

PRAYERS & ENCOURAGEMENT

Those who are sick or need our prayers — Kaylee Dolan, J Hughes, Linda Reagan, Kay Woodruff

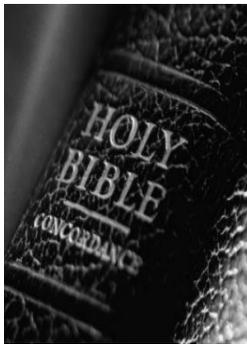
Continue to remember in your prayers those who are unable to attend worship services regularly: *Billie Sue Atkins, Freda Dunn, Romona Stokes ,and Marjorie Barringer.*

Please pray for those who have forsaken the Lord that they may be reconciled to God.

READING THE OLD & NEW TESTAMENTS IN ONE YEAR

Monday - Leviticus 24-25; Psalm 81; Hebrews 9
Tuesday - Lev 26-27; Psalm 112; Heb 10
Wednesday - Numbers 1-2; Psalm 64; Heb 11
Thursday - Num 3-5; Heb 12
Friday - Num 6-7; Heb 13

Week #9
Feb. 26 – Mar. 2



VISITORS - We would like to get to know you better, and ask that you stay a while after services. We encourage you to visit our website at <http://www.parkhillchurchofchrist.com> where you will find sermons, articles, and daily bible studies to encourage you in your daily walk with God.

QUESTIONS? *We Welcome the opportunity to study God’s word with you any time.*

*All sermons are recorded on CD & DVD -
If you would like a copy, please ask one of the men.*

ELDERS

Carl Dolan.....479.414.1972 ~ Ron Roberts479.452.0347 ~ Randy Sexton.....479.763.4524
Joe Turner....479.459.6023.

DEACONS

Wayne Carson...479.648.1087 ~ Luke Dolan.....479.357.9547 ~ Joe Dugas479.629.4046 ~
David Meek.....479.459.0820

PREACHER

Bryan Loughmiller.....479.434.3939

February 25, 2018

THINK ON THESE THINGS

Welcome to the Park Hill Church of Christ

3536 GRINNELL AVENUE FORT SMITH, AR 72908 479.782.2415

It is our desire to worship God in spirit and in truth, and to glorify Him in all we do.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY MORNING	SUNDAY EVENING	WEDNESDAY EVENING
Bible Study.....9:30 am	Worship..... 5:00pm	Bible Study.....7:00pm
Worship.....10:15 am		

The Victories of Conversion - No. 2



In the last issue, in writing about the battles that one must fight and win in order to be truly converted to Christ, the first battle is with indifference. One wins this battle when one opens his mind, showing a willingness to hear the gospel (the good news about Jesus Christ). This willingness to hear leads to a second battle, a battle with unbelief and doubt. But, by examining the evidence presenting in hearing, one ac-

cepts the evidence as credible, so unbelief and doubt is defeated. The second victory is won. Belief is victorious.

But, another battle must now be fought and won, **THE VICTORY OVER INDECISION BY REPENTANCE.** After having heard the message of the gospel, and truly believing that Jesus Christ died to save people from their sins. one realizes that he is one of those sinners and Jesus is the only one who can save him. But, he will never be forgiven if he does not repent of his sins and resolve to change his life. In the course of hearing the gospel he has learned that *“God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”* These words had cut the hearts (convicted them of their sins) of those who heard, and they cried out. *“men and brethren what shall we do?”* They were told, *“repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the*

remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” **Acts 2:36-38**. In similar word, Peter told another audience, “repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord” **Acts 3:19**. If one is going to be converted, a change in one’s lifestyle must take place. So, a battle ensues. A decision has to be made. Is one willing to turn from a life of sin to a life of righteousness? An incentive to help make the decision to repent and be converted is the warning of the judgment that awaits those who fail to repent as Paul told the Athenians, God “now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained” (Jesus Christ), **Acts 17:30-31**. When one decides to repent, another victory through Christ is secured. There will be no more delay, no more hesitation.

So far, three victories have been accomplished, but one has not yet been fully converted. There must be **THE VICTORY OVER COWARDICE IN CONFESSION**. A person may be willing to change his life, but is afraid of what his friends might think, so he wants to remain a secret disciple. There were some in Jesus’ day who did this. They believed in Him, but were unwilling to confess Him publicly. “Nevertheless, even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God” **Jn.12:42-43**. This was unacceptable to Jesus or God. One must be willing to let it be known publicly to whom he is giving his allegiance. Jesus said, “Therefore, whoever confesses me before men, him will I confess before My Father who is in heaven” **Matt.10:32**. True conversion requires a public acknowledgment of Christ. “For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father’s, and of the holy angels” **Lk.9:26**. When one is willing to publicly declare his belief that Jesus Christ is the Son of God as did the Eunuch **Acts 8:37**, another victory takes place **Rom.10:10**. He is no longer a coward about Christ.

Having fought and won the battles over indifference, unbelief and doubt, indecision and cowardice there is still one more battle that must to be fought and won before conversion is complete. This is **THE VICTORY OVER REBELLION IN BAPTISM**. It has been my experience through my years of preaching that when people are told that baptism is necessary before one is fully converted many rebel at the thought. They see no sense in baptism to save for they have been told by many sincere Bible believers that just believing in Christ will save them without baptism. They are willing to fight the first four battles in the conversion process, but balk at the thought of being baptized to be saved. This flies in the face of Jesus’ words when He told His disciples. “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” **Mk.16:15-16**.

People who rebel against baptism do not seem to realize they are arguing with the very One who died to save them. All need to remember that when He became the Savior of men He was also their Lord, with the right to order/command those under Him what they must do to please Him. I have taught the truth though the years that Jesus will never be the Savior of anyone who does not first make Him Lord of their lives, accepting the fact that He has the right to tell them what to do. He is the one who commands people who believe in Him to be baptized in order to be saved. On one occasion He asks people, “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do the things which I say?” **Lk.6:46**. (I plan to finish this article in the next issue next week).

Tommy Thornhill, The Etna Enlightener Feb. 4, 2018



Brief Thoughts

When you worship Sunday, remember:

1. you are surrounded by some of the greatest people on the planet.
2. you are surrounded by people who have been impacted by God.
3. you are surrounded by people who have become “imitators of God” and are trying to “walk in love,” just like Jesus did, Ephesians 5.1-2.

Look around. See the good things going on in your local congregation. And, see the good things happening every day in the church across this nation. O that we may come to see the church in a positive light .. because it is busy reflecting the light of Jesus in an increasingly dark world.

Matthew Allen

Jn 4:24 "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

The goal of every assembly of the saints is to worship God the way He desires to be worshiped. So on this Lord's Day, as every other Lord's Day we will assemble together to honor our Creator, to revere His name above all names, to be thankful for the grace that He sent into this world and do it in "spirit and truth." BL

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning at
Park Hill Church of Christ
