

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements
Clay Morris

Song Leader
Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper
Jack Calvert, Bill Rinehart
Bryan Garlock

Prayers
Willie Standokes, Randy Ellis

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Announcements
Randy Ellis

Song Leader
Jack Calvert

Prayers
Clay Morris, Mark Davis

Invitation
Daniel Allgor

ABOUT US

Elders
Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis

Deacons
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 ... Matthew10:32-33; 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

And thus, we, as disciples, add to our characters the same attitudes that God has toward us so that we could become heirs of eternal life. Let these characteristics be yours, every day, as our Savior means for them to be.



Volume XXVII

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Issue 36

Why Do We Serve God?

Doy Moyer

“Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face.” (Job 1:9-11)

This challenge is not lost on us today, for we need to assess our motives and incentives in serving the Lord. When we are faced with struggles and begin questioning our circumstances, will we still be dedicated in our service to the Lord? Will we stay faithful and keep our integrity even when life tests us “beyond our strength” (2 Cor 1:8)?

We are familiar with these chilling words from Satan to God about Job. Satan’s charge was that Job was only serving God because God protected him and gave him wealth, but once that protection was removed, Job would not be so eager to serve and would instead curse God. As we know, Job kept his integrity throughout the ordeal, though he suffered greatly and wondered why. He was forced to look inwardly to see if he was serving God sincerely and with good intention rather than selfishly. He passed that test and God showed him mercy.

What is the Christian’s incentive in serving God? Is it the reward of being with God in heaven? Is it the avoidance of hell? Is it Both? Is there more? There is no denying that both reward and punishment serve as motivators. Yet, while we would never deny that we ought to want to be with God, and we should want to avoid hell at all costs, there is more to consider. Following are three more ways to think about proper motivations in serving God:

A first incentive is founded upon love. “We love because He first loved us” (1 John 4:19). When we recognize His love for us

FAMILY TALK

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

If you need to make any changes to the directory (phone number, address, picture), please see Bryan.

Joey's father is dealing with some serious health concerns. Please remember Joey during this time, too.

John Garlock (Bryan's dad) is still in the hospital with low blood pressure.

and how much He has done for us out of His grace and love, we should respond with love. This is only proper when we know what has been done for us. The incentive here is not one of reward or punishment, but more that of humble submission in response to God's grace. The "greatest commandment" is to love God with all the heart, soul, strength, and mind (Mark 12:29-30). This means that we choose to obey Him as a recognition of His grace toward us, as Jesus stated to His disciples: "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments" (John 14:15).

A second incentive is based upon fear. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom (Prov 1:7; 9:10), and involves "the whole of man" (Ecc 12:13-14). While fear (in the trembling sense) is involved in wanting to avoid hell, the fuller sense of "fear" includes reverence and respect that pushes us to obedience. If we recognize God as the glorious Creator worthy of all praise,

we will know that we must honor and revere Him out of sheer respect. The incentive is to do what is right, and this will entail giving proper honor particularly to the One who deserves it the most.

A third incentive, much related to the first, is grounded upon gratitude. Gratitude is the quality or attitude of thankfulness, and this stems from appreciating what someone has done. Given all that God has done, from giving us life to providing the life of salvation, how can we not be thankful to Him? We are to be "...giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Eph 5:20).

Being thankful is not based on wanting a reward, nor is it based on the fear of punishment. It is, instead, based on the appreciation that someone has done something wonderful for us. In this case, God has, through His grace, done for us what we could never do for ourselves. If this does not elicit gratitude from us, what will? Perhaps this is why those who do not honor God or give thanks become futile in their thinking (Rom 1:21). Our response to God's grace is based not only on love, but also on thankfulness.

While reward and punishment motivate, we should focus as much on showing love, reverence, and gratefulness for God and His work. This is not simply a duty, but a grand privilege. "Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thess 5:16-17). We ought to be "always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father" (Eph 5:20).

We ought to look deep within our hearts, take some time evaluate why we serve God, and

recommit ourselves to His will. There are plenty of incentives to serve.

God's Love for Us, Our Love for One Another Jon W. Quinn

Consider God's attitudes toward us:

4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, 5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (Titus 3:4-7).

In seeking to become Christ-like it is necessary to view others differently from what may be typical in the world. Jesus told us to love our neighbor as ourselves (Matthew 19:19). The Scriptures teach that we are to do good unto all, especially those of the household of faith (Galatians 6:10). Paul wrote to the Christians living in the city of Colossae to encourage them to pay special attention to how they treat others.

12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. 14 Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. (Colossians 3:12-14)

As we look at these characteristics that ought to make up our attitude toward others, we begin to see Jesus' attitude toward ourselves. The "new self" that we are to "put on" as we discard the old is patterned after Jesus' likeness. Paul writes, "and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him" (Colossians 3:8-10). He then describes this "new self" as possessing these characteristics. See how these each enter into the redemption story.

Compassion – (Deep sympathy) God saw our need and was moved to act to redeem us.

Kindness - (gracious, gentle & useful) He saved us

Humility – (lowliness of mind) Jesus "appeared" or came as a man (see Philippians 2:5-10)

Gentleness – (mildness) Jesus dealt gently with sinners He sought to save

Patience (distant + wrath) He did not quickly respond to our sins with angry judgment

Bearing with us (put up with) He extended mercy in spite of our deeds

Forgiving (delivering from sin) He forgives us by His grace

Love (active goodwill) Motivation to act in in our behalf