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**BIBLE LESSON TEXTS**

*Sunday August 30, 2020*  
**Beatitudes Mat 5** This is only a part of Jesus' guide to living.

*Wednesday September 2, 2020*  
**Wise and Foolish Man Matt 7:24-29;**  
**Luke 6:46-49**  
It pays to obey God.

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**Are you interested in 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  
Please contact us with questions

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



## Happenings in God's Family

### Living in a Rubber Room (Part 2)

Last week we looked at the question, "Why didn't God make the world in such a way so as to give people freedom but without any bad consequences?" The answer was two-fold. Either God would have to control people personally and stop them from doing bad things (make puppets out of them), or He would have to take away all bad consequences, which would put us in a "rubber room." Two follow-up questions might be, "Why did God make us free to choose anyway? And why should there be negative consequences to bad choices to begin with?"

God made humans free because freedom is necessary to proclaim love. Could this be done without freedom? Not without sacrificing love. For example, I could program my computer to tell me that it loves me regularly. Initially, it might give me an ego boost, but after a while, it would get dull. Why? Because it is just the computer telling me what I told it to do with no will of its own. The computer does not choose to love me, I choose for the computer to love me, and that's not real love. Would it be any more impressive if God did it with us? No. It is just another 'rubber room.'

For a proclamation of love to have any meaning, a free choice is required. A free-will being that sincerely says, "I love you," to another is a meaningful expression because it is not just a preprogrammed response. It stems from an independent agent who is not under the absolute control of the one desiring to be loved. But to say, "I love you," to another involves the risk of being rejected, and this answers our second question: why must there be negative consequences to bad choices? We will talk about this more next week.

God bless you, and I love you.

Kevin Cauley

<b>August 30, 2020 Servants</b>	
Announcements: Mike Raney	
<b>AM Prayers</b>	<b>PM Prayers</b>
Scott Hobson	Tommy McGee
Dave Conley	Johnny Thomas
<b>Lord's Table</b>	
Jody Thomas	Ben Dooley
Jamey Thomas	XXXXXXXX
PM Communion: Visitors Cards: XXXXXX	
<b>September 6, 2020 Servants</b>	
Announcements: John David Thomas	
<b>Am Prayers</b>	<b>PM Prayers</b>
Johnny Thomas	Scott Overstreet
Jody Thomas	Derrell Patterson
<b>Lord's Table</b>	
Blake Tyndell	Jimmy Smith
Thomas McGee	XXXXXXXX
PM Communion: Jimmy Smith Visitors Cards: XXXXXX	
<i>If for some reason you cannot serve, please call Mike Raney-903-559-4141, or John D. Thomas-903-490-5572</i>	

**5th Sunday Treat! Scott Hobson** will preach for us this Sunday, August 30, for both the AM and PM worship assemblies. It's a blessing to the congregation to have willing men to fill the pulpit, and a blessing as well that our elders provide experience and growth opportunities for our willing men!

Please Pray For these in need	
Don Grider	Clara Inman
James Love	Faith Salfen
Robin Upson	Sara Jo Vance
Billy Johnson	Phil Mills
Juanita Higginbotham	Charles Lansford
Winnie Tucker	Blake Drinkard
Keith & Helen Clark	Meg Shelton
Juanita Shelton	Marie McPherson
Gayle Floyd	
Amanda Georgakis and family	Callie Perkins' and Danielle Tyndell's aunt (& doctors)

<b><u>OUR FAITH IN ACTION</u></b>	
<b>SUNDAY, August 23, 2020</b>	
AM Worship -----	77
PM Worship -----	36
Contribution-----	\$4,973.30
Average to Date -----	\$3,037.12
Budget -----	\$3,100.00

Birthdays

Chad Duffer	Sept 1
Tatum Tyndell	Sept 2

Anniversary

M/M Mike Raney	Sept 1
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Treasuring God's Word

“My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee. Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye” (Pro. 7:1-2). With these words, Solomon, in a very gentle way so as to encourage his son to listen, warns his son against immorality. Today, with these same words, we can see the importance of treasuring the word of God.

In the text before us we see the need of laying up the commandments of the Lord within ourselves. In others words, we need to store the word of God in our hearts that we may have them at our disposal in time of need. It was the word of God that was stored up in the mind of Jesus that enabled Him to overcome the temptations of the devil in the wilderness by the words “It is written,” thus, defeating Satan by using the Scripture that He had committed to His memory (Mat. 4:1-11).

If we expect to overcome temptation in our day, we must “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15). In doing so, we will “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 Pet. 3:15). Paul said that was “READY to preach the gospel” (Rom. 1:15). We must have God's word stored in our minds **READY TO USE!**

Solomon also says that if we keep the commandments of the Lord we shall live. We gain spiritual life as we obey the instruction of God. Remember, that “all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Rom 3:23), that “the wages of sin is death!” (Rom. 6:23), and that “who ever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law!” (1 John 3:4). We understand more clearly then, the words of Jehovah, “Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the LORD” (Lev. 18:5).

Isaiah, speaking for the Almighty, declares, “Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live...” (Isa. 55:3). The Lamb of God proclaimed, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me!” (Jn. 14:6). It is easy to see from the afore mentioned verses of scripture why we should treasure the word of God - **IT GIVES SPIRITUAL LIFE!**

Solomon says that the word of God should be “as the apple of thine eye.” In other words, the word of God should be a very valuable possession to us - the most valued possession! The word of God is “more to be desired than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb” (Psa. 19:10), and “the law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver” (Psa. 119:72). Why is the word of God so valuable? Because it brings us spiritual life if we obey its instructions. Are you treasuring the word of God?

Tom Moore  
Park Heights church of Christ  
Hamilton, TX