

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements

Cole Meador

Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper

Mark Davis Bryan Garlock
Clay Morris Bill Brittenham

Prayers

Rodney Ellis Melvin Potts

SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements

Cole Meador

Scripture Reading

Jerry Schnelle

Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper

Mark Davis Clay Morris

Prayers

Joseph Barry Jon Barry

WEDNESDAY

Announcements

Mark Davis

Song Leader

Clay Morris

Prayers

Cole Meador Jack Calvert

Invitation

Bill Brittenham

ABOUT US

Elders

Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis

Deacons

Jon Barry Bill Brittenham
Mike Davis Clay Morris

Evangelist

Bryan Garlock

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

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

Think On These Things

Franklin Drive Church of Christ

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Issue 52

The Risks Of Spiritual Growth

Steve Dewhirst

In Jesus' parable of the talents, the one-talent man hid his treasure in a hole in the ground. When called to account he said to his master, "*Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours*" (Mt. 25:24-25). The master furiously denounced the servant as "*wicked and lazy*" and said, "*You ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest*" (vs. 26-27).

It's important to consider that probably the least effective way to grow money is by earning interest with bankers, but it's better than doing nothing at all! Whether the servant's fear was generated by his sloth, or vice versa, he proved to be worthless to his master.

All growth is pursued with risk. Farmers understand this principle best of all. Crops are planted, a yield is anticipated, but the entire process is subject to the vagaries of weather and nature. There are so many variables that are beyond the farmer's control, thereby adding risk to the venture.

There is a certain risk in spiritual growth, too. Scripture charges us to "*Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*" (2 Pet. 3:18). That is an apostolic directive, not a polite suggestion. It demands action on our part. It means we have to study God's word without fear or favor. It means we must learn to think for ourselves. It requires us to have a faith of our own, and the courage of personal conviction. And yet to do these things involves risk. Frankly, it's easier to bury our faith in a hole in the ground, just digging it up for

FAMILY TALK

Continue to remember and check on our shut-ins: **Bonnie Allgor, Maxine Burnham, W.H. McFerrin, Ann Thomas and Francine Davis.** Cards, calls and visits are ALWAYS needed and appreciated.

Ladies Bible Class: The next class will be on Tuesday, **Jan. 14, 2020.** The new class books are available at the back of the auditorium.

Maxine Burnham is at the Waterton Plaza, Room 103. Please continue to pray earnestly for her.

Wendell Mobley will have a heart cath Jan. 2nd.

Please pick up some invite cards and ask for Bible studies. See Bryan if you need any help with home studies.

2019 has seen a lot of changes at Franklin Drive. Some have moved away. Some have chosen to worship elsewhere. Some have come – and then gone. A few have visited but chosen to worship with another congregation. Sadly, some have left this world. And yes, very thankfully some have been baptized into Christ. And all have added another year to our age and moved a year closer to meeting our God and His Son.

John 16:33 *"These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."*

(cont from page 1)

examination occasionally, only to hide it away again for safe keeping. But such a stunt is antithetical to the spirit of Christ and Christianity. So what are some risks of spiritual growth?

First is the risk of personal frustration. Who has not wrangled with himself over some thorny question as he's struggling to understand a Bible principle more clearly? Not only is there the understanding of the principle itself, but then there's the impact of that concept upon other concepts. To a disciplined student of God's word, the wheels will never stop turning.

Very often we will reach the same conclusions we reached before, but from a better-informed perspective. Sometimes, though, our thoughts can be disconcerting as we re-think old presuppositions. We might have to come face to face with the fact that we've been wrong in our understanding about something - maybe for many years! At that point, there is the possibility of having to change our behavior or actions, our teaching, etc. There is the "pain" of personal application that the honest Bible student knows must take place. Faith is much easier when buried in the ground. But that profits us nothing. There will be no growth.

Second is the risk of opposition from brethren. Very often brethren object to the notion of "change" in any form, even if it's only an alteration in how a principle is explained. How often have we seen brethren differ, not over a Bible concept, but over the fact that one brother explains it in words different from the other?

And there will always be brethren who equate the notion of independent thinking with apostasy. The fear seems to be that if anyone "thinks outside the box" he will depart the faith. Such fear is irrational. It either fails to recognize the objective nature of God's revelation, or it is rooted in a creedal view of "truth" which must be defended against all attempts at close examination. Truth never fears examination. It can only become clearer in people's minds with deeper examination. And that is precisely what God wants.

Third, there is the risk of intellectual arrogance. As we restudy and rethink old questions, we must fight the temptation of thinking we are the first to discover something "new." It should be a red flag to us if we come to a conclusion to which very few if any others have arrived. While it's true that the majority of people may hold an erroneous view or position on some matter, being a lone ranger ought to give us pause and cause us to study the issue more carefully.

If we "discover" something truly new, it isn't God's word. Our understanding of a question may be new, but the truth has been there all along, and others have understood it before us. We are not the first to see it or articulate it. And we must remember that if we have changed our thinking in one particular area, how many other things do we yet need to understand more perfectly? It behooves none of us to be arrogant when we are, in fact, finite creatures made from dirt.

Bible study is neither dull nor boring, except to him with no desire to grow. To the risk-taker, no thrill is any greater than that of contemplating and comprehending God's truth. The desire for a greater understanding of truth should never become a pretext for arrogance or unbiblical innovations; but neither should calls for "safety and soundness" be a pretext for willful ignorance and spiritual laziness. Let's take the risks necessary to grow spiritually, that we might find favor with our Master at last.

The New Year

Yes, here is the obligatory New Year's article. This year is almost gone, so I'll keep it short so you'll have time to read it.

Resolutions: That's what a lot of people think of when they think New Year. Diets, the gym, breaking bad habits. A time to stop the bad things we've been doing and start doing the good ones. But we all know the problem. Somewhere between January 2nd and 31st, those well-intentioned resolutions get broken. Read this: **Ecc 5:4-5** *When you make a vow to God, do not be late in paying it; for He takes no delight in fools. Pay what you vow! It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay.* Now you have two choices: 1) Make that resolution and KEEP it, or 2) don't make that resolution at all.

New Beginnings: A New Year naturally makes us think of new beginnings. And if you aren't a Christian – or as faithful as you know you should be – now is a perfect time for that New Beginning in Christ. (Actually, make that new start TODAY. **James 4:13-17**