

## SUNDAY MORNING

### Announcements

Jon Barry

### Song Leader

Jack Calvert

### Lord's Supper

Rodney Ellis     Jerry Schnelle  
Joseph Barry     Pete Rowland

### Prayers

Clay Morris     Wendell Mobley

## SUNDAY EVENING

### Announcements

Jon Barry

### Scripture Reading

Cole Meador

### Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

### Lord's Supper

Jerry Schnelle     Rodney Ellis

### Prayers

Gerald Eaton     Pete Rowland

## WEDNESDAY

### Announcements

Daniel Allgor

### Song Leader

Bryan Garlock

### Prayers

Joseph Barry     Jerry Schnelle

### Invitation

Gerald Eaton

## ABOUT US

### Elders

Jack Calvert     Rodney Ellis

### Deacons

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.  
Worship .....6:00 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

# Think On These Things

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



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Issue 45

## The Parable of the Sower, the Soils and the Seed

Matt. 13:1-9 and 18-23

(Please reread the passage before you read the article)

Most Christians are familiar with this parable. As the title suggests, the lessons can be applied to those who sow the Word of God, the different ways men receive His Word and the Word itself. But I believe there is another application to those of us who have already obeyed Jesus' Gospel.

The explanation by Jesus of the different types of soils (the hearts of men) still applies to baptized believers. This is obvious from vs. 13-23. (And that three of the four examples are about hearts that received the seed.) Let us look at those applications.

**The Wayside.** The devil can snatch the seed from men's hearts in many ways. He can ridicule or contradict the truth. He may say it's too hard to understand. It is irrelevant or outdated. These same lies can cause a newborn babe in Christ to doubt his decision. Even those who have been faithful for years may yield to these temptations. Some have speculated that the devil tries harder to corrupt new

Christians than he does the unbelieving. After all, he already has the sinner, but the new Christian has rejected him in favor of his archenemy, God, the Father. Every Christian must constantly be on guard against sin and lies and not stray from the straight and narrow path.

**Rocky Ground.** Jesus' explanation tells us that this heart hears and receives the seed with joy. However, the initial zeal of his obedience soon fades like a plant whose roots are starved for food and water. New Christians especially, and older ones as well, cannot survive, let alone bring forth fruit, without regular and sufficient nourishment. Paul said in 1 Cor. 3:6 that planting, watering and tending are required for increase. Several times Paul refers to spiritual eating. Jesus identifies Himself as the Water of Life. And Jesus further

(continued from page 1)

## FAMILY TALK

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

**Ladies Bible Class:** The class on Tuesday, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> will be at Jean Cronce's at noon and the evening class at 6:00 PM will be at the Calvert's.

We are thankful that **Philip Moore's** surgery was successful and he will not need further treatment.

Please remember **Joey Avance** as he continues to struggle with his health issues.

*Please be patient with the remodeling at the building. We are trying to make it as painless as possible and complete it quickly without too much interruption.*

MANY thanks to **Daniel Allgor.** Besides leading singing, **Daniel** does many things behind the scenes. He makes the Power Point slides for the services possible and takes care of the electronics that enable us to have an orderly worship. THANK YOU!

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

explains that the cares, persecutions and temptations of the world will soon kill a Christian. Remember Eph. 6 where God provides us the "Christian armor" to defeat the plans and schemes of the devil.

**Thorns.** Again, this heart hears (and obeys) the word. But his passion and enthusiasm are soon choked out. (Notice that with the Rocky Ground and the Thorns, the process of falling away from our Lord is gradual.) In these hearts the simple truths of God's word cannot compete with the worry and deceitfulness of the world. Jesus specifically identifies the cause as wealth, possessions or abundance. (Another word much more familiar to us is "materialism".) He also tells us that this Christian may not fall away from the faith. This Christian may continue all his life attending services, but he bears no fruit. (The Wayside loses his faith almost immediately. The Rock Ground obeys but then fades and falls away. The Thorns obeys but never produces fruit.) Look very carefully at Matt. 3:10; 7:19; Luke 3:9 and John 15:2. Jesus is very serious about bearing good fruit. All Christians must always be on guard about allowing this world to choke out our faith and zeal to the point where we are not bearing fruit.

**Good Soil.** "Yes, I want to be that kind!" The parable, Jesus' explanation and our desire all strive for God's goal for His people. This heart hears and "understands" the Word. The word for "understand" is interesting. It means "to put together, comprehend, or running – flowing – together. Understanding is not just hearing or even learning the facts. Instead it is putting it together so that the meaning flows together. This is necessary in order to first obey God and is also essential to maturing and producing good fruit. (Could you produce a good harvest as a farmer without learning and

understanding what is necessary for that harvest?)

Brethren, we know this parable. Our survival as Christian and our hope of eternal salvation depend on applying Jesus' teachings. He warns and admonishes and encourages us with His words. Let us understand them and motivate us to produce much good fruit.

So, don't look at this parable just from the eyes of others' hearts. Let us look closely at our own hearts and always be watchful for those things that endanger our production of good fruits.

Bill Brittenham

### Complaining, Grumbling, And Murmuring

Wayne Fancher, Jr.

**Jude 16** "These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts;"

Throughout the scriptures there is an attitude that is always condemned by God. It is the attitude of being a gripping, grumbling, complaining, murmuring, negative person.

**1 Corinthians 10:10** "nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer."

So what exactly does it mean to be a complainer or a murmurer? I do not believe we are expected to enjoy suffering. When Jesus was in the garden of Gethsemane He fell to the ground and prayed that if it were possible let this cup pass from Him. He did not want to go through the crucifixion. His sweat became as great drops of blood. Jesus was not murmuring or complaining. Being distressed because of trial you are going through is not being a grumbler.

In the letter to the Philippians the apostle Paul speaks of the fact that some brethren were preaching the gospel for the purpose of adding affliction to his being in prison. Was Paul being a grumbler? No he was not being a complainer. Paul was just stating the fact of why some people were doing what they were doing. So explaining the facts of negative things being done against you does not make you a complainer.

To understand the grumbling and complaining that God does not like we need to study the examples God uses to explain what He is talking about. These examples are the way the children of Israel responded to the blessings given to them by God.

**Numbers 11:6** "but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!"

Throughout the time the children of Israel we in the wilderness it seems the continued to murmur against God several times. Right after God freed them from Egyptian slavery by leading them through the Red Sea, the started gripping because they feared they would starve to death or die with nothing to drink. Even when God gave them manna from Heaven to eat, their first response was, "what is it." In the text here in Numbers 11:6 we see a prime example of what it means to murmur. Rather than being thankful for the blessing God has given them, they grip, and grumble, and murmur.

What it is that God does not want us to do is turn our nose up at the blessings of God, complaining and gripping when we should be grateful and thanking. Be aware of the blessings being showered on you daily by our Lord and be sure to have the right attitude toward them. Be thankful for all the blessings of God.