

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements

Clay Morris

Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper

Bill Brittenham Rodney Ellis
Cole Meador

Prayers

Bill Rinehart Joseph Barry

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Announcements

Jack Calvert

Song Leader

Clay Morris

Prayers

Bryan Garlock Clay Morris

Invitation

Joseph Barry

Jm.1:27; 1Jn.3:17, etc.). It only means that some needs are self-inflicted from poor management. Further, relieving the needy is actually not the primary work of the local church. Instead, it is secondary; and focused only upon the needs of Christians (Ac.4:32-35; Ac.11:27-30; 1Cor.16:1-3; 1Tm.5:3-16). The primary work of the local church is to advance the truth (cf. 1Tm.3:15).

I hope that this brief study has helped you to put the work of the local church into proper perspective. If we are to be the true "church of Christ," then we must abide by what Christ has said!

ABOUT US

Elders

Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis

Jon Barry Bill Brittenham
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.

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



Volume XXVI

September 12, 2021

Issue 36

Satan Has Asked for You

Lanny Smith

“And the Lord said, ‘Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.’ But he said to Him, ‘Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death.’ Then He said, ‘I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me.’” (Lk.22:31-34). We often read this passage as though it were an isolated incident in the life of Peter, with no application for us. Yet, I believe that there are greater lessons to be learned, which can greatly help us in our walk with Jesus. Let’s consider this text, and the lessons to be gleaned from it!

1. Satan must ask permission before he can attack us (“Satan has asked for you”). This is exemplified not only here, but also in the book of Job (chps.1-2). This tells me that, ultimately, God is in charge. Satan can ONLY do what God

allows Him to do. But this raises another question: Why does God allow Satan to do anything at all? And the answer is found in “free will” – the idea that God has given us the ability to choose. We are not pre-programmed robots; instead, we are beings with the ability to choose (Josh.14:15). However, there is a catch: we are responsible for those choices! God tries to influence our choices by appealing to our intellect through His word (Ac.17:1-4). And Satan tries to influence us by appealing to our fleshly lusts (Lk.4:1-13; cf. 1Jn.2:15-17). But WE cast the deciding vote! Knowing that Satan must ask God first, reassures me that, “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it” (1Cor.10:13).

2. Satan can turn our lives upside down (“that he may sift you as

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.***

wheat”). Sifting is a violent process, whereby the wheat is agitated in order to separate the grain from the chaff. When Satan is sifting us, he is violently agitating our lives, to see if there is any “chaff” – i.e. bad things that he can exploit to ruin us! On the positive side, God can use that same sifting process to bring out the “good part.” And once again, WE cast the deciding vote! However, the whole process is violent, and our lives can literally be turned upside down by this “sifting.” This is one reason there is so much suffering in the world. But forewarned is forearmed! We know that the trials of life are part of the sifting process that we must endure – a process that can either make or break us (Jm.1:12-16).

3. Christ prays for us, to help avert failure (“But I have prayed for you”). This text is a specific application of a more general principle: “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them” (Hb.7:25). As Christ prayed for Peter, so He prays for each of us! Since He knows us better than we know ourselves, it is very comforting to know that He is praying for us. Not only does Christ intercede, but “the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which

cannot be uttered” (Rm.8:26-27). Just think of it! TWO Divine beings praying for us! Indeed, “if God is for us, who can be against us” (v.31). God gives us every possible advantage in our struggle with Satan. But once again, WE cast the deciding vote! With free will, God may teach, persuade, beg, appeal, and even pray. But ultimately, WE must make the right choice.

4. Our salvation includes returning to God (“when you have returned to Me”). Yes, God plays a role in our salvation, for He sent Jesus, and gave us His word. But WE must accept Jesus, and obey His word (Jn.12:48)! This principle is true in our initial salvation (cf. Ac.2:38, “repent”), as well as our ongoing salvation (Ac.8:22; cf. 1Jn.1:7-9). In Peter’s case, it seems that Jesus foreknows how this will turn out. I also believe He is capable of knowing how OUR situation will turn out. So, what does He foreknow about YOU? Will you return? Or will you ultimately fall away beyond all hope (Hb.6:4-6)? Only you and God know for sure!

The Local Church Is Not

Lanny Smith

Because of the influence exerted by the churches of men, many do not understand the true purpose of the local church. Instead, they have been led to believe that local churches are community social clubs, entertainment centers, teenage hangouts, and personal ATM’s. Somewhere in all of this modern misunderstanding, the true purpose of the local church gets lost. And that purpose is simply this: saving the lost (1Cor.14:23-25), edifying the saints (1Cor.14:26), worshiping God (1Cor.11:23-26), and helping needy saints (Ac.4:32-35). Nothing else is revealed in Scripture with respect to the work of a local church. This means that the local church is

NOT what many think it is. Let’s explore this further...

The local church is not a community social club. It does not exist to provide social activities for the community – or its own membership, for that matter. This does not mean that social activities are inherently bad; it only means that it is not the work of a local church to provide them. We should not expect the local church to provide such things any more than we would expect it to provide community law-enforcement or to maintain the highways. It really is no more complicated than that! In fact, when the church at Corinth started down this path, the apostle Paul said, “What do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you” (1Cor.11:22).

The local church is not an entertainment center. It does not exist to entertain the community at large – or its own membership, for that matter. Simply put, the local church is not in the business of showing movies, providing concerts, hosting sporting events, or arranging comedy shows. As with our previous point, this does not mean that such activities are inherently evil; it only means that it is not the work of a local church to provide for them. If you want entertainment, then watch TV, or go to the theater/concert arena on your own dime. Do not expect the local church to provide this for you! Local churches who do such things are misappropriating the funds given for the true work of the local church.

The local church is not a teenage hangout. It does not exist to entertain your children – that’s your responsibility! Do not expect the church to have a “Youth

Minister” to cater to the wants of the young. It is no accident that among the various workers described in the Bible (e.g. 1Cor.12:28; Ep.4:11-12), a “Youth Minister” is conspicuously absent! That speaks volumes, especially when you consider that the Scriptures were Divinely-inspired, “that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2Tm.3:16-17). In other words, the Scriptures provide all the information we need to please God (1Th.4:1-2). Therefore, if something is not authorized by Scripture, it means that we should not be doing it! A local church can help teach your kids (cf. Tit.2:3-5), but not entertain them!

The local church is not your personal ATM. It does not exist to hand out cash to anyone and everyone who claims a need. This is perhaps one of the greatest misconceptions out there! I can’t tell you how many calls are received from various individuals who seem to think the local church should just hand them money, buy their groceries, or pay their bills. And the worst of this is when people call and ask for “Christmas presents” for their kids. One lady wrote this congregation, asking for Christmas presents, and provided a list of toys and clothing sizes for her children. First of all, Christmas presents aren’t a need; they are a “want” – and there is a difference! No one “needs” Christmas presents. I was always taught that, if you can’t afford something, you don’t buy it! What a concept! If more people actually tried to live within their means, they wouldn’t find themselves with maxed-out credit cards and financial difficulties. This is not to say that there are not legitimate needs out there (cf. Ga.6:10; Ep.4:28;