

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Jo Anderson (*fracture in her arm*), Joe Brown (*cancer treatments have been difficult, especially last week*), Kelly Cochran, Kurt Dickey, Betty Eubanks, Linda James, Rowena Lawson (*new convert*), Paul Lloyd (*back pain's been worsening*), Leon Miller (*progressing well in knee therapy*), Bonnie Meagher (*doing better, but still suffering effects of pneumonia*), Butch Morgan, Isla Ross (*doing much better*), Wayne Ryland (*more difficulties lately with health*), and Ken Turner (*recovering from procedure done last week*).

Our family and friends: Susan Bebbly (*Bucky Day's sister; diagnosed with cancer*), Elnora Bennet (*Moses Stevens' sister*), Mildred Church (*Shut-in*), Brian James (*cancer*), Debbie Montgomery (*the Blackburn's daughter*), and Ardis Tucker.

Ladies' Bible Class: The next ladies' Bible class will be April 11th, at Kyoko Williams' home (*at 7PM*). In preparation, please study the lesson that begins on page number 101 in the book, "Some Do's and Don'ts for the Christian". (*See the sign-up sheet in the foyer*)

Afternoon Singing: Our afternoon singing will be April 10th (*@ 5pm*) in the auditorium.

Bible Class Review: The younger kids are all invited to the next Bible review class on April 3rd in classroom number 7, shortly after the evening services.

Group Meeting: Group (3) meets tonight after worship. All are encouraged to participate in this good work.

Area Meeting (s): The church of Christ at South Bumby in Orlando, FL has a meeting that starts today, and will run through Wednesday. Details of that meeting are posted in the foyer for all who would like to attend.

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 3/23/16

Song Leader: Joe Brown
 Opening Prayer: Ben Cunningham
 Invitation: Charles Rawdon
 Announcements: Mike Sadler
 Closing Prayer: Clay Sadler
 Recordings: Colby Sadler
 Usher: Bob Marschall

Sunday Evening: 3/27/16

Song Leader: Colby Sadler
 Opening Prayer: Larry Hicks
 Lord's Table: Jeremy Wharton
 Announcements: Mike Sadler
 Closing Prayer: Jim Elliot
 Recordings: Clay Sadler
 Usher: Mike Sadler

Sunday Morning: 3/27/16

Lord's Table: Jeremy Wharton (B)
 Jerry Williams (C)
 Serving: Trent Stevens
 Jordan Lawson
 Song Leader: Larry Wisdom

Opening Prayer: Leon Miller
 Announcements: Mike Sadler
 Closing Prayer: David Williams
 Recordings: Clay Sadler
 Usher: Mike Sadler



**Lakeland Hills
 Leader**

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ELDERS

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SERVICES

Sunday
 Bible Study 9:00 A.M.
 Morning Services 9:50 A.M.
 Evening Services 6:00 P.M.
 Wednesday
 Bible Study 7:30 P.M.

DEACONS:

Robert Marschall
 Charles Rawdon
 Michael Sadler
 Moses Stevens
 David Williams

EVANGELIST:

Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

Should People Serve God out of Fear or Love?

Over the past few decades there has been a pronounced effort to remove fear as a motive for serving God. It has gained momentum with the increased acceptance of the "accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative" philosophy. "Hell fire and brimstone" preaching has all but been relegated to the image of a wild-eyed, arm-waving, half-lunatic character in movies and television programs. Many words have been spoken and volumes written telling us why people need to serve and obey God from love rather than fear.

This is a false dichotomy. The Bible says a lot about serving God out of love, but it also says a lot about serving Him out of fear. We did a search of the King James Version and were surprised to find the phrases "fear God" and "fear the LORD" is found a combined total of 42 times; while the combined total for "love God" and "love the Lord" was 21 – only one half the number of the "love" passages. Does this mean that we should urge people to serve God out of fear twice as much as out of love? Of course not. But it does tell us that fear plays a big part in serving God and should not be disparaged as it is often done today.

It just seems that it is hard for some people to strike a balance. As the song goes, they don't want to "... mess with Mister In Between." It is often presented as though you must choose either love or fear rather than a mixture of both. The result has been that people are rarely

taught to fear God any more. Many of this generation perceive themselves to be better educated, more enlightened and more spiritual than past generations who acted from fear. Their mission is to free their brethren from all fear-service and replace it altogether with the sweeter motive of love.

A few passages should be sufficient to show that God intends that man fear Him as well as love Him:

*The **fear** of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.* (Proverbs 1:7)

*The **fear** of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.* (Proverbs 9:10)

*And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather **fear** him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.* (Matthew 10:28)

*There is no **fear** of God before their eyes.* (Romans 3:18)

*Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the **fear** of God.* (2 Corinthians 7:1)

*Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and **godly fear**.* (Hebrews 12:28)

*Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. **Fear God.**
Honour the king.* (1 Peter 2:17)

*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and **fear**.* (1 Peter 3:15)

We should not allow these passages to cause one to serve God out of any less love. One cannot serve God acceptably without loving Him with all his heart, soul, and mind (Matthew 22:37), nor can he serve Him acceptably without godly fear. (Hebrews 12:28). God is both good and severe (Romans 11:22). It is sometimes suggested that the more we mature as Christians the more we will love Him and the less we will fear Him. Again, why is it either/or? When one grows in the knowledge of the Lord the more he learns of reasons to love Him, but also he learns more reasons to fear Him. He learns more of God's grace and mercy prompting him to love Him more, but he also learns more of "the terror of the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:11) prompting him to fear Him more. As one grows in his knowledge of heaven, the more he loves the Lord for providing it for him and then as he grows in the knowledge of hell, the more he fears displeasing God and going there. God, who knows what is in man, is better qualified to tell what motivations are needed to serve Him acceptably – a healthy balance of both love and fear.

- Edward O. Bragwell, Sr.

THE NECESSITY OF...

Hearing

Unless an individual (who is in an accountable state) comes in contact with God's word in a way that he can understand—salvation cannot be incurred. Hearing is the beginning from which the plan of salvation proceeds. Thus, the sending forth of preachers is called for. *"How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"* (**Romans 10:14-15**)

Belief

Without its acceptance, the word of God will not save you. (God does not force an obedient faith upon anyone.) Once again, we find the necessity of the word being preached. *"And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."* (**Mark 16:15-16**) *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* (**John 3:16**)

Repentance

Repentance is the evidence of the change of heart, which is an essential component in the plan of salvation. What you and I think (or say) about our commitment to Christ is one thing, but only godly sorrow brings about the genuine repentance necessary for salvation. *"For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death."* (**2 Corinthians 7:10**) Our actions make known our hearts in this matter (Acts 26:20).

Confession

Any person that is unwilling to share with others what he/she has heard of God, His Word, and His church has not truly believed; and is incapable of progressing any further towards becoming a child of God. Without confession, we will never be partakers of the spiritual blessings in the heavenly places in Christ. Jesus Himself said, *"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. ³³ But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven."* (**Matthew 10:32-33**)

Baptism

Whatever the motivation, those who argue against baptism and its proper form and administration have but one choice to make: to follow scripture — or not. Therefore, all must agree that salvation is not outside of what is revealed in God's Word. *"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.* (**Matthew 28:18-20**) *"And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."* (**Mark 16:15-16**)

- Ian Rice