

Thanks to the youth group for attending the devotional last Sunday night. We had a great time!! I'm glad each of you are here this morning. We have started a lesson on **spiritual growth** in class. Spiritual growth means to become progressively stronger in your inner life. It is important for a number of reasons. The first reason will always be because you have a deep need for it to be a happy and vibrant, flourishing human being. We grow every day in small, subtle ways, but spiritual growth is a choice based upon needs. When you see spiritual growth as a need, you will attach value to the choices that motivate you to change and grow. I hope that you all will see the need of spiritual growth in your life.

Today immediately after the morning worship service the youth group will be going to the lake. Thanks to **Steve and Jill Camp** for allowing us to use their cabin. We will eat BBQ, play games, fish, swim and hang out. **Destiny Harding** will be leaving for college soon and we want to wish her the best of luck. I hope you all will join us today at the lake!! We will be back in time for worship services tonight. BEN

“HOW DO YOU LISTEN?”

JESUS TAUGHT THAT THE WAY WE LISTEN TO WHAT IS TAUGHT IS IMPORTANT. It is not just the preacher or teacher of the word who has responsibility when God's word is taught. Every listener must take heed to 'what' he hears and 'how' he hears it.

The Bereans are good examples. Take note how they accomplished this. **Acts 17:11** tells us they were “*noble*” and that they “*received the word with all readiness of mind.*” What did they do? “*They searched the scriptures daily.*” It would be wise for us to do the same.

ADAPTED

“DO NOT SUPPRESS TRUTH”

While Napoleon was in Egypt, at a place named Rosetta near the mouth of the Nile River in 1799, one of the many scholars with him discovered a black granite stone. It was inscribed with ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics, (pictures symbolized words); a later Egyptian Demotic; and Greek from 200 B.C. The British arrived and impounded the stone, which now lies in the British Museum in London. The French, however, had made paper copies, and 4 years later, a French scholar named Champollion cracked the hieroglyphic code revealing much of ancient Egyptian culture and religion. The stone is known as the Rosetta Stone. The Roman Church objected to Champollion and his discoveries during that time because they feared he would announce a civilization that predated the Roman Church's idea of how old the earth was — and it turns out that they were wrong! They suppressed the truth because it endangered their belief system. Jesus said, “*You shall know the truth, and the truth will make you free*” John 8:32. We do not need to be afraid of science or archaeology. We cannot suppress the truth. We must research, study and investigate all claims, and not be afraid. God's word has always withstood the scrutiny of science, and science, so called (1 Tim. 6:1). The word of God is the greatest book in the world, and all the attempts by man over centuries to defame it have failed (Matt. 24:35). The truth is not something we Christians need to be afraid of.

RICK LAING

DOOR GREETERS –Aug. 23, 2015,

Robert and Lois Duzan

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Aug. 23, 2015

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FOX 44– Waco, TX.
FOX 33 Shreveport, La.
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

“ CAN THERE BE UNITY”

The prayer Jesus prayed for unity is recorded in John 17:20-21 and it shows us the strength of Jesus' desire for His followers to be united. However, in this prayer we also gain valuable insight into how our unity with the apostles, early Christians and Christians throughout the ages, can be achieved. This unity was to be a unity based on the apostles' words as exemplified in the book of Acts. When those who gladly received the word were baptized, they “continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine” (Acts 2:42). We also read that those who believed “were of one heart and of one soul” (4:32). Their unity was not based on commonality of race, nationality, social or financial status or common secular interests. They found unity based on following the same teachings, the doctrine of Jesus Christ, revealed by His chosen Apostles. As long as these believers continued in the apostle's doctrine they were united sharing one heart and soul. Some have suggested that we ought to “set aside all doctrine and just worship Jesus.” Sadly, this statement reflects a failure to understand that we cannot truly worship God without looking to Jesus' doctrine to find out what kind of worship He desires (Matthew 15:7-9 John 4:23-24). Unfortunately, such an attitude also fails to understand that Jesus' doctrine is never to be “set aside” for it is the very thing that draws people of different backgrounds, races and social classes together. If we do not accept the Bible as authority spiritually there is no common ground. DAN

**Welcome to our visitors.
Thanks for being present
One Baptized**



From Dan's desk:

It is good to have all of our visitors this morning. We appreciate you being with us today. We hope you will come again at each and every opportunity you have to be with us here. We were made to rejoice with CHARLES STEEN who was baptized last Friday a week ago upon our study together. Charles is a fine person and one who loves the Lord. For many years Charles worked with the Palestine Police Dept. He is now retired. We welcome him into our fellowship here as a member and I know that each of us will make him feel welcome. Several have really been working on plans for a great Children's Bible Hour beginning in September. A lot of effort has been given to make sure that our younger children are taught about the Lord. Let me encourage parents to make sure and have your children present for each lesson this Fall. They will enjoy the Bible stories, drama, puppets, singing and other activities planned for them. We again will have Bible School promotion on August 30th. It will be good to have everyone back from Vacations, etc. It has been a great Summer in many respects. The youth will be going to Lake Ioni with Ben and Kerri following the worship service this morning. This is a back to school event planned for High School and Jr. High as well. Ben promises to have them back by the service tonight at 6 P.M. Let's all continue to support the youth in every way we possibly can. They, like all of us need encouragement. We hope and trust that all of you will want to be present this evening at 6 P.M. for our evening worship service. See you tonight. DAN

PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES



**TO KEEP
IN OUR PRAYERS**

MARK JOHNSON has been undergoing tests this last week. **CHARLIE YOUNG** will undergo surgery next week. Continue to remember all others who have recently been mentioned.

RESPONSES

BAPTIZED
CHARLES STEEN
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Thanks

Thanks to Perry Cowan for his presentation last Wednesday on Redemption. Our last speaker in our summer series is **JOE HANCOCK** in the month of September.

WELCOME VISITORS

A big hearty welcome to those visiting today. Allow us to meet and greet you following the worship service this morning. At the end of the service today you will be given a gift bag from our congregation. "It is a small gift, but it comes from big hearts." Thanks again for coming.

"Lord Send A Rattlesnake"

Leroy Brownlow tells a story about a family of wayward church members - a father and three sons. Once active but now indifferent, they have been visited by the preacher and elders. Everything within reason had been done to restore them - all in vain. One day while working, a large rattlesnake bit John, one of the sons. The doctor was summoned and pronounced his condition grave. He observed that about the only thing left was prayer. Immediately the preacher and elders were called. The preacher was asked to pray for John's recovery. He did (sort of). This was his prayer:

"O wise and righteous Father, we thank thee that thy hast, in thy wisdom, sent this rattlesnake to bite John, in order to bring him to his senses. He has not been inside the church house for years, and it is very doubtful that he has in all this time, until now, felt any need for prayer. Now we trust that this will prove a valuable lesson to him, and that it may lead to genuine repentance. And now, O Father, wilt thou send another to bite Sam and another to bite Jim and another BIG ONE to bite the old man? We have been doing everything we know for years to restore them but to no avail. It seems, therefore, that what all our combined efforts could not do, this rattlesnake has done. We thus conclude that the only thing left that will do this family any good is rattlesnakes; so Lord, send us bigger and better rattlesnakes. In Jesus name. Amen"

Does the Lord need to send us some rattlers?!

DAN