

## TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Bobby Rader /Opening Prayer by: David Smith

Morning Assembly Song Leader: Shannon Smith

#878 Sweet By & By

#800 Heavenly Sunlight

Scripture Reading by: Cameron Cantu

#313 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

**Lord's Supper and Contribution**

#535 The Glory-Land Way

**Sermon: "Love is Not Irritable"**

**Ephesians 4:26-27**

#934 Softly & Tenderly

#412 Jesus Hold My Hand

Closing Prayer by: Jerry Mast

Welcome by: Bobby Rader

Evening Assembly Song Leader: Shannon Smith

#76 How Great Thou Art

#453 Love Lifted Me

Scripture Reading: Tristan Strickhausen

Prayer by: Wayne Noonkester

#480 Blessed Assurance

**Sermon: "Twelve Ordinary Men: Thomas"**

**John 20:24-25**

#924 Just As I Am

#881 Mansion Over the Hilltop

Closing Prayer by: Chris Young

### **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

August 19, 2018

## ***"Stand Firm in...Liberty"***

Galatians 5:1

### **The Church is on Fire!**

If you have listened to enough sermons over the years, you might have realized that you often hear different preachers using the same illustrations. My dad has always referred to those as "Preaching 101" stories. One of them concerns a church building in a certain community that was on fire. Naturally, that kind of news spreads fast, and the entire community rushed out to see the excitement and watch as the firemen fought the flames. Among those drawn to the spectacle was a non-believer. A church member looking on said to him, "This is the first time I ever saw you run to church." He replied, "Well, this is the first time the church has been on fire."

The truth in that statement is, unfortunately, too near the surface to need a lot of elaboration. The church that gets down to business and does the work it is supposed to do will attract people. At no subsequent point in its history has the church experienced growth and success on the scale of the first century. Those believers started from nothing and with nothing, as far as worldly goods were concerned. Yet, by the end of the century, hundreds of thousands of people had been added to the church; benevolence was carried on unlike that which any age since has produced.

How is it that they were able to do so much and accomplish such great things with so little? The answer is simple: they took the message of Jesus to heart. They sought the kingdom of God first. Everything else – their business, their homes, their families, even their own comfort – was secondary. Their real purpose in life was to serve the Lord, to be the body of Christ in continuing his ministry in the world. No sacrifice was too great. No work was too difficult. They were real believers. They were sold on their religion.

And the world saw that and was attracted to it. The early church had *favor with all the people (Acts 2:47)*. This good report did not come because of a weak and compromising attitude toward the ways of the world. It did not come because of outstanding facilities or groundbreaking programs. It came because *they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers...And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts. (Acts 2:42, 44-46)*. People saw the way that they lived and they saw Jesus living in them. They were the shining city on the hill. And as a result, *the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved (Acts 2:47)*.

## Our Sick

**Doris Trahan** began taking chemo treatments Monday.

**Frances Petree** is in Fall Creek Rehab in Humble.

**Phillip Cottle** is in Methodist Hospital. He had a liver and kidney transplant last week.

**Jarrell Morris**, Mishelle White's father is in St. Elizabeth Hospital in Beaumont. He is having heart problems and dialysis problems.

**Robert White**, Brent White's father, is in St. Luke's Hospital in Houston. He had heart surgery and has had several complications.

## Continued Prayers

### (Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Gwen Pettit, James Scott, Gary Nielsen, Harold Cryer, Gerald Lucy, Steve Ward, Jackie David, Patricia Padon, Frank & Tina Garcia, Ronnie Davis, Bill Lunceford, Eric Davis, J. P. Williams, Mark Wilcox, Cheryl Mast

## Shut Ins

### (Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Jim Smith, Pauline Taylor, Winona Angelle, Pat Henley, Myrtle Sheffield, Ronnie Rubit, Joe Leonard, Dr. Ronald Davis

## Our Missionaries

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

## Upcoming Activities

**Elders, Minister** meet Monday, Aug 20th at 7:00 pm.

We will be having a Houston Food Bank truck on Thursday, Aug. 16th at 8:30 am.

We are having a Fish Fry today after morning service in the family life center. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board for side dishes.

**Movie Night** on Saturday, Sept. 8th. The movie will be "I Can Only Imagine". We will have more information in the coming weeks.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to John & Sara Smathers on the birth of their son John Robert Smathers. He was born Thursday, Aug. 16th and weighed 8lbs and is 21 inches long. Proud grandparents are Bobby & Marsha Rader.

## Nursery Help Needed

Help is needed in the attended nursery. If you are interested in helping on Sunday's please let the office know and we will work you into the rotation schedule.

## Plastic Bags

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

Communion Preparation: Barbara Taylor  
Nursery Attendants: Tania Balch & Catherine Parker

Communion Preparation for Sunday, Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup>: Jane Tinkle  
Nursery Attendants for Sunday, Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup>: Jane Tinkle Rita Upton

## continued from front page

Their example confronts us with a challenge: are we doing everything possible to see that the Lord's church in Liberty, Texas accomplishes great things for God? Can people look at us and see God being glorified? Will our actions cause outsiders to *see our good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation?* **(1 Peter 2:12).**

If we are to do a great work for the Lord here, we must be on fire! We must be excited about the work of the church, about saving lost souls, about doing good. But getting on fire for God is an individual duty. It is a personal responsibility to be involved in the work and worship of the church. No one else can accomplish it for you; no one can "set you on fire" so to speak.

Often, when we speak of a church that is on fire for God, we get the idea of something that we are far removed from. We think of what others need to do – we sure wish they (whoever they are) would get on fire for God. But let's make this personal. Are you on fire for God? Is your zeal such as would attract others to Christ? Our community is filled with unchurched people. How many have you simply invited to come and visit with us? And that's only one, easy example.

Will you take the challenge personally to get on fire for the Lord? When the church catches fire, people will come running.

*Bryant Perkins*

## ***"Stand Firm in...Liberty"***

is the weekly bulletin of the Liberty Church of Christ 3201 North Main, Liberty Texas 77575  
Office Phone Number (936) 336-2213; Fax (936) 334-8280;  
Minister's (Bryant Perkins) Cell Phone Number (903)407-5737