

Privileged To Serve As We Worship

February 1, 2015

AM

Terrell Robins
 John Lemon
 Delvin Criner, Sr
 Jacobe Jerkins
 Mallory Barnes
 Terrell Robins
 Royce Lemon
 Malcolm Robins, Sr
 Mallory Barnes
 Jarvis Lemon

 Delvin Criner, Jr
 Dorion Criner
 Jacobe Jerkins
 Tadarius Robins
 Mallory Barnes
 Tristian Robins

Announcements:

Invocation/prayer

Song Director

Scripture Reading

Prayer

Communion & Offering

Sermon

Prayer for Confessions

Welcome Visitors

Benediction

Assisting in Communion

Ushers

PM

JaMallory Barnes
 Isaiah Cooper
 Logan Ethyll
 Delvin Criner, Jr
 Terrell Robins
 Troy Robins
 Royce Lemon
 (open)
 Troy Robins
 JaMallory Barnes

 Jarvis Lemon
 Tadarius Robins
 Malik Cooper
 Dorion Criner

Brethren, please report to the classroom for devotion and prayer before serving)

Welcome to the 3rd Ward Church of Christ! If you are visiting with us today, we want you to know that you are our honored guest. We are so happy that you have decided to worship God and study His word with us today. If you are already a Christian and are looking for a church home, we invite you to consider us at 3rd Ward. We do our best to be a warm, loving fellowship of God's people, and adhere strictly to the bible. If you are not a member of the Church of Christ, we would love to sit down with you and open up the Bible to see what Jesus Christ requires of one to be a member of His church. We have no creed but Christ; no book but the Bible. We are simply New Testament Christians who do our best to follow Jesus not only on Sunday, but also every day of the week. If that is what you are looking for then please speak to one of us today. And, thanks again for honoring us, and more importantly, God, with your presence today!

In The Presence of God

When we give our offerings and contributions we are not just paying dues. It is not the price of a ticket to see a show. We are worshiping God by presenting unto Him tokens of our love and gratitude. Our contributions are our recognition that all we are and all we have come from the loving hand of Jehovah (James 1:17). Our contributions should be the fruit of our hearts welling up with gratitude to God for his bountiful provisions.

We are not taxed or ordered to give a certain amount. As his adult children, God grants us to the privilege to give as we have freely purposed in our hearts (II Cor. 9:7).

In passing, I add that neither do we assemble for worship to be charmed by a smooth-talking orator, entertained by a funny comedian, or lectured on subjects not pertaining to God's sacred word. We assemble to "hear the word of the Lord" (Is. 66:5). Those who stand up to preach must preach the word of God (2 Tim. 4:2). It is their duty to declare the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27), and in all cases to speak God's Word faithfully (Jer.23:28).

When we come into the presence of God may we truly worship him and may we leave with a rich blessing for having done so.

Skeptic Converted

A minister preached a sermon one evening and went home utterly discouraged. He felt that he was a failure in the ministry, though at the same time he was greatly burdened for the lost. Some time past midnight his doorbell rang, and the leader of the choir, who was known as a bit of a skeptic, came to him saying, "Doctor, I am in agony concerning my soul. Your sermon tonight has convicted me of my sin, and I must have help or I shall die." In a very short time he was rejoicing in Christ. When asked what it was in the sermon that had impressed him, he said, "It was not so much what you said as the way you said it. I could see by the look in your eye and by the very pathos in your voice that you were longing for men to be saved, and I could not resist your message."

Our Records (last Sunday)	
Morning Worship	96
Evening Worship	52

Upcoming Events	
"Red" Sunday	Feb 15
Church Clean up Day	Feb 28
Soul Food Dinner	Feb 22

Memory Verse

"And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? 37. And Peter said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" ...Acts 8:36-37

Minister's Message

Meaningful and Rewarding Worship

Around the world people assemble for the worship of Jehovah each first day of the week. Some do so only from a sense of habit or duty. Their bodies are present, but their minds are dwelling on other matters. Some people quickly fall asleep and get nothing but a little physical rest from their presence. Some people attend primarily to visit with friends and extended family. Worship of God is secondary to them. Some attend with the attitude of a parole officer, i.e., to checkup on their neighbors to make sure that they are conforming to God's law. Needless to say, the folks described above take little with them from their time in the assembly of the saints. But then, others attend the same congregation and go home refreshed, spiritually renewed and motivated to serve the Lord with gladness for the rest of the week.

The following 8 characteristics can be seen in their approach to worship.

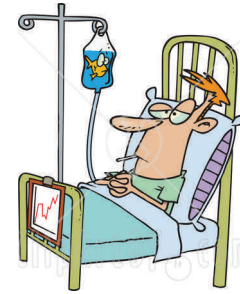
- They come to the assembly with high anticipation and eagerness. They are hungering and thirsting for righteousness and they are filled, (Matt 5:6).
- They approach the presence of God with humility and reverence (Heb. 12:28-29).
- They come with godly sorrow for their failures (2 Cor. 7:10), a willingness to confess their sins (I John 1:8-10) and a strong desire to do better.
- They joyfully sing the hymns of praise (Eph. 5:19) with the spirit and with the understanding (I Cor.14:15) and are edified by them.
- They fervently pray, believing that God hears and answers the prayers of His children (I John 5:14-15).
- They remember the sufferings of Christ on their behalf with deep emotion (Matt. 26:26-29).
- With gratitude, they generously give their gifts unto God with thanksgiving (II Cor. 9:7).
- They listen carefully and eagerly to God's word proclaimed. Giving full attention they hear the word of the Lord" Ezek. 37:4).

