

# Plain Path

Weekly newsletter of the Fry Road church of Christ

Sunday, July 20, 2014

Volume 19, Number 29

“Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path... Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart” (Psalm 27:11-14)

## GOD LOVES YOU

by Bob Pulliam

I know of few people who would deny the title of this article. If you believe there is a God, you have every reason to want to believe that He loves you. There are some who have doubts about themselves; their own self worth; their value to the world around them; etc... Many times these are people who believe that God is a God of love, but can't seem to accept His love for them. The problem is not that God hasn't been clear about this. Their perception of God's attitude toward them is shaped by their attitude toward themselves. If you have trouble believing that God loves you, then I believe I would be safe in saying that you have trouble finding self value. But I must quickly add that this lack of "self love" does not make you incapable of being selfish. What will happen is that you will

seek self significance in other ways that are self-seeking. You may gravitate toward worldly friends and influences. You may involve yourself in self-gratifying pastimes that are harmful to self, but temporarily give you a sense of relief (a pseudo-joy). So, while you may not "love" yourself in the sense of valuing your own being, you may still love yourself in getting what gratifies the flesh.

Does God love you? If you have a hard time believing that, then something is wrong with either your view of God, or yourself. If you believe the Bible, the evidence of God's love is overwhelmingly abundant. After all, while we were yet sinners, God sent Jesus to die for us! (Rom 5:8) Such a sacrifice shows what a perfect love God has, and is the basis for the most famous passage in the Bible: "For God so loved

*(Loves You, continued on pg 2...)*

## Meeting Notes

Our meeting with Rick Moore has passed into history. If you weren't able to attend, I urge you to listen to his lessons from our website, or order CDs by signing up in the foyer.

Brother Moore did a wonderful job, presenting timely lessons, and making pertinent observations that were valuable to us all. His applications reached into our personal lives and gave us much to contemplate about our service to God.

Only seven weeks remain before our meeting with Joseph Casimier. We have heard brother Casimier in the past, and know him to be dynamic and true to God's word. Let's make sure our calendars and prayers are set in order for this important event (Sept 7-10).

Also make sure your calendar  
*(Meeting Notes, continued on pg 2...)*

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(Loves You, *continued from pg 1...*)

the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (Jn 3:16) Without a doubt, God loves everyone... *even the sinner... even you.*

I’ve known people who had no trouble saying that God loves the world, and gave Jesus to die for the world, but had trouble saying *Jesus died for me.* This problem makes the Bible strictly a lesson in academics. In other words, learning facts with little or no application to self. If you cannot believe that God died for *you*, then I assert that you will have trouble living the life that His sacrifice demands of *you.* If you cannot make God’s gift personal,

then you will not make your service to God personal. You can come to worship services as regular as clockwork, attend the gospel meetings, maybe even teach a Bible class; but it’s more of an academic exercise to stay respectable in the eyes of others. Or it may just be a habit that you haven’t weighed out yet. But when you do start weighing it out, your doubts about God’s love for you will translate into doubts about your need to love Him. And that will be acted out in not serving Him (Mk 12:28-31; I Jn 5:3; II Jn 6). If you are presently slipping away from God, you have a *faith problem.* It may not be a problem in believing that there is a God. Instead, it may be a problem with seeing the significance of spiritual things to *you.*

2:3f; II Pt 3:9). God loves *you*, and wants *you* to be saved!

God’s love for man has always existed. It was the motivator of His design and actions before the foundation of the world (Eph 1:3-5). It is true that we need do nothing to provoke God’s love. And if that were not true, we could never have been saved. But God did *so love* the world that He gave Jesus to die on the cross (Jn 3:16). That love was present while we were still sinners (Rom 5:8), before Jesus came and died for our sins. We did not have to do anything to get God to love us. And let’s face it, there isn’t enough that anyone could ever do to provoke God’s love. Once we sin, we are abhorrent to the Just One. But we do not have to provoke God’s love! It is already there!

