

Those to Serve

Sunday 10-18-2009

Sunday Morning Worship:

Announcements..... Rance Robison
 Song Leader..... Hal Roper
 Opening Prayer Bob Hedges
 Closing Prayer Gene Campbell

Month of OCTOBER 2009

Sunday Morning Lord's Table

South Side:

Jerry Freeman
 Jody Sparks
 David Neal

North Side:

Grady Duncan
 Daniel McCary
 Austin Neal

Sunday Evening Lord's Table

Jim Duncan Charles Kyle

Sunday Evening Worship:

Announcements..... Rance Robison
 Song Leader..... Hal Roper
 Opening PM Prayer..... Jim Duncan
 Closing PM Prayer..... Fred Harkrider, Jr.

Serving Wednesday Night—Oct 21, 2009

Announcements Rance Robison
 Song Leader Daniel McCary
 First Prayer..... Jerry Freeman
 Closing Prayer..... Roger Grimes

*If you plan to be out of town or are not physically able to serve, please call someone to take your place. or call the church office.

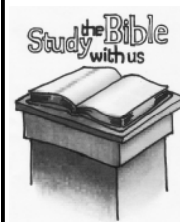
Attendance for the week of 10-11-2009

Bible Classes..... 85
 Morning Worship..... 129
 Evening Worship 95
 Tuesday Ladies Class 09
 Wednesday Night 99
 Regular Contribution \$ 3,950.26
 New Construction Fund Contributions.....\$ -0-

Averages To Date This Year

Bible Classes.....101
 Morning Worship.....141
 Evening Worship 99
 Tuesday Ladies Class 13
 Wednesday Night 93
 Regular Contribution.....\$ 4,317.83
 New Construction Fund Contributions to date..... \$ 78,007.07
 (Also includes transfers and interest earned)

PLEASE NOTE: This bulletin is formatted Friday morning each week. Any news items or articles you wish included must be submitted to the Editor no later than Thursday Night. You may call Rhodney Freeman at 903-572-1181 (home) or 903-572-1136 (Office)



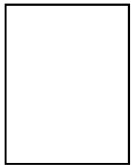
Today's Sermons

AM: Making Jesus Lord of Our Life
Kris Groda, Preaching

PM: Overcoming Doubt, Disbelief, Distrust
Kris Groda, Preaching

WITHOUT GOD . . . our week would be: Sindy, Mournday, Tearsday, Wasteday, Thirstday, Fightday, Shatterday. Seven days without God - makes one weak!

North Jefferson Church of Christ
 P.O. Box 963
 Mt. Pleasant, TX 75456



Address Correction Requested

Assembly Times

Sunday

Bible Classes9:00AM
 Worship10:00AM
 6:00PM

Tuesday

Ladies Bible Class ..10:00AM
 (September—May)

Wednesday

Bible Classes7:00PM

Church Office:
 903.572.1136

Elders

Gene Campbell
 Weldon Miller
 Wayne Pickrel

Deacons

Grady Duncan
 Jim Duncan
 Jerry Freeman
 Bob Hedges
 Rance Robison
 Hal Roper

Gospel Preacher

Kris Groda

Secretary

Rhodney Freeman

Website:
 www.njcofc.com

Email:
 njcofc@sbcglobal.net

North Jefferson Messenger

As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him" Proverbs 25:13



Volume 11 No. 34 Founded on the Word—Focused on the World October 18, 2009

First Place

By Kris Groda

I can't help but rejoice with our youth group who tied for first place with the New Boston congregation this past Monday night. Bible Bowl is fun, and it's a great outlet for area youth groups to be together and to learn the Bible. First place in a competition might reveal more study and good cooperation between team mates, but first place isn't the most important thing, is it?

Actually, what is the most important thing is that you make Jesus first place in your life. The first and great commandment is to "love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" (Matthew 22:37). When I love God this much, I will "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness" (Matthew 6:33).

You see, the God of the Bible is a God of order. Everything has its place. For instance, God doesn't want your worship without first making the effort to be reconciled to your brother, especially if you are angry without a cause. Jesus said, "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift" (Matthew 5:23-24). First things first!

