

Thanks to all of you who came and helped deliver fruit baskets to the elderly. They were really grateful and glad that we stopped by to see them. We had a great time last Wednesday night at our youth Christmas party. Christmas is always special and each of you are special to me and Keri and all the church family. Just two weeks away from Christmas. I know that many of you will be out of town with you family and friends, but don't forget to worship God wherever you are. Continue to pray for Kendall Dean and others that might be sick in the congregation here. We hope to see you tonight and we will have fellowship following services. See you then.

BEN

Christ Goes Before Us

In one of his books, the late Kentucky writer, Jesse Stuart, tells about his first teaching job. The school apparently was not far from his home, but to get there he had to walk through a field of weeds. On the very first day he was to go to the school, he noticed that the high weeds were dripping with dew. To walk through the weeds would be to ruin his trousers. But his father, seeing the problem, and being so very proud of his son, decided to walk ahead of Jesse. The father trampled down the weeds ahead of his son, absorbing much of the water upon his own pants.



Christ, our elder brother, leads the way into the future for us. He is proud of us. Therefore he goes before us into the difficult places, into the fearful places, to prepare the way for us to follow. ADAPTED

A Doctor Explains Death

A sick man turned to his doctor, as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side."

Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know."

"You don't know? You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?"

The doctor was holding the handle of the door. On the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door a dog sprang into the room and leapt on him with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing... I know my Master is there and that is enough "

SELECTED

DOOR GREETERS

Dec 20, 2015

Adam and Diane Harding

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Dec. 20, 2015

Jimmy Alford

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

Brown Trail School of Preaching, Bedford, TX
Jose Cuadras- Mexico
School of Preaching
Hershel Bearden
India Mission
Ron Brown
China 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 33 Shreveport, La.
FOX 29, Bryan-TX.
NBC 53- Lufkin, TX.
FOX 29 Lake Charles, La
ASSEMBLY TIMES
Sun: 9:30 AM Class
10:30 AM Worship
6:00 PM Evening
Wed: 7:00 PM

The Importance Of Love

In John 14:34 & 35, we read the words of Jesus: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

In view of the words Jesus spoke, we must be sure that we emphasize both the necessity of love and the meaning of love as taught in the Bible. Because of the many ways we use the English word "love," its Bible meaning is often lost. It's meaning in the passage above is associated not so much with feelings and emotions as it is attitude. Love means good will and the demonstration of it in unselfish desire to seek the best interests of others.

The Bible kind of love is essential for two reasons. First, God commanded it. To love all people, even our enemies, is not a choice we have, but a command of God. Remember, God has not commanded that we feel a certain way, but that we have a certain attitude (one of good will) and act accordingly.

The second reason love is essential is because it is part of the divine nature. 1 John 4:8 teaches that love is part of the essence of God. It says, "He who does not love does not know God, for God is love." Therefore, if we are of God, we must be characterized by the same kind of love He has shown toward us. 1 John 4:10-11 says, "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

**Let us love
one another
because love
is of God**

SELECTED

**Christmas time is rapidly approaching.
Numerous activities taking place**



From Dan's desk:

It is hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner. This always is a wonderful and special time of year. Friends and family get together to enjoy the season. To often Christmas is only a season. We should all experience the spirit of Christmas all year long. Thanks to all of you who have been participating in the activities planned for the church family thus far. A week from today we are invited to go the home of David and Jennifer Sparks for a period of fellowship. We always enjoy this event each year. It is especially nice for them to open their home this year with all that has gone on in their lives with the accident and all. Thanks to each of you who have already, and those who are helping purchase items for the needy families we are providing for this holiday. These families are people that are legitimate and their needs are real. This is a good way for us to demonstrate the spirit of Christ. Thanks again for your help. A list of items needed are placed on the bulletin board in the hallway. Thanks to the young people who went on the bus last weekend to distribute fruit baskets to the elderly. Also thanks to those who went to the home of Pam Gallaway last Monday night. We all had a great time and Pam and Sue are always gracious hostesses. Thanks for your attendance this morning. We hope you will be here tonight at 6 P.M. We will again come together to worship our Father. Remember to pray for those that are ill in the church here and in our community.

DAN

PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES



**TO KEEP
IN OUR PRAYERS**

KENDALL DEAN had surgery on Wednesday in Houston.
PATSY PETTIETTE is at home with the flu.
GARY COATES, step father of **Wendi Barnes & Kim Gibson** had a stroke & heart attack last week. He is in ICU at East Texas Medical in Tyler.
NETTA PRINCE daughter- in- law of **R.D & Daphne Prince**, remains in the hospital in Tulsa, OK.

Pick up a prayer list from podium, for others who are ill.

CHRISTMAS AT THE SPARKS
 Next Sunday evening, we have all been invited to the home of David and Jennifer Sparks for a Holiday get together. Bring your favorite finger food and join us for the wonderful holiday fellowship. This will take place after worship.

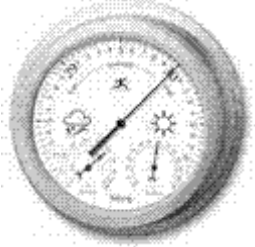
WELCOME VISITORS
A big hearty welcome to those visiting today. Allow us to meet and greet you following the worship service this morning. At the end of the service today you will be given a gift bag from our congregation. "It is a small gift, but it comes from big hearts." Thanks again for coming.

Forcing An Opinion

The late Dorothy Canfield Fisher once said, "To force an opinion is like pushing the magnetized needle of a compass around to where we wish the North Star stood." How abundantly this is demonstrated in religious matters.

Webster defines an opinion as: "A belief not based on absolute certainty or positive knowledge, but on what seems true, valid, or probable to one's own mind." An opinion in religion is a belief people hold that is not sustained by a book, chapter and verse.

There are many in religious matters that force opinions because of an improper attitude toward the scriptures. They have formed opinions such as "one church is as good as another", anything is acceptable in worship" "it doesn't make any difference what you believe as long as you are sincere." These people do not misinterpret the scriptures – they admit what the Bible teaches, they simply do not feel that they are limited by the scriptures – hence, form an opinion which creates a factious body of people.



Opinions are the largest barrier to unity in the Lord's church. May it ever be that we as a local church continue to teach and practice that which can be believed with absolute certainty and positive knowledge because it can be found in the *book, chapter and verse*. We do not force opinions – we stand for "what is written." Shouldn't that be case with all who call themselves Christians? ADAPTED