

JUST WHO IS SERVING WHOM?

By Rick Liggin

It is not uncommon for us in churches of Christ to refer to our regular worship periods as "worship services"--and I personally do not have a problem with that. Admittedly, it is not a Biblical expression; there is no place in Scripture where an assembly of saints is called a "worship service." But I *do* believe that the phrase *does* express a Biblical concept. When the church assembles itself together for worship, it does offer up a service to God! We *do* serve God in our worship! And so, the point of this article is not to oppose the use of this legitimate phrase.

My concern is that some of us have developed a wrong view about the "worship services." In fact, there's a real sense in which, I fear, that some of us have gotten things completely inverted or turned around!

You see, when we normally think of "services," we think of buying the *services* of some company or taking advantage of (using) the *services* offered by some institution. The point is that when we speak of "services," we most often think of services rendered *to us*. And that's where my concern is raised.

I am afraid that some of us have come to think of "worship services" as a time of worship when *we are served!*

Now, it's not that we think that we are worshipped! We know better than that! But the point is, I fear, that some of us get the aim of the "worship services" inverted in our minds: we begin to think of "worship services" as being something designed to serve us! And folks, that's just not the case!

Serving This Month

Lead Singing:

- 2nd, 16th, 30th AM – J. Campbell
- 9th & 23rd AM – Steve Waid
- 2nd PM – Neal Wood
- 9th PM – Ralph Lyles
- 16th PM – Beau Yarbrough
- 30th PM – Neal Wood

Wednesday Night Talks:

- 5th – Bryan Allen
- 12th – Beau Yarbrough
- 19th – Buzz Fowler
- 26th – Butch Mitchell
- 3rd – Lloyd Beard

Fourth Sunday Talk:

- 23rd – Ralph Lyles

Visitor Greeters:

- 2nd – Nora O'Connor
- 9th – Bryan and Kim
- 16th – Jim & Deane
- 23rd – Derrick & Haley
- 30th – Ralph & Martha

Announcements: Dale Marbut
Dutv Coordinator: Butch Mitchell

News And Notes

- **November 23rd:** Song leader's class at 5pm & singing at 6pm.
- **Restoring The Fallen** – Please don't forget our efforts to reach out to those who have fallen away. If you haven't gotten names and addresses of people yet please look on the table in the foyer for some. Once you have contacted them don't forget to make a notation of it in the red folder on that table.



**"Nourished in the words of faith... exercise yourself toward godliness."
(1 Tim 4:6-7)**

A Simple Word About Us

- We're simply Christians and Christ's name is the only name we wear.

- We follow only God's word. We do not adhere to any doctrines, creeds or traditions of men.

- We seek to establish Bible authority in both our daily lives and in the work and worship of the church.

- We welcome an open discussion for all the things we teach & practice.

- We would love to study with you individually.

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Truth Is A Mountain

By Robert Turner

Truth is a mountain, towering high. Majestic and awesome, it beckons the climber. Great and wonderful, clothed in mysteries, it threatens and promises. Benevolently reaching to the world, it summons all; yet sternly holds aloft its crown to challenge each who comes.

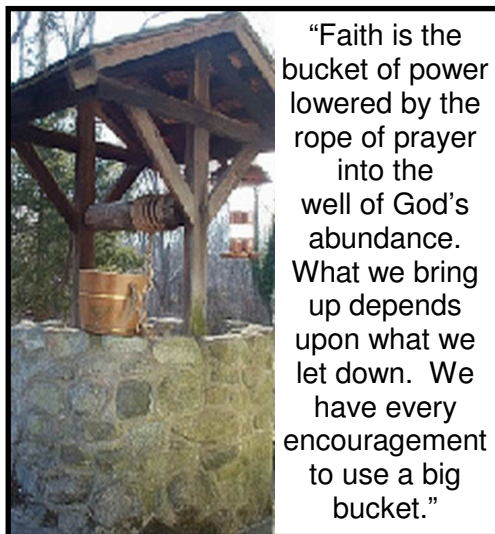
Below, in railed and graded trails, move masses. Camera-clicking tourists, worn by travel, scarcely grasp their guide's trained words, and far less understand the magic scene. The way grows steep, and many faint. They wander aimlessly — adrift in parks and glades of theory, with their creeds. Content to pay lip service to the fountainhead above; they sip its waters, grimace, and add sweets or bitters to their taste. 'Now, it's wonderful,' they say. 'We must organize a party and bring others to this way.' So they sip and talk; they praise, with shallow phrase; then pause to rest, and resting, sleep.

