

Times of Service

Sunday Morning
Bible Study - 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Morning
Worship - 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Night
Bible Study - 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Night
Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.

May Birthdays

May 2
Nicole Hendrick

May 4
Evon Thomas

May 6
Keith Grinstead

May 7
Sarah Bartley

May 14
Ella Lee

May 15
Leonard Lee

May 16
Brian Meredith

May 18
Nikki Lee

May 20
Shannon Whitley

May 21
Amanda Watt

May 22
John Mutter

May 24
Amy Grinstead

May 25
Dixie Price

May 28
Kirk Grinstead

May 30
Parker Meredith

Anniversaries

May 20
Shannon & Geoffrey

May 21
Gene & Reta Grinstead

May 28
Daniel & Nancy Parsley

Three Forks Church of Christ

May 2009

The Lamp

... as a light shining in a dark place. 2 Peter 1:19



Do Not Refuse Him Who Speaks II

In the 3rd volume of a little booklet called *Minute Messages* by Roger Banks is a short article titled "Good Listener?" here is that article:

God is interested in our hearing. The Jews heard, but they did not hear! Many today hear, but they actually do not listen.

There are different kinds of hearers and listeners. One can listen to criticize; they can pick the words, sentences or facts apart. They hear errors but not the truth.

Then there are those who listen in resentment. They hear with hate; with hostility. Truth does not change their intellect, but fire their passions.

Some listen in superiority. This is snobbery at its worst. These people do not listen but hear your words to be polite.

Some, though, listen to learn. They are seeking knocking and asking. These people will hear and obey the truth and then they will grow rapidly. They are blessed because they are good listeners. Think about it!

As seen in the above short article, the writer notes there is hearing and there is "hearing to understand." Often we find ourselves listening with other motives than understanding. May be we are looking for fault in the speaker, may be we are listening to hear someone say what we want them to say. Still yet may be we are listening as to not offend but the words are not being heard at all. They have no chance to be considered.

How many times did Jesus proclaim, "He who has an ear, let him hear!" Friends are we interested in listening to learn? Hearing to understand? Are we ready to hear the words of Jesus? Or will we refuse Him who speaks?

By: Nick Secula



Reflections on One Who Came Calling Good Teacher

There is a familiar story to many that appears in the text of Matthew 19:16-30. A young man comes to Jesus calling Him Good Teacher asking what he needed to do to “have eternal life?”

I have heard this story preached many times and heard it spoken about in several bible studies. Some obvious lessons come forcefully from the example of this text. We see the need for a total devotion to God. Jesus said you cannot serve two masters and obviously this young man was trying to do just that. Indeed this situation shows us exactly what Jesus meant back in Matthew 6, for this young man had to choose between the two and when the choice was made the one he loved more was revealed.

The story shows us that Jesus really means for us to place Him first before everything else. It also reveals the need to rid our lives of things that may keep us from a total devotion unto Christ. In these two thoughts or teachings have been the vast majority of messages I have heard preached from the text. They are good and needed lessons for obviously we need to hear them and understand them. However, there are a few very obvious lessons that I don't hear mentioned often from the text.

Within the conversation is the certainty of eternal life and salvation. For understand the question was about how to receive eternal life. The man knew, or it seems implied that he knew, that Jesus had the knowledge to which this man desired. Hence the fact that there is an eternal life was never in doubt by Jesus

or by the one who came questioning. The obvious acceptance of the question and the further discussion should reaffirm the Christian's hope and faith that with Jesus there is eternal life.

Not only is the hope of an eternal life so fervently expressed there are some points regarding that “receiving” element of this eternal life that beg our attention. So much is often said about the thief on the cross. Whole doctrine discourses seem to extend from the thief being the proof text for salvation with no “works” or “deeds” or actions on our part. There are some who claim any “required” deed would inherently give birth to “saving oneself through works” and “negate the grace of God.”

Let me ask a simple question did Jesus ask this young man to save himself through righteous deeds? It seems impossible for the honest student to deny that Jesus said that this man had to “keep the commandments.” Likewise it will be difficult for those who argue against “religious deeds” to refute Jesus demand that this young man sell all that he had (that's a work is not), give to the poor and follow after Him, and yet again we have another action commanded by Jesus. Don't get me wrong I'm not advocating that we are saved by religious deeds, on the contrary, I believe what is being demonstrated is that faith is not apart from action and deed. Furthermore that Jesus requiring actions on our part does not negate that fact that we are saved by the grace of God. James had said we are “not saved by faith only” he also said in James two that he would show his faith by his works.

So let me answer the question I posed in the last paragraph, no I don't believe Jesus asked this young man to "save himself" through "righteous deeds." I believe Jesus was saying you got to put Him first, that means keeping the commandments of God... yes that is what he told this young man and its what He has spoken to all of us, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him." (John 4:23) Jesus calls all to hear, believe, confess, repent, be baptized and live faithfully for Him. Doing so is not trying to save oneself apart from grace, instead its loving Jesus and through faith putting Him first in our lives. It is by the grace of God and the work of Jesus on the cross that there is a way of salvation and the ability to be saved, and keeping the things that Jesus has commanded is in accordance with His beautiful saving work. Will we do the the things Jesus has put before us and pick up our cross and follow after Him or will we go away sorrowful as the young man in the text?

By: Nick Secula

Women of Worth

The W.O.W. Ladies Bible Study will meet on Friday, May 15th at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship building. The lesson for this meeting will be over the virtuous woman in Proverbs 31. Please join us for this study and stay for refreshments and fellowship after class.



S.W.A.T.

SEEKING WISDOM AND TRUTH

*"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."
~ John 8:32*

The youth at Three Forks are invited to the first meeting of the newly named youth group, S.W.A.T. on Saturday, May 9 at 4 p.m. at Nick & Tiffany's House. Come ready to have some FUN!

PRAYER LIST

Sick

Gerald Watt
Bette Gilmer
Vivian McDaniel
Cane Kinser
Cassie Dubree
Becky Dubree
Rouble & Wilma
Lawrence
Tammy Edwards
Billy Burnett
Phillip Ginsler
Ruth Ann Cayton
Lana Young
Jackson Blackford
Toni Dearing
Juliette Butler
Serena Probst

Soldiers

Theo Raymer
Jason & Melonie Jones

Mission Work

India
Athens
Disaster Relief

Shut-Ins

Warren Lindsey

Special Requests

Bonnie Lamberson for
Strength

Don't forget!

The 5th Sunday in
May, the collection
will go towards
our Building Fund.

That evening we
will have our
5th Sunday Singing.

SERVICE LIST

Announcements

Don Mills

Preparing Table

Nola Mae Mills

Waiting on Table

*Gene Grinstead *Craig Peay
Darrell Bunch Eric Mills

Reading

May 3 - Gene Grinstead
May 10 - Thomas Watt
May 17 - Brandon Eadens
May 24 - Payton Staples
May 31 - Ryan Cole

APRIL

Average Attendance:

Sunday Morning Worship: 84

Contribution

March Building Fund
\$2563
April 5 - April 26
\$5183

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

May dates to be announced.

**THREE FORKS**
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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