

TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Bobby Rader /Opening Prayer by: Robert Ward

Morning Assembly Song Leader: Michael Simmons

#381 Years I Spent in Vanity

#180 Jesus Is Lord

Scripture Reading by: Brooks McKelroy

#313 The Old Rugged Cross

Lord's Supper and Contribution

#214 Have You Seen Jesus, My Lord?

Sermon: "A Time to Remember"

Joshua 4:6-7

#719 Love One Another

#966 Amen

Closing Prayer by: David Warren

Welcome by: Bobby Rader

Evening Assembly Song Leader: Michael Simmons

#453 Love Lifted me

#517 Heaven Came Down

Scripture Reading: Tristan Strickhausen

Prayer by: Don Taylor

#349 Ten Thousand Angels

Sermon: "Worship in Song: Confidence in Christ"

1 John 1:6-7

#121 Come Let Us All Unite Sing

#875 Home of the Soul

Closing Prayer by: Daniel Balch

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

May 27, 2018

"Stand Firm in...Liberty"

Galatians 5:1

Running the Race

Tomorrow is Memorial Day. All over the United States, people will gather to remember those who have come before us and made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of their country. That theme reminds us that we have predecessors in the faith too, many of whom made that ultimate sacrifice on behalf of an even nobler cause. The author of **Hebrews** calls us to remember this:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. (Hebrews 12:1-3)

Remembering those great heroes of the faith is meant to inspire us, to spur us on to emulate them in living God's kind of life. The Christian life is not always easy; thus, the writer compares it to a race. A distance race, in fact, not a sprint. Finishing that race is important for those of us who follow Jesus. Consider 3 pieces of advice in this passage to help us run faithfully.

1. Remember those who have gone before. This is that theme of memorial we have touched on already. We should be inspired by the faithful examples of others. Notice that the first word of the passage is *therefore*. That's an indication that it follows as a conclusion from the previous context. Indeed, in **Hebrews 11**, we find a long list of people who were faithful to God. There is Noah, who patiently trusted in God in the midst of a wicked generation; Abraham, who followed God into the unknown; Joseph, who remained true to God regardless of his circumstances. The chapter goes on and on with those witnesses who remind us not to lose heart. And we can and should think of those in our own experience who have encouraged us with their lives too.

2. Be prepared for the struggles that will come. *Let us lay aside every weight* – throw off anything that hinders us. Many things might fall into that category: relationships that drag us down; possessions that hinder our relationship with God; habits that are not necessarily sinful,

Our Sick

Dana Wiggins is taking chemo treatments.

Dylan Balch had knee surgery last week.

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, Mark Wilcox, Doris Trahan

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

Teacher Needed

We are in need of a teacher for the 4yr-K class. If you would be interested in teaching this class, please let the office know.

Website

Our website has been revamped and is up and running. It's libertycofc.org. Take a look and see what you think of it.

Upcoming Activities

No Elders meeting this week.

The office will be closed on Monday, May 28th for Memorial Day.

We will be having a Houston Food Bank truck on Tuesday, June 5th at 9:00 am.

Primetimers will be having a Hamburger Supper on Tuesday, June 12th at 6:30 pm in the fellowship room.

VBS is July 23-26th. Make your plans to attend.

It's almost time for those Happy Campers to head off to church camp....

The kiddos will be going to Camp Red Oak Springs and Camp Bandina this year. 2 sessions for CROS. Please register ASAP for spots are filling up fast.

Ages 10-18, Camp Red Oak Springs

Session 2 June 18-23, Session 5 July 2-7

Online registration and payment @ campredoakssprings.net

Ages 10-18, Camp Bandina-Elliot Session

July 15-21

Online registration and payment @ campbandina.org.

FYI-Don't forget to print the medical release form for they will need this when they get to camp.

See Phillip Strickhausen if you have any questions

Communion Preparation: Mickey Noonkester

Nursery Attendants: Tania Balch, Catherine Parker

Children's Bible Hour: Daisy Cary

Teen Helpers:

Communion Preparation for Sunday, June 3rd: Catherine Parker

Nursery Attendants for Sunday, June 3rd: Jane Tinkle, Rita Upton

Children's Bible Hour for Sunday, June 3rd: Ashley Balch

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but are so time consuming that they distract us from God. Then the writer adds we need to get rid of *sin which clings so closely*. Some translations use a word here like *ensnares* or *entanglements*. Those evoke powerful images of the power of sin, like the tentacles of some giant sea monster attempting to drag us into the deep. Just this once, we think. But then another tentacle comes out. Just a little lie – there is another tentacle. Soon we are completely entangled. Let's cast those things aside and instead *run with endurance*.

3. Focus your attention Jesus. Jesus was opposed, he was persecuted, he was mocked. Yet he stayed the course. He ran the race with endurance. So when we grow weary, we are to fix our eyes on him. His life is a permanent memorial for us.

Every individual Christian and every church needs to remember this message, because it is so easy for us to give up. It is tempting to say, "I don't want to do this anymore." But the author reminds us to focus on Jesus. He is *the founder and perfecter of our faith*.

And one day, we are going to stand before him as our judge. The evidence will be overwhelmingly against us. All of us will be as guilty as can be, deserving of death. The only hope we will have is by *looking to Jesus* and claiming the benefit of the cross.

May we all remember the examples of those who have gone before. May we look most of all to Jesus, who paid the ultimate price for us. May we all run our race with endurance. Don't lose heart. Don't quit.

Bryant Perkins