completely frank sinner better, much better, than a hypocritical saint? So they attack parents, spouses, brethren, friends and angrily denounce them as hypocrites. If contact with godly people only serves to remind them that

## 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.**

Please remember **Dennis Burnham** and his family in your prayers. **Dennis** is under in-house hospice care at Texarkana Hospice.

Also remember **Chelsea Thomas** and her family. Her cancer has returned.

they are not the hypocrites they are making them out to be, then the next step is to avoid them — just retire from them with the firm determination that they **are** hypocrites unworthy of your association — and then try not to ever think of them. At the same time, you view your worldly friends, your fellow-sinners, as frank and honest.

If, perchance, some precious soul gone astray reads this piece, I sincerely hope you will consider what you have done to yourself. God cares; Christ cares; faithful Christians care. People are praying and have prayed for you. Your conscience can live again, and feel free. As we sing in a song, “Feelings lie buried that grace can restore.” Most (I did say “most”) of the people you insist upon labeling hypocrites would rejoice at your return to the Lord, not to mention the angels of heaven.

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**Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

## “I Didn’t Get Anything Out Of The Sermon!”

Wayne Goff

*My father preached the Gospel for over sixty years and saw many things both in the church and out of it over that time period. One of the things he and most other gospel preachers heard from time to time was the complaint: “Well, I didn’t get anything out of the sermon!” My father’s response was “Well, you probably didn’t bring anything to get it in!” A bucket full of holes doesn’t hold much water for very long. A heart ill-prepared for spiritual things will struggle with a spiritual lesson.*

### Something To Get It In?

Dear reader, visitor or member, are you prepared to *hear* the sermon, *receive* it, *understand* it and *accept* it? There are many variables involved in hearing the message well and we do not wish to minimize them.

Some are so new to biblical truths that it is indeed difficult for them to comprehend what is being said. The Bible does have its own vocabulary, and one unacquainted with it will get lost easily. Such a one, if he or she desires to learn more, needs to ask someone to study with them. An example of this is the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8 who was approached by a preacher of the gospel and asked: “*Do you understand what you are reading?*” (v. 30). The man humbly accepted the teaching of Philip and quickly obeyed the gospel. There is no shame in asking for help when you need it.

Some are at the stage of the “first principles.” **Hebrews 6:1** speaks of the “*elementary principles*” of the gospel and **1 Peter 2:2** even calls them the “*milk*” of God’s Word. Once again, there is no shame in this for one who is a new Christian, or newly interested in the Bible. They should begin at the beginning, at the first principles. Once

again, such a one should ask an experienced Christian to sit down with them and explain these first principles, and help them grow up to greater maturity.

Unfortunately, some Christians never get past the “first principles” stage. I know this because many sit in the pew and “listen”(?) but do not comprehend what they are hearing. Many of these same people skip Bible class, too. They complain that they just don’t get anything out of the lessons! But if these people have been converted for several years, then they have failed to grow as they should. The Hebrew writer warned these brethren by saying, “*For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food*” (**Hebrews 5:12**). If you don’t study, and re-study the Bible, then you lose what little understanding you had in the first place! This is a very dangerous condition because it can cost one his eternal soul! Spiritual starvation kills the soul just like physical starvation kills the body! If this is you, dear reader, then wake up and change your ways! It’s not just the preacher’s fault or the teacher’s fault if you don’t get something out of the lesson!

### Peter’s Admonition

A wonderful example for all of us is the apostle Peter. When you read about his life first in the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John, you see an **eager, brave, uninhibited man!** When asked a question, he would always have an answer — *even if the answer wasn’t always right!* If he was **right**, and he often was, then others learned from his response. If he was **wrong**, as he sometimes was, then others learned from his mistake. When teaching a Bible class,

especially in the auditorium, **I beg for someone to be like Peter** — brave, fearless, eager to learn, and willing to ask what might be a foolish question. Because that student will add much to a class situation and others will more readily get involved and actually learn from what is being discussed. Peter’s own last words of inspiration are fitting to reproduce here: “*But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen*” (**2 Peter 3:18**). Peter made mistakes and learned from them. We should too!

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### Preparing for Your Jericho

When tough times come and we’re not sure how we can conquer our personal “Jericho,” let’s take some of the actions from Joshua 5 & 6 and develop a simple checklist to help ensure our priorities are in the right place.

**First**, we need to “look up” like Joshua did to the commander of the army of the Lord (5:13). Looking up in our context means to take our eyes off the problem for a moment and look to the solution – God. We need our first priority to be seeking God, who is the only answer to our problems.

**Second**, like Joshua, we need to “fall on our face” (5:14). When we understand from whom we’re seeking help – the God of heaven and earth – we understand our humble and lowly state in comparison. We must humble ourselves before God and submit to Him and His will.

**Third**, Joshua took his shoes off (5:15). We too need to “take off our shoes and stay awhile.” We need to spend time with