As I said, God demonstrated that love in Jesus (Rom 5:8). Only in Jesus has anyone who ever lived found *acceptance* before God (Heb 10:1-4; 9:15). But now we have introduced another word: *acceptance.* That God’s love for us is unconditional does not mean that His acceptance of us is also unconditional. The reli-

(Loves You, *continued on pg 3...*)

### The True Love of God...

God’s love is unconditional. He loved you and me before we ever were. He knew us before we came into being, because He is the eternal God, the great I Am. God does not love the sins of the sinner, but God loves the sinner and wants him to be saved (I Tim

## THIS WEEK'S DAILY BIBLE READINGS

### NEW TESTAMENT READING

ACTS 9 - 12

July 20 - 22

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

DEUTERONOMY 23 - 28

July 23 - 26

I TIMOTHY 4:13

### Something to Think About...

## Serving others and God is love in work clothes.

(Meeting Notes, *continued from pg 1...*)

is cleared for the day before (Sept 6). Our annual singing will be at 2:00pm. This is always a joyful

and uplifting service, and you won’t want to miss it.



# FAMILY NEWS & NOTES

*News and Notes of Interest  
to Fry Road Members*

Because of the large number of visitors to our services, we would ask those wishing to identify with the congregation to do so by expressing this interest directly to the elders.

## *Upcoming Meetings & Events:*

**Annual Singing  
September 6, 2014**

**Gospel Meeting (Joseph Casimier)  
September 7 - 10, 2014**

## *Sick and Shut-Ins*

*Sections have been removed to preserve members' privacy*

## **Sermons:**

### **Next Sunday:**

If I Have Not Love  
(part II)

### **Tonight:**

Let's Just Call it "The Way"

## *Grief Stricken*

*Remember that I need periodic updates on friends and relatives to keep them in the bulletin for a prolonged period of time. You can use the e-mail address found on the back of this bulletin.*

(Loves You, *continued from pg 2...*)

gious world argues for God's unconditional acceptance of the sinner, but preaches a gospel of condition. They have confused unconditional love and conditional acceptance. We all agree that God doesn't save us without our coming to Him in Jesus. We must believe (Jn 3:16; Mk 16:16). And I know no one who would deny that (although there are some). But believing *is a condition*. Whether I want to call it that, or not; faith is a condition! Add to that the fact that the belief must be sufficient to provoke action, and you find God requiring several things for the sinner to show God his love (Jn 12:42f; Jms 2:19-26; Lk 13:3; Rom 10:10; Mk 16:16; Acts 22:16). God showed His love by giving His Son as a sacrifice. We show our love for God by sacrificing ourselves in obedience (Rom 6:3ff; 12:1f).

## Conclusion...

Yes, God loves you. He loves you in whatever state you find yourself. But that is why He gave a sacrifice for your salvation. His love for you does not overlook your sin. His love has provided a means of removing that sin for your salvation from its condemnation. That salvation has conditions set upon it. You say you love God. But does your love have any substance to it? Have you truly shown God that you love Him?

*"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome."*

(I John 5:3)



# FOR THE RECORD

## WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

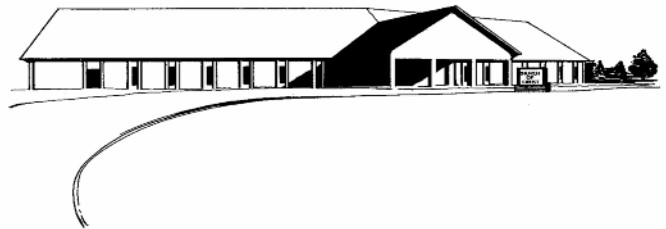
## MONTHLY ASSIGNMENTS

*Sections have been removed to preserve members' privacy*

IN KEEPING WITH OUR LONG STANDING AGREEMENT, THOSE SERVING PUBLICLY ARE REMINDED TO PLEASE DRESS IN A MANNER RESPECTFUL OF THE GOD WHOM WE SERVE.

### ELDERS:

Ruben Amador  
Matthew Heaton  
Donnie Mangrum  
Steve Voss



### DEACONS:

John Coleman	Ken Dunsmore
David Ellison	Ray Farrell
Aubrey Garner	Steve Geraci
Steve LaGrasta	John Light
Steven Martin	Mike McMurray
Jason Mock	David Stevenson
Glenn Tomblin	

### TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Assembly	10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Assembly	6:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes	7:30 PM

### EVANGELIST & EDITOR:

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