

TODAY’S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Daniel Balch /Opening Prayer by: Robert Ward
Morning Assembly Song Leader: Danny Balch

I Want to be a Worker
To the Work!

Scripture Reading by: Parker Balch
#354 I Gave My Life for Thee
Lord’s Supper and Contribution

#643 Sowing the Seed
Sermon: “The Laying on of Hands ”
Acts 6:5-6

#948 I Am Resolved
Installation of Deacons
#634 We’ll Work Till Jesus Comes

Closing Prayer by: David Warren

*We will be viewing the series
The Chosen at 5:00 p.m. in the
fellowship room*

Other Opportunities For Spiritual Growth

Sunday: 9:00am — Bible Study Classes, 10:00am — Worship, 5:00pm — Worship
Wednesday: 6:30pm — Bible Study Classes

June 5, 2022

“Stand Firm in...Liberty”

Galatians 5:1

Never Avenge Yourself

We were all deeply shocked and saddened by the massacre that occurred in Uvalde just over a week ago. That occurred only 10 days after a mass shooting at a grocery store in Buffalo, New York. And since Uvalde, just a few days ago, a gunman killed several people in a Tulsa hospital.

These events seem to follow one after another in such quick succession that we become desensitized to them. I do not pretend to have a comprehensive solution to this problem; there are a number of complex factors in play, and crafting public policy is outside my area of expertise. But speaking to the church is not—that is what I am called to do. And I am increasingly disturbed that the solution vocally proposed by many Christians is to meet such violence with more violence in return. That may well be necessary in some cases, and we might even be able to argue for that from Scripture; but should that be something that we proudly embrace proactively, or only turn to sorrowfully as a last resort?

I intended to address that more fully in this article, and I will have more to write about it next week. But sometimes the most meaningful thing we can do is to simply see what the Bible has to say on a subject, especially when it is one addressed as comprehensively as using violence against enemies. I encourage you to read and meditate on this sampling of passages.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (Matthew 5:38-48)

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you live peaceably with all. Beloved, never

Family News & Notes

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our Sick

Joe Edd Stifflemire has a blood clot in the apex of his heart.

Susan McCain is at home and recovering from an infection.

James Scott is recovering from pneumonia.

Continued Prayers

(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Harold & Geri Cryer, Steve Ward, Frank & Tina Garcia, Oscar Cantu, Caitlin Smith, Gary Nielsen, Virginia Cole, Ka'Leisha Jones, Linda Frank

Shut Ins

(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Jim Smith, Winona Angelle, Myrtle Sheffield, Catherine Parker, Peggy McIntosh

Our Missionaries

Aaron & Marisa Bailey in Montepuez, Mozambique, Rod Kyle in the South Pacific

The corrected directory has been placed on the bulletin board. Please double check it to make sure your information is correct.

Upcoming Activities

Elders, Deacons, Minister meeting Monday, June 6th at 6:30 p.m..

We will have a Houston Food Bank truck on Tuesday, June 7th at 8:00 a.m.

We will have a meal on Wednesday, June 15th at 5:30 p.m. in the family life center.

Starting tonight at 5:00 p.m. we will be viewing "The Chosen" and will have a discussion after.

VBS

VBS is July 18-21st from 6-8 p.m. We will have classes for all ages (including adults). For more information see Abbey Perkins.

<u>Elders</u>	<u>Deacons</u>	<u>Minister</u>
Ken Coleman	Daniel Balch	Bryant Perkins
Bobby Rader	Danny Balch	
Don Taylor		
Robert Ward		

avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, I will repay, says the Lord." To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. **(Romans 12:17-21)**

But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. **(Hebrews 10:32-34)**

But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. **(1 Peter 2:20-23)**

Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. For

"Whoever desires to love life
and see good days,
let him keep his tongue from evil
and his lips from speaking deceit;
let him turn away from evil and do good;
let him seek peace and pursue it.
For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and his ears are open to their prayer.
But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. **(1 Peter 3:9-17)**

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. **(Ephesians 5:1-2)**

Bryant Perkins

"Stand Firm in...Liberty"

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