

TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Daniel Balch /Opening Prayer by: Bobby Rader

Morning Assembly Song Leader: Danny Balch

#2 We Praise Thee, O God

#3 Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah

Scripture Reading by: Rock Cary

#286 Wonderful Story of Love

#383 Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

Lord's Supper and Contribution

#470 Victory in Jesus

Sermon: 'Did Jesus Practice What He Preached'

Matthew 23:3

#904 Have You Been to Jesus?

#881 Mansion over the Hilltop

Closing Prayer by: Andre Jones

Welcome by: Daniel Balch

We will be having a Singing Service tonight.

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

June 17, 2018

“Stand Firm in...Liberty”

Galatians 5:1

A Family Resemblance

Today is Father's Day. I hope all of the fathers and grandfathers reading this have a happy day.

I remember the first time my parents came and visited when I was preaching in Spicewood. An older gentleman in the congregation asked my father, "Are you Bryant's daddy?" My dad responded, "Does he owe you money?"

That was good for a laugh, and the fellow in question never tired of retelling that story on me. But, you know, it is not always easy for children to hide their parentage. They reveal who their father is from their personality, from their characteristics, from their appearance.

Just as we all had earthly parents whose influence, for good or bad, we have felt in many ways, we are also all spiritual children of a Heavenly Father. Do we feel his influence in our family and on our lives in the same way? If there is one thing the world needs to know more about and to put into practice, it is the love manifested to us and modeled by our Father. It's so important that Jesus devoted a whole section of the Sermon on the Mount to it:

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 5:43-48)

We might think Jesus is being unrealistic here. But he never asks us to do anything we cannot do. Here, in essence, he says that, when people look at us, they should see the family resemblance with our Father. To *be perfect* in context is not moral perfection, but to perfect our love, just as God's love and care is perfect. That doesn't mean flawless. The Greek word means "mature, fully equipped, complete." In other words, our love, like God's, is to be ready to meet the task.

Family News & Notes

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our Sick

Doris Trahan will begin chemo treatments again in the near future.

John Sanchez, Claudia Girard's father is at home and in hospice care.

Brian Arnold, J. P. Williams' son in law is having health problems.

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, Phillip Cottle

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 will be making visits on Monday, June 18th at 7pm.

Baby Shower for Sara Smathers, Sunday, June 24th from 2-4 pm. She is registered at babylist.com.

VBS is July 23-26th. Make your plans to attend. Our theme this year is "Trailblazers of Faith". Invite your friends to come VBS.

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

The kiddos will be going to Camp Bandina this year. Please register ASAP for spots are filling up fast.

Ages 10-18, Camp Bandina-Elliot Session
July 15-21

Online registration and payment @ camp-bandina.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

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Glenda Wiggins and her family on the death of her daughter in law Dana Wiggins. Her funeral was Wednesday.

Privilege to Serve Sunday, June 17th

Communion Preparation: Patsy Pierce

Nursery Attendants: Pat Hobbs

Children's Bible Hour: Emily Nance

Teen Helpers: Jennifer McKelroy, Brooks McKelroy

Communion Preparation for Sunday, June 24th: Virginia Pickard

Nursery Attendants for Sunday, June 24th: Lynette Ward, Debra Faneros

Children's Bible Hour for Sunday, June 24th: Daisy Cary

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God's love is incomparable. He lets his sun shine and his rain fall on everyone. He doesn't shower us with blessings based on our goodness or withhold them due to our imperfection. He is completely without partiality.

That is precisely where our love is mediocre by comparison. If we ran the world, based on the way we treat people most of the time, we would give lots of sunshine to those we really like or can benefit us in some way. We would make it dependent on good behavior for those we are ambivalent about. And we would deprive some people of it altogether.

Jesus' words shock us with his expectations, so radically different from our normal behavior. When someone hits you on the right cheek, turn the other one as well. When someone forces you to go a mile with them, go two. You're not going to love just your friends, love your enemies.

Christian love is demanding. As Jesus told a young lawyer who questioned him as to the greatest commandment, we must love God with every bit of our being and we must love our neighbor just like we love ourselves (**Mark 12:28-31**). God demonstrates his love for us in countless ways, but preeminently in sending Jesus into the world on our behalf (**John 3:16**). If we want to be known as his children, we need to reflect that same love out into the world.

Do people see your Father when they look at you?

Bryant Perkins