

Teen News

Thanks to Ashton, Alyssa, Chloe and Blake for staying after church last Sunday. They did a great job on the bulletin boards!! Also thank you Mary Jo for all of your help as well. We will leave this week to go to Dallas for L.T.C. I know all of you will do great!! We will meet Wednesday @ 7p.m. in the youth room for details such as when we are leaving, coming back and other info. (Please try to attend this meeting!!!) **TONIGHT** after the evening service we will play volleyball (**youth vs.adults**) in the activity building. We will have food and drinks for everyone. Come play or come watch, this will be a lot of fun!!

BEN

“HOW ACTIVE IS YOUR FAITH”?

Merely thinking we are right with God does not make it so (cf. Matt. 7:21-23). By His words, God has given us a measurable standard by which we may examine whether our lives are truly what He desires (Jn. 12:48). In fact, God commands us to continually examine whether we are in the faith (2 Cor. 13:5). In matters of salvation, only a faith that works through love can save us (Gal. 5:6; James 2:14ff). It's not enough just to *believe* the truth; we also have to *live the truth* in order to be right with God. Examining our faith is a matter not just of hearing, but of doing. It's not just information, but action that's important (James 1:22). Do you obey the truth that you know? Consider several Biblical cases where men were required not just to believe, but to obey: Faith is much more than good intentions. Saving faith *believes* God and subsequently *obeys* what God has commanded. Are you a hearer *and* a doer of God's word?

DAN

ARE WE JUST FANS OF THE FAITH”?

Christians must lead a life of balance. It's good to have a job and do it well (cf. 1 Tim. 5:8, Eph. 6:5-8), but to allow our work to keep us from glorifying God is sinful (1 Cor. 10:31, Col 3:17). It's wonderful to have loved ones, but did Jesus not say that He must still come first in our hearts (Luke 14:26-27)? We can even be sports fans, so long as our zeal and love for Christ are stronger still. Christian balance involves prioritizing our lives and seeking God's kingdom and righteousness above all things (cf. Matt. 6:33). Friends, let's not allow Satan to push us to ungodly extremes. We're fighting a spiritual war that's more important than any football or baseball game (cf. Eph. 6:10-17). We're working for a cause that will outlast and outshine the most brilliant career. We're part of a family that has been purchased by the blood of the Savior (Eph. 1:7), and that's a stronger bond than any human blood could ever be. We exist to win the world for Christ (cf. Matt. 28:18-20). Too many Christians are caught up, “majoring in the minors.” Many of us have made our careers the reason for living. Still more of us see our total preoccupation with recreational activities merely as a harmless pastime. We've become fans of the world instead of fanatics for Jesus.

DOOR GREETERS Apr. 20, 2014

Jane Grumbles & Sue Grubbs

COMMUNION PREPARATION

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Gospel Worker

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MINISTERS

Dan D. Manuel
Pulpit Minister

Ben Rhone
Youth Minister

ELDERS

Dan D. Manuel
Dale Sparks

DEACONS

Henry Baker
Sam Ellis
Dwight Franklin
Adam Harding
Kyle Lock

SECRETARY

Lorelee Reeder

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

Brown Trail School of Preaching, Bedford, TX
Jose Cuadras—Mexico School of Preaching
Hershel Bearden
India Mission
Central TX Children's Home—Buda, TX
Tipton Children's Home
Tipton, OK
GBN T.V. NETWORK
GIVE ME THE BIBLE
T.V. Program
KETK-56 Tyler, TX.
FOX 44—Waco, TX.
FOX 29, Bryan-College Station, TX.
NBC 53—Lufkin, TX.

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sun: 9:30 AM Class
10:30 AM Worship
6:00 PM Evening
Wed: 7:00 PM

“ DO WE REALY LOVE GOD?”

