

## TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Daniel Balch /Opening Prayer by: Bob Parker

Morning Assembly Song Leader: Michael Simmons

#112 Wonderful Grace of Jesus

#47 Holy, Holy, Holy

Scripture Reading by: Parker Balch

#387 Tell Me the Story of Jesus

**Lord's Supper and Contribution**

#121 Come Let Us All Unite to Sing

**Sermon: "The Time is Now"**

**Ephesians 5:15-17**

#738 Take the Name of Jesus with You

#875 Home of the Soul

Closing Prayer by: Phillip Strickhausen

Welcome by: Daniel Balch

Evening Assembly Song Leader: Michael Simmons

#841 Hide Me, O My Savior

#214 Have You Seen Jesus My Lord?

Scripture Reading: Brooks McKelroy

Prayer by: Ken Coleman

#610 I Love my Savior, Too

**Sermon: "The Parables of Jesus: Time's Up"**

**Luke 16:19-25**

#719 Love One Another

#406 Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Closing Prayer by: David Warren

### **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

December 30, 2018

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

Galatians 5:1

### **Valuing Small Things**

As difficult to believe as it is, this is the final Sunday of 2018. Tomorrow, we will close the book on this year and then embark on 2019. We are probably all focused on the challenges of the coming year, the changes we would like to make, the improvement we would like to see.

As we think about that as it relates to the church here in Liberty, our desire for growth and development both numerical and spiritual, I am reminded of the old Chinese Proverb attributed to Laozi: "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." Every man and woman was once a baby. Rivers and oceans are made up of drops of water. The beach is made up of grains of sand. What would the world be without little things?

Many people have failed in life because of an inability to value small things. A penny does not seem like much – we see trays to take or leave one beside the cash register in convenience stores. But a single cent lost in a sale makes one dollar when there are one hundred sales; one cent gained in one sale is a gain of a dollar in one hundred sales. It is looking after such seemingly small matters that assures success for many people in business.

The same is true in whatever we do. A person may be very talented, but one fault, though it may be small, may result in their failure. Did you ever hear someone say, "You know, I really like that person, but it seems like they are always talking about themselves." We call that "tooting your own horn." One little fault marred the beauty of an entire life. Or you hear another say, "He is a very good man, except for the fact that he is lazy. He just will not work." This one fault casts a shadow on everything else. You could fill in whatever example you like here. The point is, we can see the harm that one small fault can do.

If we turn this thought over, we find a valuable lesson on the other side. As sure as success is lost because of small things, it is also gained by small things. Looking after details is a profitable habit. Let's consider the work of the church and see how much it depends on little things. It is impossible to know how many small matters are looked after by those who are never really recognized as workers in the church. But recognition from others is not what genuine Christians are interested in. What would the church be without someone to "look after the details"? How much "decency and order" could be had without these people? There is a great host of people who are constantly looking after what we call small matters who are actually contributing the difference between success and failure.

**Our Sick**

**Tim Watts**, Lois Watts' grandson, has been diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

**Phillip Cottle** is in Methodist Hospital.

**Continued Prayers**

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

Gwen Pettit, Gary Nielsen, Harold Cryer, Steve Ward, Jackie David, Frank & Tina Garcia, Bill Lunceford, Eric Davis, J. P. Williams, Mark Wilcox, Dayla Hale

**Shut Ins**

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

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

**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**

**No Elders, Minister** meeting this week.

The office will be closed Jan. 1st.

We will have a Houston Food Bank truck on Tuesday, Jan. 8th at 8:00 am.

In 2019, we will be working through the book "One Word" together. This is a daily devotional book, and our Sunday evening lessons will relate to it. If you are interested in participating in this program, please pick up a book from the office. One free book per household; additional books may be purchased for \$5/each.

Several pair of eye glasses have been found in the auditorium. If you have misplaced yours, check in the office.

<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: Nancy Hempel  
 Nursery Attendants: Jane Tinkle, Rita Upton

Communion Preparation for Sunday, Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>: Pat Hobbs  
 Nursery Attendants for Sunday, Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>: Debra Faneros

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Someone is ill and needs care. So some member of the church silently fits into the picture and does a bit of modest service. A person is helped; the church is glorified.

Someone has grown weak and ceased to worship and assemble with the saints on a regular basis. A devout Christian does a little exhorting. No announcement was made. In fact, no one knew of it but these two, but soon the fault is removed and a soul is restored. New strength is added to the church. Where did this new strength originate? Who knows? Perhaps just two people and God.

A neighbor needs to hear the gospel. One who loves people's souls invites them to attend services with them. They attend and they come back. They attend again and again. Soon they obey the gospel. A new child is born into the kingdom of God. Someone gives the preacher credit for converting another soul, but God knows what actually took place. God saw the humble child as they approached the stranger with the invitation. God will not forget. Their reward is sure. A small service was performed and a soul was born.

*A little leaven leavens the whole lump*, and the work of the Lord's church goes on. We depend so much on small things. Remember their importance. Don't be afraid of doing the small things you can do in the work of the church. I encourage you to make that your priority in this new year.

***Bryant Perkins***

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

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