

## Words and Hearts of Faith

by Dan Jenkins

The story Jesus told about the man who had two sons is well understood by most parents. The father in this story wanted both of his sons to go work in the vineyard, so he told both of them to immediately go to work. The first son said, "I will not," and the second son said, "I will" (Matt. 21:28-29). The rebellious son later changed his mind and went to work in the vineyard. The second son, while saying he would obey, did not do it.

When Jesus asked the Jews which son did the will of his father, the answer was obvious. He wanted the Jews to see the difference in simply saying the right word and doing the right thing.

Words of obedience from the lips must become actions of obedience in life. There is a vast difference in saying, "Thy will be done on earth as it is heaven," and then manifesting these words in one's life. Many can so beautifully sing in the assembly, "Have Thine own way, Lord, have Thine own way," yet once they leave the assembly, there is little evidence of submission. God help us to use words of obedience and help us to live lives of obedience.

Words about providence from the lips must be manifested in daily lives. Ezra had gone before King Artaxerxes and been given permission to lead a second group of Jews from Babylonian captivity.

When those Jews assembled, it became obvious how dangerous it would be for them because of the vast amount of gold and silver they were taking to the holy city. Should Ezra make an additional request for the king's help in providing protection? Ezra said, "I was ashamed to request of the king an escort of soldier and horsemen to help us against the enemy on the road, because we had spoken to the king saying, 'The hand of our God is upon all those for good who seek Him, but His power and His wrath are against all those who forsaken Him'" (Ezra 8:22).

It is not enough to sing *It is Well With My Soul*, nor simply to quote Psalm 23, the Shepherd Psalm, and then for our outlook for the future to be as filled with anxiety as the ungodly. God help us to talk openly about His providence, but even more importantly, God help us to show it in our lives!

There are the words of faith about obedience and the words of faith about providence. Yet, words of faith must become actions of faith. Obviously, while there are times when faith is weak and our lives may not always openly manifest the depths of our devotion, His mercy is so abundant. May we always have hearts of devotion and not lives of rebellion toward Him. Perhaps the words of John sum it up perfectly. "My little children, let us love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth" (1 John 3:18).

## An Athenian Attitude

by Kevin Cauley

One of the characteristics of the people at Athens was that they were always interested in hearing about something new. Luke records this attitude for us in Acts 17:31 where he writes, “For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.”

The nation in which we live today is not unlike those Athenians in that we delight to hear of “new” things. We glue our ears to the radio to listen to the next blurb spoken by the next popular commentator. We sit transfixed in front of the television set each evening at 5:30 to find out what is going on in the world. We can even surf the internet to get our news sooner than 5:30. We desire fresh information – things which we have not heard. The latest football, basketball, baseball or hockey score must be ours. The latest political quip must be on our lips. The latest election results must be broadcast even before all of the polls close. We just can’t wait for the next update, sound bite, news worthy item! And when someone comes to us with a piece of information that is not up to date we say rather oxymoronicly, “That’s old news.”

Then, Sunday morning rolls around. “It’s time to go to worship, to do the same old things every week. To listen to the same old message that we have heard time and time again. Everyone’s heard it all of their life. Why should we go and listen once more?” Let’s note a few good reasons why.

First, while the gospel message may be old news, it is still good news! That is sure to be something that you don’t find in the dominant media today, good news. Oh there may be a story or two that is more or less positive in application, but the majority of the news today is going to be centered around death, war, fighting, tumults, disagreements, and political wrangling. While such news may be “fresh” it is certainly not good. The gospel contains THE GOOD NEWS! That’s basically what the word gospel means. It is the basic message that God sent His Son Jesus to this world to die on the cross so that man could have hope to live with God in heaven. That may be old news, but that is always good news! Paul wrote in Romans 10:15b, “How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!” Yes, we, along with Paul should rejoice in the good news of the gospel!

Second, while we may have heard the message before, we need to hear it again. Missing one meal out of a day may not hurt us, but it will weaken us. Such is also true with spiritual food. We need to be feed regularly from God’s word so that we continue to grow stronger in the Lord. Peter wrote in 2 Peter 1:12 “Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.” He wanted them to remember the truths of the gospel, even though they knew them and were established in them. Spiritual growth requires spiritual nourishment and if we are not growing, then we are dying. Let’s feast on those good ol’ gospel meals at every opportunity!

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Third, while we may have heard the message earlier in our life, we hopefully have grown and the message has new application for us. All Christians are expected to grow in the Lord. Peter writes, “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby” (1 Peter 2:2). Unlike the human body, as Christians we constantly grow throughout our lifetime. In each phase of our life, the message of the gospel may be applied so that old truths have fresh significance for us. There is no end to the things that we may learn from the Bible. No one person can ever say that they have mastered the depths of its pages. Each of us has the responsibility to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18).

We may hear the same truths preached each week that we have heard all our life, but let’s rejoice in God’s good news! Let’s feast upon the bread of life! Let’s grow as we encounter life! God’s truth is timeless; our lives are temporary. Let’s not develop an Athenian Attitude toward the gospel.

