

TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Don Taylor /Opening Prayer by: Robert Ward

Morning Assembly Song Leader: Danny Balch

#869 We're Marching to Zion

#509 I Will Sing the Wondrous Story

Scripture Reading by: Jackson Burgess

#701 My Jesus, I Love Thee

Lord's Supper and Contribution

#716 Sing to Me of Heaven

Sermon: "The Ascension"

Acts 1:9-11

#904 Have You Been to Jesus

#867 To Canaan's Land

Closing Prayer by: David Smith

Welcome by: Don Taylor

Evening Assembly Song Leader: Danny Balch

#469 Faith Is the Victory

#837 I Need Thee Every Hour

Scripture Reading: Rock Cary

Prayer by: Bob Parker

#615 He Keeps Me Singing

#539 Higher Ground

Sermon: "Worship in Song: Take Courage"

Deuteronomy 31:6

#470 Victory in Jesus

#957 This World Is Not My Home

Closing Prayer by: Kelly McCain

Other Opportunities For Spiritual Growth

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

Wednesday: 10:00am — Ladies Bible Class, 7:00pm — Bible Study Classes

April 29, 2018

"Stand Firm in...Liberty"

Galatians 5:1

An Encouraging Word

Two cowboys were riding across the open plains at some point during the late 1800s. They crested a hill and, down in the valley below, they saw a herd of buffalo, a rare sight by then. One of the cowboys turned to the other and said, "You know, those are about the mangiest, ugliest looking critters I have ever seen". His companion agreed, and they turned and rode away. As they left, one of the buffalo remarked to another, "I think I just heard a discouraging word."

Some of you will get that reference.

The point is that encouragement is something all of us need from time to time. Encouragement is something we as Christians are to give to one another. We are not to be in the business of tearing one another down or complaining. We are to be people who strengthen and build each other up.

Have you ever felt like giving up? Have you ever felt like it was useless to keep on going? I think all of us have felt that way from time to time. We all need someone to believe in us and to support us. We all need some refreshment from time to time.

Scripture tells us that, when David was on the run from Saul, fearing for his life, *Jonathan, Saul's son, rose and went to David at Horesh, and strengthened his hand in God. (1 Samuel 23:16)*. While Paul was languishing in a Roman prison, he wrote that a brother named Onesiphorous *often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains (2 Timothy 1:16)*. On another occasion, Paul express his joy that the church in Corinth had received his young coworker Titus, *because his spirit has been refreshed by you all. (2 Corinthians 7:13)*

You see, the ministry of encouragement is indispensable. But we are often not very good at giving encouragement. We find it much easier to criticize, to put down, to find fault. We hurt each other at times by angry and caustic comments. Probably more often than that, we hurt others simply by ignoring them and taking them for granted. The result of all of this is that many Christians are discouraged. That is not the way God intends for his people to live.

Family News & Notes

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Privilege to Serve
Sunday, Apr. 29th

Our Sick

Dana Wiggins is taking chemo treatments.

Phillip Cottle has been moved to TIRR room 504.

Caroyl Morris, Mishelle White's mother had open heart surgery last week and is in ICU.

Continued Prayers

(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Gwen Pettit, James Scott, Gary Nielsen, Harold Cryer, Gerald Lucy, Steve Ward, Teresa McKewen, Jackie David, Patricia Padon, Frank & Tina Garcia, Ronnie Davis, Bill Lunceford, Eric Davis, J. P. Williams, Stacie Copeland, Jo Ella McKewen, Leah Smith, Mark Wilcox

Shut Ins

(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Jim Smith, Pauline Taylor, Winona Angelle, Pat Henley, Myrtle Sheffield, Ronnie Rubit, Joe Leonard

Our Missionaries

Aaron & Marisa Bailey in Mwanza, Africa, Rod Kyle in the South Pacific

Plastic Bags

The Food Bank is in need of plastic grocery bags. A barrel is in the foyer.

Upcoming Activities

Elders, Minister meet Monday, April 30th at 7:00 pm.

We are having a Houston Food Bank truck on Tuesday, May 1st at 9:00am.

Crawfish Boil, Saturday, May 5th at the building. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board. See Phillip or Nancy for more information.

Primetimers are going to El Tiempo on Tuesday, May 8th at 4:30 pm. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Louise Cottle and her family on the death of her mother. Funeral arrangements are pending.

Help Needed

We are in need of teacher and helpers for Children's Bible Hour and help in the nursery. If you are interested in helping with either of these, please let the office know and we will work you into the rotation.

<u>Elders</u>	<u>Deacons</u>	<u>Minister</u>
Ken Coleman	Daniel Balch	Bryant Perkins
Bob Parker	Danny Balch	
Bobby Rader	Shannon Smith	
Don Taylor	Phillip Strickhausen	
Robert Ward		

Communion Preparation: Jennifer McKelroy
 Nursery Attendants: Marsha Rader
 Children's Bible Hour: Daisy Cary
 Teen Helpers: Addie David

Communion Preparation for Sunday, May 6th: Jo Ella McKewen
 Nursery Attendants for Sunday, May 6th: Pat Hobbs
 Children's Bible Hour for Sunday, May 6th: Ashley Balch

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Encouragement is such an easy thing for us to give. It is free – we all like that. It doesn't have to be gift wrapped, it can be custom designed, no assembly required, batteries don't need to be included. And it will last a lifetime.

Think of all the times that God encouraged humanity. God encouraged Hagar when she and her son Ishmael had been cast out and were at the point of death (**Genesis 21:9-22**). He encouraged Jacob when he was on the run due to the anger of his brother Esau (**Genesis 28:10-17**). He encouraged those who were with Paul during a storm (**Acts 27**).

God is most fully revealed to us in Jesus, and we find him regularly encouraging people. He told a paralytic who was brought to him, "*Be of good cheer*" (**Matthew 9:2**). He gave that same word to the disciples in their boat on the stormy sea (**Matthew 14:27**). He told a woman caught in adultery that he did not condemn her, but to go and sin no more.

We are clearly taught that the strong are to encourage the weak, the weak are to encourage the strong, and the old are to encourage the young. That is, in fact, one of the primary reasons that we assemble together on the Lord's Day: to encourage each other and promote good works (**Hebrews 10:24-25**).

If we want to live as God's people – if we want to be shaped into the image of Christ – we should look not for opportunities to criticize and find fault, but for opportunities to compliment and encourage. As someone said, "There is so much good in the worst of us and so much bad in the best of us that it little behooves any of us to criticize the rest of us."

Bryant Perkins