

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements
Rodney Ellis

Song Leader
Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper
Joseph Barry, Mark Davis,
Cole Meador

Prayers
Jerry Schnelle, Randy Ellis

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Announcements
Mark Davis

Song Leader
Clay Morris

Prayers
Jack Calvert, Mike Davis

Invitation
Jon Barry

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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Issue 39

The Fruit of The Spirit – Peace
Wayne Fancher, edited

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

When we are speaking about the fruit of the Spirit we are talking about what is produced in our heart, mind, and life from our relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, there are times when I come across Christians who have not found their way to the fruit of peace in their life and they want to know why.

Romans 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing...
Isaiah 26:3 You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.

Fear and peace do not go together. In our lives we all go through various trials and storms. It is difficult when we are fearing possible coming trials because we are going

through present storms, not to give in to fear. The way to overcome fear is through faith and trust that God really is with us and He will help us and strengthen us. Because God is with us we do not need to be afraid, even if we are going through the valley of the shadow of death. Trust that our God is with you. Keep your eyes on God and not the trial or storm. Trust in God is the way to overcome fear and find your way to perfect peace.

Psalm 119:165 Great peace have those who love Your law... Proverbs 3:1-2 My son, do not forget my law, But let your heart keep my commands; 2 For length of days and long life And peace they will add to you.

You are not going to have peace in your life if you are living contrary to the word of God. God made us and loves us. God's word is instructions on not only how to find our way to Him through Jesus Christ, but also on how to live life to get the most out of it and avoid

ill or need attention. A flat tire or other car trouble, a long distance telephone call, overflowing of the plumbing, coming upon an accident or traffic jam — just a host of “happen-stances” may cause people to be unavoidably detained, causing them to be late for the services. But really — is this usually the case? And especially if people find themselves being habitually late?

Surely this whole problem could be solved by each of us if we took to heart some plain Bible teaching about the attitudes we should have toward Christ and His work. Think about such passages as these: “Give diligence to make your calling and election sure.” “Be ye steadfast ... always abounding in the work of the Lord.” “Set your affections on things above ...” “Seek ye first the 'kingdom of God ...’ How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?” “Lovest thou me more than these?”

It is possible for one to break the bad habit of chronic tardiness at the services of the Lord if we will just make these sentiments a vital part of our lives. (Think about it.)

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.*

If you need to make any changes to the directory (phone number, address, picture), please see Bryan.

We had a wonderful gospel meeting with Wayne Fancher. If you missed any of the lessons, listen to them online at txkchurch.com.

Jennie's c-section is scheduled for Oct 18. She's ready to have this baby! Prayers, please.

unnecessary suffering. Trust God and keep His commandments by faith and you can find your way to the fruit of peace in your life.

Lessons From the Parable of the Prodigal Son: Coming to Yourself and Coming Home Wayne Fancher

Luke 15:17-19 "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, 19 and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.'"

One of the more interesting phrases in the parable of the prodigal son is the phrase

“when he came to himself.” What does it mean to come to yourself? Exactly where was he before he came to himself and exactly how does one come to himself? These are important questions because the prodigal son did not come home until he first came to himself. In the same way, our loved ones who have left God will not come back to God until they come to themselves.

For someone to come to themselves means there are finally opening their eyes to the reality of where they actually are and how they got there. In our lesson last week we learned how the way of the transgressor is hard. If you are going to choose to live in sin, the consequences will be sorrow and destruction. The prodigal son did not come to himself while he still had plenty of money. He did not come to himself immediately after he had spent all his money. He did not come to himself when the famine started. He only came to himself when he had finally hit rock bottom. When he was starving and the food he was giving the pigs he had been hired to feed was his only source of food. When he finally hit the bottom, he came to himself and faced the reality of where he was, how he got there, and what he needed to do to correct the problem.

Where was the young man before he came to himself? He was not facing the truth of where he was. Often I hear people whose life is falling apart because of their sin say, “I can make this work out. It's not as bad as it seems. Things will turn around soon.”

The reason it is so important for us to understand this is because we all know people who have left God and we do not understand why they have not repented and come home yet. The reason they do not repent is because they have not come to

themselves yet. We may fully see and understand the destruction in another person's life due to their sin, but it does not mean they see it or care to do anything about it. This can be very frustrating and painful when you care for the person living in destruction they created by their choices. In my life as a preacher I have learned that I can't control anyone else but myself. I can show them where they are and show them the way out and home to God. However, I can't make anyone do anything. They must come to themselves and come home on their own. No one can do it for them.

If this lesson is speaking to you because there is a prodigal child in your family, let me give you some important advice. Do not stand between the sinner and his harvest. Do not take the consequences of their sin upon yourself so they do not get hurt. You are only enabling them to continue in their sin and you are actually hurting them. True love is a tough love that gets out of the way and lets their loved one hit rock bottom because of their sins. Often people will only come to themselves and face reality when they have finally hit rock bottom and there is no way out but God. So pray for the prodigal person living in sin. Blow the trumpet loud and clear as to where they are. Encourage them to come home. However, know this, they will never come home till they come to themselves first and face the reality of where they are, how they got there, and then they choose to get up and come home to God in repentance. You can't come home for them.

Being "On Time" For Worship Barney L. Keith

Have you ever thought about how scrupulous people can be in the matter of punctuality in their being on time for their various commitments? If a concert is set to begin at 8:00 P.M., — they arrive in plenty of time to take their seats before that very first number begins. If they are to be dinner guests at a 6:00 P.M. affair, it is almost certain that they will leave home in ample time to make it. They would not want to insult the hostess. If employed by a company which requires them to report for work at 7:30 A.M. they get up early and make certain they "punch in" on time. These same people make arrangements to meet specific appointments with their physicians and dentists. Also if they have an appointment to discuss a business deal at a specific hour, they will be there unless it is necessary to cancel it because something very urgent comes up unexpectedly. Parties, picnics, dinners, concerts, sports, business obligations — all such affairs are attended to by most of us with all punctuality.

Have you ever noticed that Christians sometimes are not as punctual when it comes to the business of Jesus Christ? It may well be that in no other area is there such a high incidence of tardiness. That which is of the greatest importance is often handled with the least diligent effort. The common practice of all congregations is to have fixed hours of Bible study and worship on the Lord's Day and during the week. These hours of services are well-understood by all. Is it too much to expect the disciples of the Lord to do everything they can to be present before time for the services to begin? Every thinking person is well aware of the fact that unexpected things may delay anyone occasionally. The baby may suddenly become