

## TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Daniel Balch /Opening Prayer by: Don Taylor

Morning Assembly Song Leader: Shannon Smith

#589 Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

#611 Heavenly Sunlight

Scripture Reading by: Rock Cary

#382 Why Did My Savior Come to Earth?

**Lord's Supper and Contribution**

#412 Jesus Hold My Hand

**Sermon: "Burdened by Grief"**

**Romans 8:35, 37-39**

#915 Trust and Obey

#453 Love Lifted Me

Closing Prayer by: Chris Young

Welcome by: Daniel Balch

Evening Assembly Song Leader: Shannon Smith

#881 Mansion Over the Hilltop

#452 Standing on the Promises

Scripture Reading: Tristan Strickhausen

Prayer by: Wayne Noonkester

#904 Have You Been to Jesus?

**Sermon: "One Word: Self-Control"**

**2 Corinthians 9:24-27**

#912 Burdens Are Lifted at Calvary

#548 The Lily of the Valley

Closing Prayer by: Ken Coleman

### 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

March 10, 2019

## *“Stand Firm in...Liberty”*

Galatians 5:1

### The Tragedy of Racism

*This article, by Wayne Jackson, was shared with me this week. I thank God that this congregation has members from diverse ethnic backgrounds. But this continues to be a pervasive problem in society, and I found his direct confrontation of it timely and touching, so I wanted to share it with you. It originally appeared in Christian Courier. <https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/146-tragedy-of-racism-the-BP>*

No one with a modicum of awareness will deny that racism—the inclination to judge a person solely on the basis of his skin pigmentation or ethnic background—has been a human problem for centuries.

Paul addressed this problem before the haughty Greeks in Athens; there he affirmed that: *God made of [out of] one [masculine – one man, an allusion to Adam] all men to dwell on all the face of the earth (Acts 17:26)*. This concept ran counter to the ancient Greek notion that they were superior to others.

Many have been racist out of ignorance or weakness. Others, with a more ingrained disposition, have sought to defend it.

Many past advocates of evolution were racist to the core. Charles Darwin's, *The Origin of Species* (1859) was even subtitled “The Preservation of Favored Races in the Struggle for Life.” The notion of a “superior race” that later was argued by German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900) and so brutally implemented by Adolf Hitler clearly had Darwinian roots.

But many religionists — of all ethnic backgrounds — have been racist as well.

An old rhyme that lacked as much in style as in ethics hatefully blurted: “Ham [the son of Noah], he was ‘cussed,’ and so ‘they’ [the dark-skinned] ain’t as good as us.” This poetic (?) white-racist “theology” has been all too prominent in American history — though it has no sanction at all in the Bible. The fact is, it was Canaan, the son of Ham, who was destined to be a “servant of servants” to his brothers (Genesis 9:25). This involved the Canaanites, but certainly not all of the offspring of Ham. It bears no relation to racial problems today.

There are, of course, black militant groups that are intensely racist also, as indeed there are racists in all ethnic segments of humanity.

### Our Sick

**Joe Edd Stiffemire** is at home and cannot have visitors.

**Gloria McKelroy** had knee replacement surgery last week.

**Ken Coleman** was in the hospital last week.

**Tem Meigs** is having health problems.

**Sammie Minchew** had some test done last week.

### Continued Prayers

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

Gwen Pettit, Gary Nielsen, Harold Cryer, Steve Ward, Jackie David, Frank & Tina Garcia, Eric Davis, Mark Wilcox, Dayla Hale, Phillip Cottle, Tim Watts, Minny Owen, J. P. Williams, Doris Trahan, Willo Dean Ellis

### Shut Ins

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

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

### Our Missionaries

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

### Upcoming Activities

**Elders, Minister** meeting Monday at 7:00pm.

Singing at Magnolia Place Health Care today at 4:00 pm.

We are having a Blood Drive on Monday, Mar. 11th from 4-8 pm in the fellowship room.

**Primetimers** will be having a Hamburger Dinner on Tuesday, Mar. 12th at 6:30 pm in the fellowship room. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.

**Men's Prayer Breakfast** is Saturday, Mar. 16th at 8:00 am in the family life center.

### Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Kelly McCain and his family on the death of his mother Mary Jo McCain. She passed away Tuesday.

### Plastic Bags

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

Communion Preparation: Jackie Meigs  
Nursery Attendants: Marsha Rader, Lynette Ward

Communion Preparation for Sunday, Mar. 17<sup>th</sup>: Sammie Minchew  
Nursery Attendants for Sunday, Mar. 17<sup>th</sup>: Tania Balch, Pat Hobbs

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Jesus, in his parable of the Good Samaritan (**Luke 10**), renders a death-blow to racist ideas.

Back in November 1999, Royce Money, president of Abilene Christian University, stood before a black audience and confessed the university's past sins of practicing discrimination. He apologized and asked for forgiveness. We applaud Money for this acknowledgment. When I read of this event I was reminded of a letter I wrote and which was published in The Christian Chronicle more than a third of a century ago (October 25, 1963). In part, I said:

I sincerely hope that your [recent] editorial on the "White-Negro Issue" will stimulate many to get off the "fence" and stand steadfastly for love among brethren [and] against ignorance and bias...Some of our...colleges refuse enrollment to Negros, fearing either social pressures or the withdrawal of funds, or perhaps both.

I vividly recall, when I was a student at David Lipscomb College in the mid-1950s, that Marshall Keeble would be invited to speak on occasion; yet all the black brethren would be required to sit in the balcony. We've made a lot of progress since then. There is still prejudice, however, among all groups of the human family. But as the spirit of Jesus progressively invades our souls, racist attitudes must evaporate.

### Racism is morally wrong for the following reasons:

1. It denies the basic unity of the human family as the offspring of God. Adam and Eve are the grandparents of us all (**Genesis 3:20**).
2. The denigration of any human being, made in the image of God, is an assault upon the Creator himself (**cf. Genesis 9:6**).
3. Since Christ died for all people (**1 Timothy 2:5-6**), any attempt to castigate a segment of humanity, suggesting its unworthiness, reflects upon the Savior's sacrifice.
4. Racism militates against one intended design of Jesus' mission — to eradicate all ethnic barriers (**Galatians 3:28**).

May God help us be more like the little boy who, returning from his first day at school, joyfully told his mother, "Mamma, I've found a new friend." "What color was he?" she inquired. His pure response was, "I forgot to ask."

### ***"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  
Website: libertycofc.org Facebook page: Liberty Church of Christ