

Plain Path

Weekly newsletter of the Fry Road church of Christ

Sunday, June 22, 2014

Volume 19, Number 25

“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)

MAKE ME A SERVANT

by Bob Pulliam

We sometimes sing the song, *Servant's Song*. The words are beautiful, but I hope we've not misunderstood the meaning of the song. While it is a plea to “Make me a servant, just like Your Son,” it is not a passive request. What I mean is that the author does not intend for us to wait around for God to miraculously do something to us. The sentiment is not, “I

don't really want to be a servant, so please make me want to be a servant”.

This song is in that class of songs that makes the attitude of the heart known. It is a style by which we make known our desire by requesting it of God. While I sing, “Do what You must do to make me a servant...”, I'm actually tuning my heart to the pitch at which it is supposed to be living. I am ac-

knowledging that God expects me to be a servant, and that I must comply. We know that God isn't going to force us to take on an attitude of servitude. The phrase, “Do what You must do...”, expresses an intensity of desire in the one singing the song. And that intense desire is to be a servant!

Since God isn't going to force you to serve, then you are going to have to modify your affections to want to serve. In what way do you *want* to serve the Lord? Well, that isn't actually what we sing in that song. What we do sing, is that we

(*Servant, continued on pg 2...*)

2014 V.B.S.

“We Would See Jesus”

Ages 4 - 18

June 23 - 26 (10 - 11:30 AM)

Monday AM - **Jesus, the Word**

Tuesday AM - **Jesus, the Light**

Wednesday AM - **Jesus, the King**

Wednesday PM - **Jesus, the Shepherd**

Thursday AM - **Jesus, the Resurrection and Life**

2014 V.B.S.



3rd Quarter Class Material

Is Now Available on Kindle, and Tablets Running a Kindle App! You can also use a Kindle Reader on your computer to study!

(see page two for details)

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(Servant, continued from pg 1...)

want to be a servant *like Jesus*. So, what is involved in that? Of primary importance is *doing what needs to be done!* We really must beware, lest we become a kingdom of servants who only do what we want to do, rather than what needs to be done. We stay in our “servant comfort zone”, and never reach out for the tasks we could tackle, if we just would. I’m afraid that some “servants” live in a “servant bubble”, and never really understand that they aren’t being a servant “*just like Your Son*”. They are being a “servant” that never seeks to meet the challenges the kingdom presents to them.

Jesus said:

“... You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it

over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave;”

(Mt 20:25-27)

We read this passage and easily cast it aside by saying, “Well, I don’t want to exercise authority, so I’m being a good servant.” But the needed application drives much deeper than wanting to control others. Throw away your “bubble”, roll up your sleeves, and start serving. If it’s keeping you from being a servant, then cast it aside, rather than casting the words of Jesus aside. You see, if I won’t do it, then I think there’s someone lower on the totem pole that ought to do it. If you won’t do it because it is beneath you, or too trivial; then stop singing the song when we sing it in services. Because it obviously isn’t your *intense* desire.

Now I want you to read how Jesus put this into application before His death:

“You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.”

(Jn 13:13-15)

Washing feet was the work of a slave. Even Peter was repulsed by the idea of Jesus washing his feet (v8). But Jesus was giving them an object lesson in the true character of discipleship. As disciples, we are servants. Even when we must get down on all fours and do some really dirty work. If Jesus could bow his back to serve the disciples, then they were to have that same capability toward one another. And that translates down to us, if we would consider ourselves to be disciples.

(Servant, continued on pg 3...)

THIS WEEK'S DAILY BIBLE READINGS

NEW TESTAMENT READING

LUKE 17 - 20

June 22 - 24

OLD TESTAMENT READING

NUMBERS 29 - 36

June 25 - 28

I TIMOTHY 4:13

Easiest way to get your digital class material:



Amazon will not allow authors to publish free books, but we do have a limited number of free promotions that we can offer. **Sunday, June 22nd** will be a free day for downloading our third quarter adult Bible study book! And feel free to send it as a gift to everyone you would like to get it.



Google search: “amazon.com: bob pulliam: kindle store”

Select the first search result (non-advertisement) that comes up. You should now be on my “Amazon Bookshelf”. “*The Kingdom of the Messiah*” will be our 3rd quarter study. Select it; make sure you’ve selected where you want it sent; click “buy” (even though it’s free); This 3rd quarter class material will be offered for free again on July 6th. So if you miss this opportunity, you can pick it up then.

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:

V.B.S. ("We Would See Jesus")
June 23 - 26, 2014

Gospel Meeting (Rick Moore)
July 12 - 13, 2014

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:

Forgiveness:
The Sweetest Relief

Tonight:

The Eager Anticipation

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

(Servant, *continued from pg 2...*)

Do you remember that I said we are not asking what one *wants* to do as a servant? Do you recall that this is about *what needs to be done*? Because that's what servants do. Masters don't put up a list for servants to choose the jobs in which they want to be engaged. So here is the ultimate example of Jesus in being a servant:

"Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

(Phil 2:5-8)

Jesus' service involved the highly undesirable task of becoming a man; enduring trials and temptation; being betrayed, doubted, and slandered; enduring the mocking, spitting, and injustice; and then suffering scourging and crucifixion. Put that on a list and see which servant chooses it for their "job". Jesus was the ultimate servant. And that is why we sing, "just like Your Son"! There is no greater example!

May I now ask you what kind of servant you are? Do you wait for a list of tasks, and then choose the ones that fit into your "servant bubble"? Or, do you seek what needs to be done, and do your best to build in the kingdom? The choice is 100% yours! But so also is the responsibility...



FOR THE RECORD

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

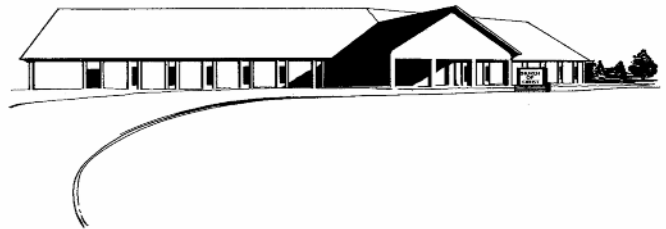
MONTHLY ASSIGNMENTS

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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