

# Plain Path

Weekly newsletter of the Fry Road church of Christ

Sunday, February 2, 2014

Volume 19, Number 5

“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)

## CHRISTIANITY ISN'T FAIR

by Robert Turner

“It isn't fair!” this indignant lady protested; and as I pause to hear her story I had to agree. For several years now, the same women had faithfully prepared lessons and taught the children's classes. Others, equally capable of the job, had accepted no responsibilities, made no effort to assist in this demanding effort; and when their aid was solicited they had dozens

of “ready-made” excuses.

Somehow, it didn't register that the teachers *also* had headaches, were “nervous”, had household problems, week-end guests, working husbands and demanding children. “*It isn't fair!!*” that some take all of the time-consuming, often exasperating, *thankless* work, while others go “scot-free”. We could reasonably expect an equitable sharing of the load.

For that matter, “it isn't fair” that the same few do all or most of the “visiting”. “It isn't fair” that the same ones are continually called upon to furnish “rides” for the aged and infirm. “It isn't fair” that the same ones

(Fair, continued on pg 2...)



## WERE YOU HERE?

by  
Bob  
Pulliam

We had a singing and a gospel meeting last week. Perhaps you are visiting with us, and were unaware of these events. Allow me to call upon you to rejoice with us that God's word was lifted up, and hearts were refreshed in jubilant worship. While the singing was not as well attended as past singings, those who participated outdid themselves. If I had not seen with my eyes, my ears would have told me many more were present than actually came. Concerning the meeting, brother White did his usual outstanding job, and we have much to “chew on” spiritually. His lessons were timely; well illustrated; and very personal in the application pressed upon our hearts.

People who had other issues of life pressing upon them gathered. Some of them young, and

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(Fair, continued from pg 1...)

feed the visiting preacher, clean the church building, furnish the bulk of the contribution, put out the bulletin, care for the sick. But thirty-four years of preaching and working with congregations has taught me that a “few” usually do these jobs.

**Christianity isn't a “fair” religion!!** Does that shock you? Well give it some thought before rejecting it.

Was it “fair” that the most godly, pure, compassionate, selfless man to walk the face of the earth was crucified upon Calvary? What was “fair” in the beheading of John, or the stoning of Stephen? If like circumstances prevailed today, would you speak up loud and strong, even though it

meant that *you*, from among the many saints, had to suffer death? Or would you argue that “it isn't fair” that one should die (especially **this** one) while other are unmolested?

Is it “fair” that Christians regularly meet for worship, while others have that day for fishing, hunting, or just “resting”? Christians have to support the work of the Lord, while others **get** to spend that money on new golf clubs. Is that the way you feel about it? If so, I predict that you will soon buy a new set of clubs — at the Lord's expense.

For Christianity **is unfair** by all *worldly* standards of “fairness”. One of its first rules is, “if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his

cross, and follow me”. (Mt 16:24) “ye are not your own... you are bought with a price”. (I Cor 6:19f)

The teacher who continually *gives*, and *gives*, and *gives*; does so because he, or she, has first given **self** to the Lord. If that teacher, or worker in any portion of the Lord's vineyard begins to operate on a “fair” basis — doing only what “everyone else” does — usefulness to the Lord will cease.

“If they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.” (Heb 11:13 - 16) Read all verses, study awhile, and then tell us if you think it is “fair”!!

(copied from *Plain Talk*)



**THIS WEEK'S DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

JOHN 17 - 21

February 2 - 4

OLD TESTAMENT READING

JOB 20 - 28

February 5 - 8

**I TIMOTHY 4:13**

*Something to Think About...*

**The cross is easier to the Christian who takes it up than to the one who drags it along.**

(Here?, continued from pg 1...)

some old, they expelled the pain or inconvenience from their minds and became a source of encouragement to the assembly of the saints. Thank you for putting God before all else. Thank you for being a godly example that encourages. Thank you for showing others how priorities can be rearranged in favor of God's

kingdom, rather than in favor of self.

If you missed this meeting, determine that our next meeting will be in your plans. Let's all resolve to let nothing hinder us from our next meeting, which will be April 13 - 16 with Steve Wolfgang doing the preaching.



# 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:*

**Gospel Meeting (Steve Wolfgang) V.B.S. ("We Would See Jesus")**  
**April 13 - 16, 2014 June 23 - 26, 2014**

**Annual Singing September 20, 2014**      **Gospel Meeting (Joseph Casimier)**  
**September 21 - 24, 2014**

## *Sick and Shut-Ins*

*Sections have been removed to preserve member's privacy*

## **Sermons:**

### **Next Sunday:**

What Jews Believe About  
Forgiveness, and Why  
They're Wrong

### **Tonight:**

Which Job Do You Want?

## *Baptized...*



*"I have not departed from the command  
of His lips; I have treasured the words of  
His mouth more than my necessary  
food."  
(Job 23:12)*

Job has been afflicted, nearly beyond measure. He has just escaped ultimate loss by the skin of his teeth (Job 19:20). And in the midst of all this, his three friends "comfort" him, but actually accuse him of wrongdoing. They claim that the righteous always prosper, and the wicked are always punished with calamities and loss (e.g. Job 20).

But life is not so simple. The one who treasures God's word may find affliction in this life. Not because God is punishing him, as Job's three friends assert, but because Satan wants to turn our hearts from God (Job 1 & 2). There is far more reason for Satan to leave the wicked alone than the righteous. He has already "devoured" the wicked. But he still seeks the righteous (I Pt 5:8).

People today sometimes miss this fact, and consider sufferings to be God's just judgment. We also may fall into this trap.

Study Job 24 as a family, listing the ways of the wicked and how they prosper. Talk about why God does not strike them dead (II Pt 3:9; Rom 2:4). Talk about why this is so good for us (Rom 3:23). And then discuss how God plans to make everything "right" in the end.

# FOR THE RECORD

## WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

## MONTHLY ASSIGNMENTS

Sections have been removed to preserve member's 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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