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**BIBLE LESSON TEXTS**

Sunday June 28, 2020

Mat 2:1-12

The Wise Men

What can we give to Jesus?



Wednesday July 1, 2020

Mat 2:13-23

Flight to Egypt; Return to Nazareth

No one is evil enough to overcome God.

**Elders:** Ernest Shelton 903/628-2201  
Johnny Thomas 903/628-1292  
Russell Tyndell 903/748-2672  
**Deacons:** John David Thomas Mike Raney  
Scott Hobson Jody Thomas  
Blake Tyndell Jamey Thomas  
**Minister:**  
Kevin Cauley Local# 430/200-7870  
**Office:** Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Secretary: 903/628-2891 Jim Patterson

**GOD'S SALVATION PLAN**

Divine Love: ..... John 3:16  
God's Grace: ..... Ephesians 2:8  
Christ's Blood: ..... Romans 5:9  
Holy Spirit's Word: ..... Romans 1:16  
Sinner's Faith: ..... Acts 16:31  
Sinner's Repentance: ..... Luke 13:3  
Sinner's Confession: ..... Romans 10:10  
Sinner's Baptism: ..... Acts 22:16  
Christian's Love: ..... Matthew 22:37  
Christian's Work: ..... James 2:24  
Christian's Hope: ..... Romans 8:24  
Christian's Endurance: Revelation 2:10



**Happenings in God's Family**

Vol.49 No.25 June 28, 2020

**Salvation by Grace or Salvation by Works**

Many people believe that religion is just about morality. In that vein, they will make statements like, "All religions are the same; one is no better than the other. They all teach the same morality, so what difference does it make which one I believe?" First, they do not all teach the same morality, but even if they did, they still would not be the same because of the differences in doctrine. Is there one God, or many? Is God a person, or impersonal? Can we have a relationship with Him, or is He unrelatable? Did Jesus die on the cross or does it not matter as long as we are moral? Are we saved by grace, or by works? These are doctrinal questions, yet they are impactful.

Are we saved by grace or by works? The answer to this question separates Christianity from all other world religions. Christianity alone teaches salvation by grace. All other world religions teach salvation by merit/works. Under the works-based scheme of salvation, all it takes is 51% good deeds. 49% of a person's life may be evil, and he still be saved because all that matters is the number of good works verses the number of bad works. Islam, mainline Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and every other world religion teaches this. Christianity alone says contrary (Ephesians 2:8).

What happens when you get to 75% evil and 25% good? Do you work to balance out? Do you give up? You can't start over. There are no second chances. Or what if you end life at 51% evil and 49% good? You were so close, but eh, too bad because you crossed the line one too many times. Oh, but someone says, "I'm at 10% evil and 90% good." Is there a temptation to sin a little more because you have the "credit" so to speak? Such a system does not encourage morality, but immorality. Doctrine makes a difference!

God bless you, and I love you.

Kevin Cauley

## Know who you are following Part 2.

Following Christ is a simple proposition--in theory. In one sense, following Him is as easy as trying to get where He is. In Matthew 11, Jesus issued the invitation to the weary and heavy laden in this life to "Come unto" Him. Jesus offers rest for our souls, just like the prophecy of Jeremiah (6:16). Surely, Christ can lead us by example as well as teaching. He was and is purely consistent with the standard He set before men. Hypocrisy, while not at ALL present in the Messiah, was the focus of Matthew 23 as He strongly cautioned His disciples. Notice the words used there: "do ye not after their works..." (v.3), "ye make him [a proselyte] two-fold more the child of hell than yourselves" (v.15), "ye blind guides" (v. 24), "I would have gathered thy children together..." (v.37). With divine foresight and prophetic disclosure, Jesus makes the irrefutable case that *following the wrong people leads to disaster*.

Following Jesus means we strive to follow His example. Unfortunately, we are imperfect imitators even at our best (Romans 3:23). The simple reality is, however, we know where He is and how He got there. (John 14:1-9; Acts 1:11; 3:26; 10:40; Romans 1:1-5; Heb 1:1-3; 9:24). God gives adequate instruction (Mark 16:15,16; Acts 2:38; 3:19; Romans 6:1-6; 10:9,10; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; 2 Timothy 3:16,17; 1 Pet 3:21; Revelation 2:10). However, we must acknowledge the Bible indicates "few" navigate the narrow way to the strait gate (Matthew 7:13,14). Jesus pointed out easily the Law and the Prophets are simply summed up in the Great Commandments to "love the LORD" and "love thy neighbor" (Matthew 22:40). He is our perfect example (1 Pet 2:21f).

Christians for generations now have worshipped singing about the simple concepts of "trust" and "obey" in order to be happy in Jesus. The world stumbles frequently on the first without attempting the second. The trust Christians have in God builds with experiences, having drawn also from all that God says about himself in His Word. We have a fuller enjoyment than even the Psalmist himself had --in expressions of Psalm 23 "He leadeth me beside the still waters...in the paths of righteousness...Thou art with me"--as we follow our familiar Good Shepherd. (John 10--I STRONGLY encourage you to read the chapter). He loves us. He has shown us His love in laying down his life for us. Assuredly, we love Him because He first loved us.

We ought to realize the field of successful leaders through the vale of death narrows to only one (Matthew 21:44; Luke 20:18; Acts 4:11,12; 1 Corinthians 15:17-23). HE is the simple answer to the complex question of salvation. He shows us the way. He gives us hope. He provides us strength. He has made the way for us into Heaven and the place for us there. We can know Him, and we can follow Him. jp



### Please Pray For these in need

Don Grider	Clara Inman
James Love	Faith Salfen
Robin Upson	Enoies Curbow
Billy Johnson	Shina Shaw
Amanda Georgakis and family	Juanita Higginbotham
Winnie Tucker	Blake Drinkard
Sara Jo Vance	Meg Shelton
Juanita Shelton	Marie McPherson
Keith & Helen Clark	Charles Lansford
Miki Fowler	

Let's pray for and support the brethren at De Kalb as the church will be hosting an **evangelism seminar** with Rob Whitaker July 5-7. As of this printing, we have no more details, but we'll find out more this week.

#### Birthdays

<b>Sawyer Hobson</b>	<b>June 28</b>
<b>DeWayne Hardage</b>	<b>June 29</b>
<b>Suzette Tyndell</b>	<b>June 30</b>

#### Anniversary!

<b>M/M James Hobbs</b>	<b>June 30</b>
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**PANTRY NEEDS**  
Canned soup or Ramen Noodles will help stock our pantry.

### June 28, 2020 Servants

Announcements: Johnny Thomas

AM Prayers	PM Prayers
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Scott Hobson	
Monty Crawford	
Lord's Table	
	Jody Thomas
Jamey Thomas	Ben Dooley

### July 5, 2020 Servants

Announcements: John David Thomas

Am Prayers	PM Prayers
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Doug Wages	
Mike Raney	
Lord's Table	
	Jody Thomas
Jamey Thomas	Ben Dooley

*If for some reason you cannot serve, please call Mike Raney-903-559-4141, or John D. Thomas-903-490-5572*

### OUR FAITH IN ACTION

#### SUNDAY, June 14, 2020

Bible Classes-----	n/a
AM Worship-----	73
PM Worship-----	n/a
Contribution-----	\$3,188.25
Average to Date -----	\$3,045.46
Budget -----	\$3,100.00

Wednesday, June 10-----