# **BIBLE LESSON TEXTS**

**Vineyard Workers** Sunday, Matt 20:1-16

> God is happy when we decide to obey Him however old we are.

Wednesday, December 16 **Blind Bartimaeus** Matt 20:29-34; Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43

Do we know that Jesus will help us? Do we trust Him to take care of us?

### **SERVICES**

SUNDAY: WEDNESDAY:

Worship 10:25 AM Bible Classes 7:00 PM

Worship 6:00 PM

**Elders:** Ernest Shelton 903/628-2201 Johnny Thomas 903/628-1292 Russell Tyndell 903/748-2672

Scott Hobson

Deacons: Mike Raney

John David Thomas

Jody Thomas Jamey Thomas Blake Tyndell

Monday - Friday Office:

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

903/628-2891

Jim Patterson Secretary: **Kevin Cauley** Minister:

Local# 430/200-7870







A Move in the Right Direction

Late in October, President Trump changed his religious affiliation from Presbyterian to "nondenominational Christianity." We can only speculate on his motives (the news articles did not give a specific reason why he chose to make the change). However, the change itself (from denominational to nondenominational) is one that we should appreciate. Jesus did not establish a denomination, and the apostles did not preach denominationalism. The organizations known as denominations had their origins in the reformation movement, not in first century Christianity. Denominationalism is an innovation that was not part of what Jesus originated. 2 John 9 states, "Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ, hath not God: he that abideth in the teaching, the same hath both the Father and the Son."

We are also admonished in the word of God to continue steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine (Acts 2:42). One cannot do this within the framework of denominationalism because it presupposes an organization that neither Jesus nor the apostles conceived. The move out of denominationalism brings one closer to the divine order. Jesus did not die on the cross for a denomination. He died for his church (Acts 20:28). It would be a good thing if everyone would leave denominationalism.

Denominationalism has made a mockery of the teachings of Jesus and the apostles in the past five hundred years. By declaring that "one church is just as good as another," those who agree with such a statement consent to false doctrine when even one denomination embraces heresy. In the past thirty years, much of that false doctrine has been the utter abandonment of what Jesus and the apostles taught about marriage and sexual ethics. How can one church be just as good as another? They cannot. Denominationalism needs to go away permanently.

God bless you, and I love you.

**Kevin Cauley** 

December 13, 2020 Servants	
Announcements: Johnny Thomas	
AM Prayers	PM Prayers
Scott Hobson	Jimmy Smith
Monty Crawford	Blake Tyndell
Lord's Table	
Mike Raney	Thomas McGee
Jody Thomas	XXXXXXX
PM Communion: Ben Dooley	
December 19, 2020 Servants	
Announcements: Johnny Thomas	
Am Prayers	PM Prayers
Jamey Thomas	Derrell Patterson
Ben Dooley	Scott Hobson
Lord's Table	
Mike Raney	Thomas McGee
Jody Thomas	XXXXXXX
PM Communion: Jody Thomas	
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 Wednesday, December 2, 2020

Please Pray for ... Billy Johnson

Lindy Raney Don Grider
Faith Salfen Mary Hankins
Meg Shelton Robin Upson
Winnie Tucker Blake Drinkard

Marie McPherson Keith & Helen

James Love Clark

Clara Inman Helen Francis Davis

J.L. & Jaunice Foster
Juanita Higginbotham
Amanda Georgakis
Lindsey Book
Family of Andrea Tyndell's grandmother
Lucy Myers
Grieving families

## Birthdays

Bettie Hammons Dec 13 Blake Tyndell Dec 13



Canned chili or Vienna Sausages

### Thanks

We appreciate sister Gayle Floyd and helpers updating our building's flowers and decorations seasonally.

Announcement!

Donations to the hurricane <u>disaster relief</u>
<u>effort</u> via Brian Spicer should be dropped
off or mailed to the church office in the
next few weeks.

### It Seems to Me

Proverbs 14:12 and 16:25 say the same thing: "There is a way which/that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." A disastrous and important distinction exists between what seems right and what is right. Men who do not apply themselves to ascertain the difference may be convinced they are right, but find out they are (were) wrong later! A big danger lies in refusing to consider all the facts. It must be admitted that circumstances are not always favorable for man to find or know what is right. We are limited, finite creatures. Sometimes it is difficult to know our own heart, much less the details and particulars of relationships with fellow men. Satan makes it easy for us to selfjustify, however, as we approach decisions as well as looking back on them. Genesis 4 gives us the familiar familial record of Cain and Abel. God himself spoke to Cain, but by a process reproduced in every generation, Satan got Cain to see things differently (James 1:15). The way that seemed right to him was murder. We are tremendously talented at getting what we want and making excuses later. ("It's not my fault!") We are also able to head-off the blessings of God by thinking we know better than He does ("Behold, I thought..." 2 Kings 5). Even those who have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge (Rom 10:2), staying on that course, find out too late (Matt 7:23).

In John 16:2, Jesus told His Apostles "They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service." Some sought to kill Paul (Acts 23:12, 21), binding themselves under a curse. Again, the way that seemed right to them was murder. Then, as well as now, it is a serious thing to fight against God in such manners (Acts 5:35-39; Mat 25).

What do we do in the face of our limitations? What do we do with the (negative) examples we can see in life of people who jump to conclusions, function on inadequate standards, or close-mindedly proceed to do things contrary to God's will? We proceed cautiously, acknowledging our limitations. We lay hold of the best guide ever provided for man in the way of static morality-the Bible (Psa 119:11: Prov 30:5; John 8:32). We allow our religious fervor and zeal to be directed by what God says in His Word. We study it so much it shapes and colors our thoughts. God designed it that way. He designed us this way. He is capable of helping and instructing us in the way of pleasing Him (2 Tim 3:16,17). And finally, when we do make mistakes in decisions of right and wrong, we confess and repent of the wrong. (Mat 26:75; Luke 22:62; 2 Sam 12:13; 1 Jn 1:9) jp