Still TRUTH — glorious, wondrous, whole truth, wreathes its head with hoary clouds and calls with voice of thunder: Onward! Upward! Excelsior! Error shouts derision, stops the ear. With arrogance

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he hides his wounds and walks another way. Tradition, richly garbed and stiff with age, dares not attempt the rugged path. And weaklings, fearing to look heavenward, support a course that others plan, and wish themselves in better clime.

But Faith responds, and in the earnest seeker whets desire. He dares look up. Toiling, sweating, step by step, he climbs. Struggling across downed timbers on the slope, he pushes upward. Higher and higher, his lungs afire, he climbs with foot and hand; with heart and soul. For TRUTH he lives; if needs be, dies. He asks no quarter, hears no scorn. His hope is fastened on this goal, whose misty drapery sometimes part and to his raptures eyes reveal its sun-swept crest. He needs no other prize than this, for here men bravely find themselves; and here — men humbly walk with God.



“Faith is the bucket of power lowered by the rope of prayer into the well of God’s abundance. What we bring up depends upon what we let down. We have every encouragement to use a big bucket.”

Airplanes And Faith

By Jason Moore

Recently I boarded a plane I’d never seen, built by people I’d never met, piloted by a man I’d never known. We dangled above the earth on strings I couldn’t see, over country I couldn’t identify, at a speed I couldn’t fathom, to a destination unfamiliar.

We put our trust in nuts and bolts, in flesh and blood, in forces we can’t even see and which few understand. Oh, that we had like faith in God!

“**Trust in the Lord**”—Mechanics forget to tighten bolts and pilots have sleepless nights. The Lord never forgets and He never tires.

“**Lean not on your own understanding**”—I assume there’s a reason why we fly seven miles high. God has His reasons and they’re always good.

“**In all your ways acknowledge Him**”—Not just during turbulence but when the flight is smooth too.

“**He shall direct your paths**”—The skies are not always friendly but God knows the safest route.

“**Don’t be wise in your own eyes**”—Floating seat cushions are poor life insurance when flying over terra firma. Anybody can see that.

“**Fear the Lord and depart from evil**”—There never was a safe arrival that was

not preceded by a successful departure.

“**It will be health to your flesh and strength to your bones**”—Fasten your seat belt. Return your seat and tray table to an upright and locked position. Stay in your seat. Leave the navigating up to God.

TRANSFORMERS

By Al Diestelkamp

If you haven’t seen the movie *Transformers*, you’ve probably seen the commercials for it, and if you’ve been around children you’ve likely been introduced to the toys that inspired the movie. What appears to be one thing, when manipulated turns into something completely different.

The apostle Paul, in writing to the Christians in Rome urged them to “be transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Rom. 12:2). So, in one sense we should all be transformers.

However, a Christian must be quite different from the toy, which is able to be changed back to its original form at the whim of the child in whose hands it is found. The Christian, after being transformed must remain a “new creation” (2 Cor. 5:17)—a “new man” (Eph. 4:17-24), not allowing the world to manipulate him back into his former self.

The church member (I wouldn’t call him a Christian) who appears to be spiritual and righteous on Sunday, but is worldly during the week, or in different surroundings, has become a transformer of the worst kind—a hypocrite.

Those Needing Prayers

- **Howard Jones** has an inoperable brain disease & is slowly getting worse.
- **Lindy Jones** is continuing to do well after her heart transplant.
- **Beverly Mitchell**, Bob’s & Willette’s daughter-in-law has been recently diagnosed with cancer.
- **Martha & Jimmy Carter**, Lisa’s parents, as have health problems.
- **June Barlow** has had more panic attacks lately & a decline in health.
- **Robert McNeil**, Bruce McNeil’s father, is fighting cancer.
- **Lisa McNeil’s mother & father** both have severe health problems
- **Bryan Allen II** for further progress
- **Glenda Marbut** as she continues to battle against cancer.
- **Jeanie O’Brien** as she is fighting cancer along with other difficulties.
- **Ruth Bibb** (Johnnie’s sister), **Barbara White** (Willette’s sister), and **Edna Cluck** (Sue’s mother) all suffer from Alzheimer’s disease.
- **Rip & Wilma Baker**, Jenny’s brother and sister-in-law, face health problems.
- **Josh Burtram**, who is away from us and Laurie at this time.
- **Shut-ins: Pearl Lloyd, Tom Farley, Hester Stein, Clara Gaston, George Stacey & June Barlow**

Serving in the Military: Bruce Mitchell, Philip Graves, Rob Mitchell