Perhaps we should remember that God has designed us to be our brother's keeper, a concept ironically introduced by the first recorded murderer on earth (Gen. 4:9). We are to watch out for each other. "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ" (Gal 6:1-2). Notice Paul said to, "consider thyself also, lest thou also be tempted". There is a real danger in getting caught up in the same sin you are trying to rescue your brother from!

But what if you are already guilty? What if you are the opposite extreme and are unrighteous in your judgment? Jesus said, "And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye" (Matthew 7:3-4). We can't effectively be our brother's keeper if we have personal sin clouding our judgment! Practicing these guidelines is making Jesus first place in your life.

Consider the two men in Matthew 8. The scribe said, "Master, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest" (v.19). Jesus replied, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head" (v. 20). The other man, called a disciple said, "Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead" (vv. 21-22). This text doesn't reveal their decision, but Jesus reveals what was on their mind, and it is implied that they didn't put Jesus first place in their lives. The most severe (physical) rejection of Christ (murderous thoughts) were by people that had **no place** for God's Word within them (John 8:37). Keep the Lord first!

Standing By The Cross

By Neal Pollard

John 19:22-27 records the moments immediately preceding the death of Christ at Calvary. The final agony of our Lord unfolded during these moments. The weekly, memorial feast is a time to revisit the various scenes of the cross like this one. As we briefly go there now, there are remarkable things found standing by the cross.

There Is Ridicule By the Cross (23-24). Vile soldiers are casting lots for the garments of the King of Kings in fulfillment of prophecy (cf. Psalm 22:18). Mockery was the tone that filled the air by the cross. The closer to the cross, the more intense and fierce the ridicule surely grew. Christians often feel the ridicule that comes to them for standing by the cross (2 Timothy 3:12).

There is Room By the Cross (25). John 19:25-26 lists five folks standing by the cross. The disciples had fled (Matthew 26:56). The supporters of Jesus were few in number, but devoted in nature. Standing by the cross were only those who had the faith to take that risk. Standing by the cross must have bolstered their courage, though. Isn't it strange that few stand by the cross even today (cf. Matthew 7:13-14)?

There is Recognition Be The Cross (26-27) Jesus calls John and Mary by name. How honored they must have been to be recognized by their suffering, dying Lord. He acknowledged how important they were to Him. Do you visit Calvary enough to be recognized? Should we expect to ignore Him in life and expect Him to welcome us in death. (cf. Nahum 1:7; 2 Timothy 2:19)?

There Is Relationship By The Cross (vv.26-27). One feels the fellowship holding Christ to His mother and His dear follower. They love Him, and He loved them. They cared enough to stand by His cross. He cared enough to die for them (cf. John 15:13). Jesus entrusts the care of Mary to His apostle. Beyond the entombing and resurrection of Jesus, John continued his love for the Lord (1 John 4:19). The relationship we have with Christ must be the most important one in our lives (Matthew 6:33; Galatians 2:20).

There is Responsibility By the Cross (26-27). Christ charged Mary and John with the task of mutual care. They were to look out for one another. Christ would not stop caring for them, but there were given increased accountability for each other. Even when

drawing final breaths in His beaten body, Christ was teaching others how to be more useful to God.

Today, in the church, there is responsibility by the cross. We are to "love the brotherhood" (1 Peter 2:17). We are to be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10). We are to lead others to the cross (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:34).

There is Reflection By The Cross. Upon what did the faithful followers of Christ dwell at Golgotha? Was it there next meal? Was it their plans for the day? Was it worries over how to pay the bills? At Calvary, no doubt, they were engrossed in thoughts about Jesus, their past with Him, and their devotion to Him. Go to the cross and seriously contemplate the events there. Can you thoughtfully do so without reflecting on His grace and love?

No wonder the Holy Spirit moved Paul to write, "But let a man examine himself" (1 Cor. 11:28).

"There stood by the cross" Christ's disciples (John 19:25). So it is today. Real Christians are not found out of sight of Calvary. Where are they? Standing by the cross!

North Jefferson church of Christ Cares!

