

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements
Mike Davis

Song Leader
Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper
Rodney Ellis Cory Easley
Bill Rinehart Dave Massey

Prayers
Jerry Schnelle Dee Minter

SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements
Mike Davis

Song Leader
Cory Easley

Lord's Supper
Bill Brittenham Mark Davis

Prayers
Rodney Ellis W.H. McFerrin

WEDNESDAY

Announcements
Gerald Eaton

Song Leader
Jack Calvert

Prayers
Joey Avance Melvin Potts

Invitation
Bill Brittenham

ABOUT US

Elders
Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis

Deacons
Jon Barry Bill Brittenham
Mike Davis Dave Massey

Evangelist
Rick Boswell
(574) 302-1827

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday
Bible Study9:30 A.M.
Worship10:15 A.M.
Worship6:00 P.M.

Wednesday
Bible Study7:00 P.M.

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THE PLAN OF 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; Acts 8:35-30

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

Think On These Things

Franklin Drive Church of Christ
2301 Franklin Drive ■ Texarkana, AR 71854 ■ (870) 772-0746



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Issue 2

Diligently Seeking God

Gary Henry

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6).

OUR SEEKING OF GOD MUST BE DILIGENT. What does this mean? It means that we must give ourselves to the quest for God with a priority and a passion that we don't invest in any other pursuit. God must be first in our hearts. We must be ready to sacrifice anything else — indeed all else — to see His face. Our hearts must be purged of any conflicting interest or competing desire. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God” (Matthew 5:8).

In our longing for God we must be utterly sincere, and in our seeking of God

we must be passionately committed. He deserves no less than our all. God's making of the world is such that we find it necessary to seek and to search for Him, but in truth “He is not far from each one of us” (Acts 17:27).

His hiddenness in this present broken world is not meant to hinder us from finding Him, but to entice us. As He whets our appetite for Himself, God is weaning us away from our sinful, self-sufficient rebellion. He is teaching us to love Him. With convicting evidences of His power and loving tokens of His goodness, He is drawing us toward His eternal presence. “I drew them with gentle cords, with bands of love” (Hosea 11:4). It is God's good pleasure to be

FAMILY TALK

L.G. Clemmons is recovering from surgery to repair a broken bone. He is at HealthSouth Rehab in room 252b. Please keep him in mind as we approach our Lord in prayer.

Let's continue to remember **Terry Armstrong** as he recovers from back surgery.

Audra Ellis has asked for prayers concerning her Aunt Cathy. She recently had surgery to remove cancerous tissue. Unfortunately, the doctor was unable to remove all of the cancer.

Bob Buls was absent this past midweek service due to fatigue. Let's remember the effort it takes for some of our older brethren to make it out.

Our **College Students** will be returning to school soon. We pray that they stay true to the Lord and safe in His care as they work hard to further their education!

The Mt. Pleasant congregation will be hosting an **Area Wide Singing** on Friday, January 15th at 7:30.

Get It In The Bulletin:

If you have any news concerning our church family, please notify **Rick** so it can be inserted into the weekly bulletin.

Front Page Article (concl.)

found by all who long for Him in honest, obedient love.

God is not neutral with regard to the inclination of our hearts. He desires that we find Him. He yearns for those who delight in Him. "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (James 4:8). Yet there is a danger: we must not deceive ourselves that we are seeking God if in fact it is only certain blessings from God that we seek. Resisting the tendency to focus on ourselves, we must learn to seek Him, simply and contentedly. When we diligently do so, our reward will be God Himself and He will fill our deepest longings according to the design of His own love. Having sought God earnestly, we will be enriched by the joy of a heart that overflows with His glory.

"Where there is faith, where there is need, there is the True God ready to clasp the hands that stretch out seeking for him into the darkness behind the ivory and the gold" (H. G. Wells).

Reaching Forward

Gary Henry

"... but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward

the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13,14).

MAKING A MORE COURAGEOUS CONNECTION BETWEEN TODAY AND TOMORROW IS NEITHER IMPOSSIBLE NOR IMPRACTICAL.

Rather than stumble aimlessly toward the future in defeat, we can concentrate our minds on what God has made possible for us in His Son. And with our minds firmly fixed on God, we can reach forward with purpose and passion. Hope and courage and self-discipline can be the qualities that define us in the here and now.

Forgetting those things which are behind. There is a sense in which we need to "forget" the past. This does not mean that our memories are erased; it simply means that we release what has already happened. Many good things we may remember with gladness and many bad things we may remember with wisdom, but these memories must not confine us or keep us from our work.

Reaching forward to those things which are ahead. The things which are "ahead," of course, are spiritual things, things that have to do with God and with eternity. If these are to be ours, we must "reach forward." Exerting ourselves with regard to eternity must be our decision and our commitment. We will not move forward

(at least in any significant sense) if we do not reach forward.

The apostle Paul was not a dabbler. God was more than merely one of his "interests." This "one thing I do," he wrote. "I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Here is the single-minded determination that separates the real seeker from the casual browser. Here is the consuming hunger and thirst that will find God or die. And here also is the courageous choice to look primarily toward the future rather than the past. What's in store for those who are willing to love God faithfully is beyond our ability to imagine just now. But since the beginning, everything that God has made known of Himself has made one thing increasingly clear: He is worth reaching for. In truth, He is the very best thing about tomorrow.

"Make Him the Source, the Center, and the One who encompasses every delight of your soul. Refuse to be satisfied any longer with your meager accomplishments. Aspire to a higher, a nobler, and a fuller life. Upward to heaven! Nearer to God!" (Charles Haddon Spurgeon).