

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements

Jon Barry

Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper

Jack Calvert, Mark Davis,
Cole Meador

Prayers

Clay Morris, Joseph Barry

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Announcements

Rodney Ellis

Song Leader

Clay Morris

Prayers

Mark Davis, Randy Ellis

Invitation

Joseph Barry

"Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." The word of God is a living message (Hebrews 4:12). It is not merely a philosophy to intellectually embrace. It is a life-changing message that is to invade every facet of a person's life. Your marriage, family, and job are to be governed by it (Ephesians 5:22-6:9).

The next time you hear religious teaching, remember your responsibilities. Your response to Christ's word will determine your eternal destiny (John 12:47-48).

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.

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



Volume XXVII

July 24, 2022

Issue 29

**Joy in the Assembly
Andy Sochor**

“I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord’” (Psalm 122:1).

This is a familiar verse to many of us (and for good reason). In this psalm, David described the attitude that God’s people should have toward worship – particularly the opportunities to assemble for worship. The psalmist described going to Jerusalem and worshiping in the temple (“the house of the Lord”). The parallel for us today is in our gathering with the church as we assemble for worship.

This psalm is a “Song of Ascents” – a collection of fifteen psalms (120-134) which are generally recognized as songs that would be sung by those ascending the road to Jerusalem to worship. This would happen three times a year (Deuteronomy 16:16) – at the Feast of

Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks, and the Feast of Booths. This psalm began with an exclamation of joy over the mere mention of the journey to the place where the people of God would be gathered to worship Him.

Today, worship is not something that is confined to Jerusalem (John 4:21); it can be done anywhere. Yet wherever we gather to worship, we need to have the same attitude expressed by the psalmist.

Why is assembling for worship a joyous occasion?

It is an opportunity to worship God – “But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers” (John 4:23). The fact that our Creator is seeking worshipers shows

FAMILY TALK

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

Keep Linda, Jerry, and Rodney in your prayers as they either have surgeries scheduled or are recovering from surgeries.

Jennie and the baby are healthy!

that He is aware of and interested in each one of us. He has abundantly blessed us in this life (cf. James 1:17) and we have an opportunity in worship to express our thanksgiving to Him.

It is an opportunity to study His word – “On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight” (Acts 20:7). We often cite this verse to show that the early church gathered on the first day of the week to observe the Lord’s Supper (part of their worship). This is certainly true. Yet this verse also shows us the place of preaching or teaching in the assembly. Each time we gather we have the

opportunity to learn more about the word of God.

It is an opportunity to assemble with brethren – “And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near” (Hebrews 10:24-25). As we face difficulties and challenges in life, we need encouragement from others. By the Lord’s design, the assembly of the saints provides an opportunity for each of us to give and receive encouragement.

It is an opportunity to escape the troubles of this life – “And He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away” (Revelation 21:4). This verse looks ahead to the time when the troubles of life will be a thing of the past. Sadly, we still experience such things in this life. Yet when we gather with the people of God to worship Him, we have an opportunity to escape – if only for a short while – the cares of this world as we focus together on spiritual things.

It is an opportunity to be reminded of the joys of heaven – “Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth” (Colossians 3:1-2). As we sing songs and hear words about our eternal home, we are encouraged to

continue to “press on toward the goal” (Philippians 3:14).

Rather than look for any excuse we can imagine for staying home from the assembly, we need to recognize all of the benefits we gain from these opportunities to gather with other Christians to worship. It truly is a joyous occasion to be able to come together with our brethren to worship God. Let us not take these opportunities for granted; instead, let us use them to encourage our brethren, receive encouragement ourselves, and give glory and honor to our Creator.

What to Do When Listening to Religious Teaching **Phillip Mullins**

It is not just the teacher or preacher who has an important responsibility when God's word is taught, each listener does also. Whether you are listening to a religious teacher in person, on the television, or over the radio, you have some serious obligations.

Listen with a searching attitude. The Bereans in Acts 17:11 serve as a great model as to the kind of listeners we all should be. When they heard Paul preach, the Bible says, "they received the word with all readiness, and searched the scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so." They were eager and open-minded. They believed the Scriptures to be from God and they examined them to see if Paul's message

was in harmony with it. They were not lazy listeners, but active ones. It is possible their search took place even outside the time of the synagogue assembly. Like them, we should search the Bible carefully as we examine what we hear. The public message should even prompt us to continue to study the Scriptures on our own.

Test what you are hearing. The Bereans did not assume Paul's message was from God. They proved it with the Scriptures. Neither should we take the word of a religious teacher without first testing it. 1 John 4:1 teaches us to do this and why: "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world." False teachers have always existed. The way to separate the false teachers from the true ones is to test their message with the Bible. Galatians 1:8 teaches, "But if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed." Don't be deceived by external kindness (Matthew 7:15). Test the message always with God's word.

Listen with a willingness to do. There are some who listen to God's word and appreciate hearing it. Yet, the word has no impact on their lives. To them, listening to the teaching of the Bible is like a sector sport in which they find some amusement. Yet, no change is made to align their lives with what is taught. James 1:22 teaches,