Christians have sometimes been accused of being unloving. The accusation may be true in many instances — we can behave in such a way that we have a form of godliness but deny its power (2 Tim. 3:5). But often the “unloving” label has more to do with the way our world has *redefined* the word, “love.” For many, possibly a majority, in our society “love” is loosely understood as freedom from constraint and universal acceptance of every sin and lifestyle. This definition short-changes the beauty and magnificence of God's love, and it keeps human beings from becoming authentic individuals. *Moral standards rooted in the perfect character of God are the only basis for fulfillment in this life.* He Himself IS love (1 John 4:8). *Love demands obedience* — “If you love Me, keep My commandments” (John 14:15). Jesus knows more about love than anyone who ever lived, and yet He consistently linked a love for God and man with the commandments of God (cf. Matt. 22:37-40). In fact, Scripture teaches that the whole law is fulfilled when one truly understands the nature and application of love (Rom. 13:10). Recently some have tried to argue that love frees a Christian from the constraints of God's law, but the question must be posed: “free to do what?” On the contrary, Scripture teaches that the more we love God and our fellow man, the more we will earnestly seek the commandments of our Master. Paul said, “the love of Christ compels us...” (2 Cor. 5:14). Real love, Biblical love, can only be expressed through faithful obedience to the principles and commandments of God's word. We really love only to the degree that we do what He says!

DAN

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TWO RESPOND TO THE INVITATION



From Dan's desk:

Last Sunday morning, Laurie Howell and Jennifer Sparks both responded to the invitation of our Lord to ask for the prayers of the church and seek the forgiveness that comes from our Heavenly Father. We rejoice with them on this decision. Isn't it great to know that the Lord is a loving and forgiving God? We thank God for His great love and compassion that He shows on all of us. So many good things continue to happen among us. God is blessing the church here in wonderful ways and we praise Him for it. The young people will be leaving for L.T.C. this next weekend. We are proud of them and the work that they are doing. Ben and Keri continue to encourage them and help provide opportunities of spiritual growth. Please express your appreciation to them. Several activities are being planned for the ladies and youth. Please mark your calendar for the "Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast" at the home of David and Jennifer Sparks next Saturday morning. Also the ladies are planning a "OLD ENGLISH TEA" that will be held on Saturday May 10th at the activity building. Please mark the date. The last day for Children's Bible Hour before Summer break will be on May 4th. We appreciate all those who have worked in Bible Hour this year. They have done a great job and we applaud their efforts. Thanks to so many who continue to work for the Lord in the congregation here above and beyond the "Monday Night For The Master" program held each month. So much is being accomplished. Thanks for being present this morning. See you tonight.

DAN

PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES



**TO KEEP
IN OUR PRAYERS**

BILLY LANE is doing better, but will have follow-up tests in Tyler.
BRENDA CREEL, sister of Gayle Hamilton, had surgery last week.
JERRY SPARKS, brother of Dale, is critically ill in Nacogdoches.
DARLENE BROWN, sister of James Singleterry, is very ill in Odessa.
MADELINE MILLER, grandmother of Kenny Hancock, is weak and close to death.
Please pick up a prayer list in the foyer.

**RESPONSES
FOR PRAYER
AND REDEDICATION**
**Laurie Howell
Jennifer Sparks**
God bless you both!

REMEMBER the Egg Hunt and Breakfast at the home of David & Jennifer Sparks this Saturday. The breakfast will begin at 9:30 and the egg hunt will begin at 10 AM. If you will be having breakfast with us, please sign the sign up sheet on the bulletin board. We need lots of plastic eggs filled with candy for the Easter Bunny to hide. If you can furnish some, it would be appreciated. Please bring to the building before Friday, April 18th.

"WHO WAS EBON PINION"?

Our songbooks contain some beautiful and rich songs, many of which happen to have been written decades ago. Sometimes, however, the images and language are a bit difficult to understand. I am reminded of the story about the little boy who after services one Sunday morning asked his mother, "Who was Ebon Pinion, and what was he doing in the garden with Jesus?" Let's consider some of the more difficult passages in our songbooks as we seek to truly understand what we sing (cf. 1 Cor. 14:15).

"Night with ebon pinion, brooded o'er the vale..." — The word, "ebon" is a form of the word "ebony," which is a dark shade of the color black. "Pinion" is an old word for "feathers" or "wings." "Vale" is a form of the word, "valley." Therefore, when we sing this line, we might paraphrase it in this manner: "The night's black wings covered the entire valley." It is an image of the valley near Jerusalem where the Garden of Gethsemane was located, and it paints a picture of the heavy burden and loneliness that Jesus felt on that occasion. That must indeed have been a terrible night for the Savior as He waited and prayed earnestly to God.

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