# Correspondence/Encouragement

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### **WVBS Online School**

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### **Gene and Shirley Wardlaw**

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## Mission Works

### **Westhill Works**

Benevolence Program

### **Local Works**

Cherokee Children's Home - [www.chc4kids.org](http://www.chc4kids.org)  
House to House, Heart to Heart  
In Search of the Lord's Way  
Preaching Students - Southwest School of Bible Studies  
The Truth in Love - [www.ttil.tv](http://www.ttil.tv)  
WVBS Online School - [school.wvbs.org](http://school.wvbs.org)

### **Prison Works**

La Poynor Prison Ministry - Steve & Carrie Handley

### **Foreign Works**

Four Seas Bible College, Singapore - Peter & Pooi Fun Chin  
New Zealand Harvest Missions - James & Emily Cammock

## Leadership

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Paul Stewart - 903.872.3464  
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Billy Roughton - 903.654.4032  
Dickie Russell - 903.874.4457  
David Shastid - 903.257.6464  
Brent Stewart - 903.641.9052  
Justin Williams - 903.875.8288

### **Ministers**

Sam Dilbeck - 903.229.8415 (Pulpit)  
Cory Myers - 512.627.6672 (Youth & Family)  
Tim Cooke - 903.641.5515 (Seniors)

# Prayer List

**Bill Abercrombie** will have back surgery on September 29 at Baylor in Dallas.

**Julie Dilbeck** started treatment last week and must remain home while she begins a lengthy recovery.

**Marjorie King**, former member, passed away last Sunday. Her service was last Wed. in Palestine, TX.

**Marilyn Schmidt** has had some tests but no conclusive results, so more tests are scheduled.

**Meagan Gould** had scans performed on Thursday.

We praise God that **Lori Mosley** is cancer free and has returned home from her surgery! No radiation is needed and very little if any chemo.

**Sandra McCullough's** cousins need prayer. Jerry Mitchell was in a severe car accident and is in ICU in Tyler. Marvin Mitchell from Arkansas has just been diagnosed with lung cancer.

**Continue to Remember:** Gayle Garner, Velma McDougald, Bud Moore, Henry & Eula Parrish, Patty Williams, James Welch, Latonya and Derick Nathan, and Hector Magana

**Service Men:** Clay Bayes, Jason Book, Alston Compton, Robert Johnson, Ryan Payne, Douglas Ramsey, Ryan Stewart

# Announcements

We are excited that **Sharon Golston** has joined our Westhill family and placed membership here!

**Youth Group Devo** is tonight September 25th here at the building. 6th-12th graders are invited to come following immediately after the evening service.

**Eastside COC** invites you to their 83rd Annual Homecoming/Gospel Meeting. Scheduled time is set for Sept 25-28. The theme is "The Truth Shall Set You Free".

**Westhill Fall Lectureship** - October 9-12 "Righteousness Exalts A Nation".

**Park Heights COC** is hosting their 7th Annual Bible Lectureship located in Hamilton, TX. It will be held Oct 15-16, and the theme is "Better Than"...(A Study in the Book of Hebrews).

Plan to spend **Thanksgiving Day** with your Westhill family (Nov 24 @ noon in the Outreach Center). Turkey, ham, dressing and gravy will be provided, but sides and desserts are welcomed. Come alone, or bring your entire family!

**Young at Heart Seniors Group** meets every Tuesday morning at 10:30am for Bible Study. Everyone is welcome!

## Birthdays This Week

September 26 - Jason Dilbeck, Andy McDougald, and Talen Myers

September 27 - Grayson Baumgartner and Dianne Compton

September 29 - Cecil Ellis

## Next Week's Adult Class

"The Life of Paul"

## Records for September 18, 2016

Bible Class .....	188
AM Worship.....	259
PM Worship.....	165
Wednesday .....	173
Contribution .....	\$7,128.85

## Privileged to Serve

<b>Song Leader</b>	Zach Drain
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Paul Stewart
<b>Communion Leader</b>	Justin Mahoney
<b>Communion Servers</b>	
Darwin Thomas	Wade Braly
Wade Hall	Andy Parrish
Kyle Slaughter	Tanner Bearden
Bronny Watson	Thomas Saunders
David Shastid	Dan Gibson
David Dilbeck	Gene Steinkraus
Bryan Bearden	
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Rusty Owens
<b>Nursery</b>	Pam and Hannah Blaylock
<b>Security</b>	Terry Barrett, Mark Blaylock, and Buck Murphy
<b>PM Song Leader</b>	Joshua Haden
<b>PM Opening Prayer</b>	Eric Olsen
<b>PM Closing Prayer</b>	Ken Green
<b>Wed. Song Leader</b>	Justin Williams
<b>Wed. Devotional</b>	Wade Hall
<b>September Contact Elder</b>	Darwin Thomas