

# THE BEACON OF TRUTH

October 6, 2019

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” John 17:17

## Little Things

Bill Smith

I was preaching in a gospel meeting at a rural church in southern Oklahoma, and staying in the nice farm house of an elder of that church, and his good wife. One morning while I was awaiting the arrival of the local preacher so we could make some visits in the community, I was enjoying a cup of coffee with my hostess. I asked her if she had been reared in the Lord’s church and she said she had not. Then she volunteered the story of her conversion.

When she was a little girl, probably five or so, a neighbor lady asked her mother if she might take her to Bible school with her. Her mother didn’t mind her going to church but she did not want to be inconvenienced by it. So, this good neighbor would keep her Saturday night, bathe and dress her, take her to church Sunday morning, and feed her lunch before returning her to her home that afternoon. This continued until one or the other moved away after several months, or maybe years.

After this she said she joined her family in a religionless life, and later married a man who was also disinterested in spiritual things. But when their first child was born, her husband decided he did not want to rear their child a heathen, and he suggested they start going to church somewhere. He had no preference and asked her if she did. She told him about the good Christian neighbor who was so kind to her, and had taken her to the church of Christ in their little community. He was impressed by her story and they decided to visit the local church of the Lord. They found a group of good, friendly people who took an interest in them. They studied the Bible and were eventually baptized into Christ. Now her husband was an elder, and they (cont. on pg. 2)

## By the Numbers:

Week of 9/29/19

Contribution – \$2406

Attendance:

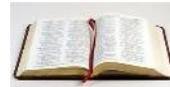
Sunday Bible Classes – 35

Sunday Worship\* – 61

Wednesday Night – 46

\*Total for the day

## Bible Trivia Question



Last Week’s Answer: Hymenaeus and Alexander (1 Tim. 1:20).

Q: What did Paul do to Hymenaeus and Alexander?

Answer to be given next week!

## SERMON SPOTLIGHT:

AM — Therefore Have I Hope - Lam. 3:21

1. Who wrote the book of Lamentations?
2. What kinds of trials did he face in his life?
3. How could he have hope in such difficult circumstances?

PM — The Parable of the Talents

1. What is a talent?
2. What key lesson(s) can we learn from this parable?

### Schedule Of Services

Sunday  
Bible Study 9:45 A.M.  
Worship 10:30 A.M. & 2:00 P.M.  
Wednesday Bible study 7:00 P.M.

### Website

Beaconcofc.com

### Preacher

Chase Green  
318-608-7418

### Elders

Bill Schooley 318-396-7296  
Tim Green 318-547-4026

### Missions Supported

Ronnie Goolam - India  
Marlon Retana - Panama  
Brad Harrub - Focus Press

BEACON CHURCH OF CHRIST  
2326 JONESBORO ROAD  
MAIL: P.O. BOX 3057  
WEST MONROE, LA 71294

### WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED

1. Hear the Gospel (Jn. 20:30-31; Rom. 10:17).
2. Believe (Rom. 1:16; Acts 18:8; Heb. 11:6).
3. Repent (Lk. 13:3; 24:47; Acts 3:19; 17:30).
4. Confess Christ (Matt. 10:32, 33).
5. Be baptized (immersed) (Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16).
6. Continue faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10).

Mailing Address

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

## NEWS AND NOTES TO OUR GUESTS—A WARM WELCOME

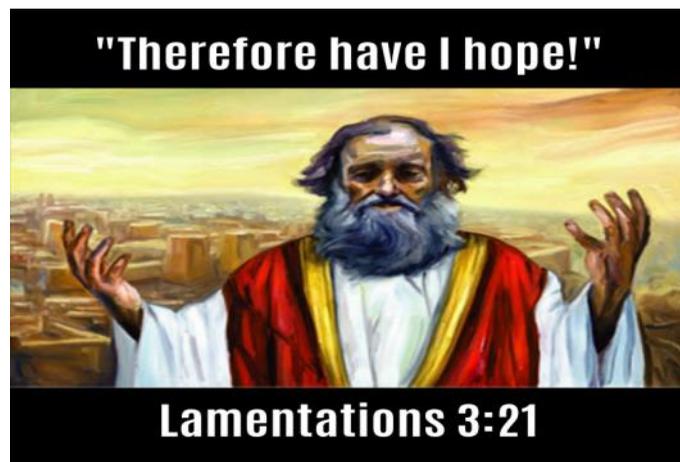
Thank you for coming today and please come back soon and often. If you have questions about the church of Christ, what is taught here, or the way we do anything please feel free to ask. Please fill out the Guest Register on the table in the foyer so we may have a record of your visit.

### REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Margie Tippen, Regina Simmons, Marcia Green, Kevin Green, Jerry Tippen, Harold Myers, Joy Skipper, Ruth Coston, Lindy Brown, Kaitlyn Wilson, Kathy Lawrence, Melba Tippen Creech, Mike Jones, Kenneth Hendrix, Tim Green, Mildred Allhands, Anthony Ortega, Debbie Grice, Virginia Wainwright, Stetson Ortega, Bettie Young, Dewey Young, Wendy Traweek, Tim Green, Bill & Sharon Schooley (traveling in Colorado & plan to be back Saturday), Kenneth & Terri Hendrix (traveling today as well)

### OTHER THINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Youth & Young Adults: Be on the lookout for monthly events.
- Monthly Fellowship Meal: 4th Sunday each month unless otherwise noted.



(Continued from page 1)

were the backbone of that church at which I was holding the meeting. They had several sons who were deacons in churches elsewhere, and daughters whose families were faithful workers for the Lord.

All this was the result of a good Christian woman showing love and concern for the soul of a little neighbor girl. And the woman never knew how her efforts had turned out. This story convinced me that I should never underestimate the value of doing little things for the Lord, and then leaving it up to the Lord to make them big. “I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase” (1 Corinthians 3:6).

### James 5:13-20

*Chase Green*

**Verse 13:** “Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.” The natural spiritual response to affliction should be prayer, and the natural spiritual response to merriment should be singing. Peter tells us to cast all of our cares upon the Lord, for He cares for us (1 Pet. 5:7). We accomplish this through prayer. There should never be a time in a Christian’s life that he is neglecting prayer (1 Thes. 5:17), and James gives a reminder.

James also reminds us to sing. For “merry,” the ASV has “cheerful.” One must wonder why so many in the assembly of the saints refuse to sing. Could it be that they are not merry/cheerful? Those of the world certainly have little to be truly cheerful about, but may it never be said about those who are members of the Lord’s church! Yet, time and time again there are many who refuse to sing praises to the Lord. How can this be?!

**Verse 14:** “Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.” The sickness here described seems to be physical illness, and in the first century context of the age of miracles, it appears that elders were the ones tasked with miraculous healings associated with the anointing of oil in the name of the Lord (unless, of course, an apostle were present). We do not have apostles or miraculous healings today, but certainly this verse still has application regarding visitation. Elders, shepherding all of the souls of their congregation, should lead the way in visiting those who need to be visited, and all church members should follow their example (See Mat. 25:36, 43).

**Verse 15:** “And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.” Now James transitions to spiritual sickness. When a Christian (having already obeyed the Gospel) sins, he need not be baptized again. Rather, he must repent and pray to God for forgiveness. Sometimes I have heard this referred to as “God’s Second Law of Pardon.” We see this idea taught explicitly in Acts 8:18-24, when Simon the Sorcerer sinned by coveting miraculous powers. He was told to repent and pray. Note that nowhere in the Scriptures is an alien sinner (someone who has never obeyed the Gospel) taught to pray in order to receive salvation.

**Verse 16:** “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” We must be willing to “level” with one another as Christians when it comes to our faults. We need to be honest and open about our spiritual struggles so that we can help one another overcome the various temptations that we face. A parallel passage is Gal. 6:1-2, which says: “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.”

**Verses 17-18:** “Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.” Attesting to the power of prayer is this account of Elijah praying for the forces of nature to be affected in such a way that rain was withheld and then brought back again to prove that Jehovah is God (see 1 Kings 17:1ff). Note how confident Elijah was! We should be just as confident in God’s willingness to answer prayer, if we ask in faith (James 1:6) and in accordance with His will (1 John 5:14-15).

**Verses 19-20:** “Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.” Again, back to Gal. 6:1-2, those who are spiritual (faithful Christians) **MUST** be willing to go to the erring and try to bring them back to the faith. If the spiritual are successful, then we have succeeded in saving a soul from spiritual death! Even if we do not save the soul due to stubbornness on their part, we have saved ours as the watchmen that God requires us to be (See Eze. 3:17-21). May we always take this task with utmost seriousness! With love, Chase

### THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”  
John 1:1

BE SURE TO TUNE INTO OUR RADIO STATION!  
FM 102.5 KCXB-LP - The Beacon of Truth  
Available 24/7 on FM radio and at Beaconcofc.com