1. God certainly wants you to talk to your family and friends encouraging them to take stand for Bible principles re: alcohol. He wants you to be influential in their voting "No" in the November 3rd election concerning having liquor for sale in our stores and restaurants.
2. Be willing to display a sign in your yard to vote "No" to liquor.
3. If you live within the City limits, please consider placing your signature for a "signature page" in the newspaper.
4. Give liberally to "Mt. Pleasant Cares, Inc.". Monies provided to "Mt. Pleasant Cares" will be used for media advertising, brochures and pamphlets concerning the problems that Mt. Pleasant will experience, yard signs. Contributions can be given to any member of the board of "Mt. Pleasant Cares" or mailed to P.O. Box 2334, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, 75456-2334.
6. Don't forget to call the public relations office of Brookshire's (903-534-3000) and Wal-Mart (1-800-925-6278) to voice your opposition to the sale of liquor in their stores.

Prayer List: Justin Barker, Rachel Barker, Doris Bell, Billy Campbell, Gene Campbell, Suzanne Charlton, Irene Duncan, Patsy Duncan, Wade Miller, Wayne Pickrel, Thelma Reed, Julia Terrell

Also: Carolyn (Katy) Cabell, Mary Jo Lee, Janice Lineberger, Ruby McFarland, Kent Stephenson, Charles Whitney

Congregational Shut-Ins:

Home: Doris Bell, **Pleasant Springs Assisted Living:** Annah Brown, **Home:** Irene Duncan, **Villa Assisted Living:** Georgia Lide, **Omaha Healthcare Center:** Alice Lovelady, **Pleasant Springs Nursing Center:** Julia Terrell

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

RESPONSE

Jodi O'Rand put on her Lord in baptism last Tuesday night. We are grateful for her decision and we rejoice with her.

Men's Business meeting tonight after services, in the Multi-purpose Room. All the men of the congregation are encouraged to be in attendance.

Breydan Forest Jones (new son of Autumn Jones) was born at 8:58 pm, October 12, 2008 in the hospital at Longview. He weighed 7 pounds and 5 ounces and was 20 inches long. They were scheduled to be discharged home October 14, 2009.

Area Wide Bible Bowl began last Monday night here at the North Jefferson building (7:00 p.m.) All the youth of the congregation are encouraged to participate, and adults as well. Our participants did a good job at last week, tying for first place with the New Boston Congregation. We had 144 present Monday night.

Health Updates:

Julia Terrell has received some good reports. She had a procedure on Thursday to open the duct between her pancreas and liver. She later walked to the nurses station and back with the aid of a walker.

Geneva Cooksey is scheduled for total hip replacement in Dallas on the 23rd of October. She has requested our prayers.

Wayne Pickrel is still in TRMC. He is weak and does

not feel like having company at the present time. He is in room 532.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Fall Campfire Cookout at the McCary's Saturday evening, October 24 6:00 pm until ??

Soup and Hot Dogs will be provided. Please bring a drink or dessert and your camp-chairs.

(This is open to all of the congregation, not just the youth.)

If raining, cookout will be postponed.

Last Sunday night the North Jefferson congregation began participation in a preacher swap one time each quarter between Mt. Vernon, Pittsburg and ourselves. Last week, Bro. Richard Rutledge of the Mt. Vernon congregation was speaker here. Bro. Kevin Ruiz of the Pittsburg congregation spoke at the Mt. Vernon congregation and Bro. Kris Groda was speaker at the Pittsburg congregation. The elders feel this will be a good cooperative effort between our congregations who have been very supportive of each other as well as giving us an opportunity to become better acquainted with the other preachers and their families.

Starlyn Black (wife of Doyle Black) passed away on Wednesday October 15, 2009 following her battle against cancer. Her funeral was conducted at North Ridge Church of Christ at 10:00 am Saturday morning, with burial at Forest Lawn Cemetery. She was 68 years of age.

Area Events:

Don't forget the Ladies Day at Mount Vernon church of Christ, October 24, 2009 from 9:00 AM to Noon (Lunch provided). *Cindy Armstrong of the North Jefferson church of Christ in Mount Pleasant will be guest speaker.* Topic will be "Are you Tiptoeing Through the Tulips or Running Through the Daisies?" - 1 Timothy 1:7

THANK YOU... "Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I would like to thank you all for the prayers, cards, the food, and all the acts of kindness towards our family following the death of my father, Dewey Traylor.

—In Christian Love, LaShedra Traylor"