

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements
Mark Davis

Song Leader
Jack Calvert

Lord's Supper
Daniel Allgor, Chris Stinson,
Randy Ellis

Prayers
Cole Meador, Mike Davis

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Announcements
Cole Meador

Song Leader
Daniel Allgor

Prayers
Rodney Ellis, Jerry Schnelle

Invitation
Clay Morris

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 ... 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

responded to the invitation. I'll do better if there is a next time." The Elders sought in vain to console him. He was sad!

Years past. The little girl grew up. She married a faithful Christian. Their marriage was graced with five sons. All five of the sons became gospel preachers. Through their efforts thousands of people learned about Jesus and obeyed the gospel.

All this, because of the effort of one young, inexperienced gospel preacher.



Volume XXVII **August 28, 2022** **Issue 34**

Would You Say, "Always"?
David Sproule

Paul has many favorite words and favorite expressions found throughout his letters. One of them is the word "always," which is found in every Pauline epistle except First Timothy. Notice how Paul uses this word.

Paul uses the word "always" most frequently with reference to prayer. "I make mention of you always in my prayers" (Rom. 1:9; cf. Phile. 4). "I thank my God always concerning you" (1 Cor. 1:4; cf. 1 Thess. 1:2; 2 Thess. 1:3; 2:13). "Giving thanks always for all things to God" (Eph. 5:20). "Praying always with all prayer and supplication" (Eph. 6:18). "Always in every prayer of mine making request for you all" (Phil. 1:4). "Praying always for you" (Col. 1:3; cf. 2 Thess. 1:11).

Paul uses the word "always" with reference to God's care for us. "Now thanks be to God who always leads us in

triumph in Christ" (2 Cor. 2:14). "God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things..." (2 Cor. 9:8). "Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way" (2 Thess. 3:16).

Paul uses the word "always" with reference to the faithful obedience of a Christian. "Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58). "As always...Christ will be magnified in my body" (Phil. 1:20). "As you have always obeyed...work out your own salvation" (Phil. 2:12). "So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord" (2 Cor. 5:6). "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt" (Col. 4:6). "Always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all" (1 Thess. 5:15).

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.*

Mike, Gerald, Jerry, and Karen are recovering from surgery. Jerry is having some additional health concerns that need our prayers!

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

Paul uses the word “always” with reference to the spirit of rejoicing that should characterize the Christian's life. “Always rejoicing” (2 Cor. 6:10). “Rejoice in the Lord always” (Phil. 4:4). “Rejoice always” (1 Thess. 5:16).

Paul uses the word “always” with reference to our eternal joy with Christ. “And thus we shall always be with the Lord” (1 Thess. 4:17).

Do you pray “always”? Do you trust in God's care “always”? Do you obey Him “always”? Do you rejoice “always”? Do you long to be with the Lord “always”? If you've got any “sometimes,” turn them into “always”!

Cling to One Another
Michael W. McLemore

Hebrews 10, especially verse 25, has been the subject of discussion since the day it was

first read by its recipients. If one is to grasp the fullness of the writer's warning and encouragement, it is important that students not isolate the passage from the greater context. This verse is not a cudgel thrust upon the weak and fainting. It is an appeal to cling to one another, not a club.

This powerful text expresses the careful writer's anxiety for the preservation of the original faith and continuing loyalty of the Hebrew Christians. They were in danger of turning back because of doubt and the increasing heat of the fires of persecution.

In the former section two essential points have been established. First, Jesus has opened the means of passage to the presence of God by the sacrifice of His own flesh. Second, He is presently serving as High Priest in the heavenly places, or the residence of God. In view of these truths Christians are called to “draw near (to God) with confidence,” 19-22. The Christian's confidence is three-fold:

CONFIDENT FAITH: The figure is that of a tabernacle with priestly functions performed inside. But, Jesus has opened the way for US “through the curtain” by “His blood” and “His flesh.” Because Christ now reigns in regal sovereignty over the “house of God” as High Priest, 21, “Let US draw near” by a “new and living way.” The term “new,” Greek *prosphatos*, invites to mind a sacrifice, “lately slaughtered, freshly killed,” recently made. That sacrifice provided for “a new and living way” where a new life was discovered by the willing adherents who now enjoy complete and permanent absolution for the guilt of sin.

CONFIDENT ACCESS: Christ opened for us a life beyond the veil, where God and Christ reside. Unlike the former life of the Jew who was shut out, in Christ all men may have access beyond the curtain — fellowship with God. This was and is not possible apart from having “our bodies washed with pure water” cf. Exodus 29:4; Acts 2:36-41; 22:16; Galatians 3:26-27. It is in baptism penitents are made priests, cleansed of sin and granted access.

CONFIDENT CLEANSING: In Christ “our hearts are sprinkled clean from an evil conscience” 22; cf. 1 Peter 3:21. The point of the text is plainly that those who have confident faith concerning Jesus, submitted themselves to Him for cleansing in baptism, resulting in the remission of sins. Through His sacrifice we now enjoy access to God through the merits of His own death, not our merit.

The Hebrew writer's audience was in danger of turning back from their confession of hope in Christ. This fear is assuaged in two ways. First, God is faithful to His promises. He will keep them. The confident must remain true, 23. Second, the confident need each other — “consider how to stir up one another to love and good works” 24.

VERSE 25: It is essential that the reader note the location where “stirring one another up takes place” — the assembly. Neglecting to meet together deprives both those present and those absent. Readers are reminded that we are all prone to habit, and action will soon become routine.

Constant encouragement was necessary because of the coming “Day.” Before His departure Jesus taught His disciples that the Hebrew place of worship would be destroyed, Matthew 24. Their Jewish world would forever change, then what? All that will remain is Christ and His promises. When trying times come, that's what we all need, Christ and His promises. If Christians turn back, what will remain for them except divine vengeance? Cling to one another, today!

Preach the Word **Unknown**

Dee Bowman used to tell the story of a young man who preached his heart out. He was barely 23 and this was his first gospel meeting. His heart raced when he received the invitation to preach for the small group in this little community. Visions of huge crowds, excitement and many responses filled his head. When the time came he was almost out of breath with excitement.

Although the crowds were fair, there was seemingly very little excitement during the meeting. Brethren listened attentively, but their reaction was mere quiet politeness. He preached his heart out for two weeks. When the meeting was concluded, one person — a little girl 12 years old — obeyed the gospel. He was discouraged, disappointed.

Before returning home, he sat with the Elders of the little congregation and apologized — “I guess I'm not as far along as I thought I was. I'm sorry only one person