

# Plain Path

Weekly newsletter of the Fry Road church of Christ

Sunday, September 21, 2014

Volume 19, Number 38

“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)

## ARE YOU LOOKING?

by Bob Pulliam

I'M SURE IT WOULDN'T SURPRISE YOU to know that some people look for a church based on their need to justify false doctrine. No one would ever admit that they were doing this. But it all comes down to their need to validate their own lives, rather than uphold the word of God. Then other people find other things that determine where they will search. I think this is an area we should examine carefully. Especially if you are looking.

Some Bible subjects are painfully simple, and should cause no problem. The question of whether one is immersed or has water sprinkled on them should be relatively free from emotion. The only practice for baptism in the New Testament was immersion in

water (Acts 8:38f; 10:47; Rom 6:3f; Col 3:12 — Holy Spirit baptism was rare, and not actually *practiced* by the church). It would be rare to find someone looking for a church based on whether those churches practiced sprinkling or immersion. It just isn't that emotional of an issue. It also does not demand lifestyle changes.

What we find in this is that *there are two powerful reasons* used by people in shopping for their church. The first, and most powerful, is the emotional aspect (feelings are a huge part of who we are). And a powerful contributor to that is significant changes in lifestyle. “Do I have to stop drinking? Well, I like going out with the boys to have some fun.

I'll just find a church that doesn't have a problem with it!” And when the church is found that lets you have your fun, you feel that God has validated your lifestyle. You get to continue having fun with the boys (emotion). And you can keep going to church. But is it the Lord's church? The word *church* doesn't guarantee that any organization is actually pleasing to God. After all, would you expect Satan to call it something undesirable?

Are you living with your girlfriend? God's word doesn't smile on that (Heb 13:4), but you can find a church that will let you join. You can even find a church that will accept homosexuality as an acceptable “alternate lifestyle”. Even though God called it something else (Rom 1:26f; I Cor 6:9f). Just because you can find a church to accept you does not mean that God accepts you. Even

(Looking, *continued on pg 3...*)

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(Looking, *continued from pg 1...*)

if it has “Church of Christ” on the sign out front, your acceptance into fellowship does not determine suitability to God. You will only determine that by consulting God’s word, and following it’s directions.

The second reason also deals with emotions, but has to do with what I call the “Walmart effect”. We are used to getting what we want. Oftentimes, a search for the perfect “church home” is based on the programs offered. Is there a gym for the kids to play in? Is there a fellowship hall for us to eat in? Is there a babysitting program that provides a “Mom’s Night Out” program?

What happens here is we sit down and figure out what *we want* from the church that we are

going to join. We tabulate this in the same way we formulate a shopping list. If we can get everything on our list at Walmart, we make it our one-stop shopping experience. And we do the same with our religion. We want all of these things, and there are churches that offer all of them, so we look for a church to give us *all* we want. Unfortunately, it doesn’t occur to us that seeking a church should not be based on what *we want*, but on what *God wants!* We don’t seem to understand that the church was not established to offer all of the programs we are looking for. Search your New Testament to see if any of the “shopping list” above was in the first century church.

Now I’ve written all of this to bring you around to one particular passage: “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths.” (II Tim 4:3f) Paul said that people will be looking for preachers who will tell them what they want to hear. They are described as turning away from the truth, and unto myths. You may be familiar with that passage. Do you remember what Paul wrote just before these words? Listen to it... “preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great pa-

tience and instruction.” (II Tim 4:2) Do you find anything in that verse in the “shopping list” above? Verse two isn’t what people typically look for first.

### Are You Looking?...

Perhaps you are looking for a church to settle down and work with other Christians to serve God. I’m not saying that you are anything like the people I’ve described above. But I do want to admonish you to make sure the word of God is at the top of that list. Is the truth being taught there? It doesn’t matter how nice the people are if error is being taught. Nice people won’t get me to heaven if they are pushing false doctrine on me. Your number one priority is truth. It is the only way you will glorify and worship God acceptably (Jn 4:24). Here at Fry Road, we seek a thus saith the Lord for our faith and practice. We could fill this building by giving the world what it wants. But that isn’t the work of the church. We are here to give God what He wants. In so doing, we will help each other get to heaven. If you want to be a part of this work, talk to the elders about the possibility of becoming a member. Then get to work in a labor of love for the Lord.

*“And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples...”*  
(Acts 9:26)



## THIS WEEK'S DAILY BIBLE READINGS

### NEW TESTAMENT READING

*I CORINTHIANS 9 - 16*

*September 21 - 23*

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

*RUTH 1 - 4*

*September 24 - 27*

**I TIMOTHY 4:13**

### *Think About It...*

If children were to determine what the home would be like, how different would that be from us deciding what the church should do?

# 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.

## *Sick and Shut-Ins*

*Sections have been removed to preserve members' privacy*

*"...I was sick, and you visited me..."  
Matthew 25:36*

Updates for friends and family members should be given to Bob regularly to keep necessary items up-to-date, and included in Plain Path. Without updates, items on the list are purged periodically.

## *Grief Stricken*

### **Sermons:**

#### **Next Sunday:**

Who Is "Every Creature"?  
(Mark 16)

#### **Tonight:**

Finding God's Plan *For You*

## *Ladies Class...*

*Fall Ladies Bible Classes* will begin on Tuesday September 30, 2014. The morning class will run from 9/30/14 until 11/18/14 meeting every week at the Fry Road Building at 10:00 a.m. The evening class will run from 9/30/14 until 11/11/14 meeting every other Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m. at Cinco Ranch Library. On 11/18/14 there will be a Special Topics class for one evening. Please sign the morning or evening list on the round table in the foyer so we may get a binder with the lessons to you. They should be available starting today.

## *Directory Info*

### **Visitors**

You are truly a blessing, and we are glad you chose to worship with us. Please take a moment to fill out a visitor card and drop it into the collection plate. Thank you.

# 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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