If you will learn and remember these eight points and make them the cornerstone of our worship, you will understand and appreciate what it means to worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). You will be glad to go tell the world, "It was good for me to go to he house of God" (Ps. 122:1).

Let Your Faith
Be Seen in

PLEASE Remember To Pray, Visit or Call Those Who Are Sick and Shut-In...

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



Sis. Frankie Austin
Sis. Christine Creswell
Bro. and Sis. Walter Lee
Sis. Princella Moss
Sis. Jessie Taylor

We pray they will continue to improve in health. Continue to pray for comfort for their families, as well.

The Simple Message

A minister felt that the words he spoke from Sunday to Sunday were not bearing the fruit they should. One Saturday morning after he had finished writing his sermon, the thought occurred to him, "Perhaps I shoot too high. I will go down and see if Betty can understand it." Betty was a trusted kitchen helper. He went to the kitchen and called her to come and hear his sermon. She hesitated but came when he insisted. After he had read a few sentences he asked, "Do you understand that?" "No," she replied. He repeated the idea in simpler language and then asked her if she saw it. "I see it a little," she said. Again he simplified it. She saw it more clearly and showed deep interest but said to him, "Plane it down a little more." And once again he simplified it. Then she exclaimed with ecstasy, "Now I see it! Now I understand it!" He returned to his study and rewrote his sermon in the simple style that Betty could understand. On Sunday morning he went to church in fear and trembling lest his people should be contemptuous of his sermon but he fully resolved to try the experiment. To his surprise, he found he received better attention than ever before, and there were tears in the eyes of many of his congregation. From that time on, he changed his style of language and had no further cause to feel that his work was unsuccessful. Clarity of thought and expression do not rob our testimony of its depth and significance. A witness for Christ need never fear oversimplification.

Welcome Visitors...to the Lord's Service! We are honored by your presence and want to thank you for worshipping here with us!

We want to personally thank you for joining us today. It is our prayer you leave our worship services with an uplifted spirit. Here is what you can expect. **PRAYING, PREACHING, SINGING:** Non-instrumental music plays a great part in our worship services. We hope that you will find this to be an uplifting praise to the Lord...(Eph. 5:19). **LORD'S SUPPER:** Each Sunday, we observe the Lord's Supper, while we reflect on the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and the hope of everlasting life we can live through HIM...(1 Cor. 11:23-26). **CONTRIBUTION:** During the service, we as members are given the opportunity to give a portion of what god has given to us. This offering is used to support the Church and to help spread God's word...(1 Cor. 16:1-2).

Announcements

Note: We must ask you to PLEASE silence (vibrate or turn off) your cell phone and please refrain from walking or talking during our worship service.

Note: Please remember to keep in prayer the following: Sisters Frankie Austin, Christine Creswell, Princesa Moss and Jessie Taylor, Bro. Cedric Nix, Bro. and Sis. Walter Lee. Sister Lee, Sis. Betty Burton (Tara Criner's mother) and Bro. James Evans' wife, Cecilia, all for their health concerns.

Note: We're still encouraging each member to continue to invite a guest to our services each Sunday and Wednesday night throughout the month of February. Remember, our goal is to increase our numbers in worship.

Note: We invite to come study with us on Wednesday nights as we begin studying the book of 1st Corinthians.

Note: Please be reminded that pledges for the second phase of our building program are due now until the end of February. Our goal is to raise \$20,000. If you have your pledge to offer today, please lay them in the proper basket during collection time.

Note: Please keep Bro. John Lemon in your prayers, as he is out of town today.

Note: The First Sunday Singing will be here today at 2:30 pm.

The **Shady Acres Church of Christ** will host an Educational Seminar for adults and youth on how the law works for us and against you when stopped by police. It will be held on February 7 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Also they will have a recreational activity at IT'Z from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. Contact Bro. Lamont Robins (832.483.5798) and see bulletin board for more information.

Note: February 15 will be our "Red" Sunday. Members are asked to wear something red.

The **Pearland Church of Christ** will host the Texas Christian Acapella Music Ministry on February 21 at 6:00 pm. Admission is free to all. Special guest group: "Soundation."

The **Russell Road Church of Christ** has invited our men to their 15th annual Men's Day Seminar on February 28. Theme: "**Give Me This Mountain.**" Please see bulletin board for more information.



February Birthdays

Constance Washington	4	Madisyn Dallas	19
Mia Person	9	Keyshawn Vaughn	20
Norma Brooks	17	JaQuincia Lemon	25
James Sims, Jr	17		



Happy Anniversary

Thou Shalt Worship The Lord Thy God

Jesus said "thou shalt worship the Lord thy God. And Him only shalt thou serve" (Matt. 4:10). Man's greatest privilege is to worship the Sovereign Creator of the Universe. No other earthly experience can equal worship. Men have fought and died for the freedom to worship. How much more to come into the presence of Jehovah?

Man's greatest *need* is to have communion and fellowship with God and that is precisely the purpose of worship. When the human heart is in sin it is separated from God, and darkness and despair hangs heavy over it (Isa. 59:1-2). When in acceptable worship, man the sinner, is allowed to approach the Father and receive a blessing (Luke 15:11-24). In Lord's Day worship we remember Christ's death in the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:23-28); that is a communion, a participation with the Lord (1 Cor. 10:16). In our songs and prayers we converse with God (Ps. 34:1-6). Man without God in his life, is like a body without a spirit (James 2:26) But man in a proper relationship with God enjoys the abundant life (John 10:10).

Man's greatest *responsibility* is to worship God in an acceptable fashion. Jesus reminded the woman at the well that God seeks true worshipers who will worship him in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24). Our worship must be according to the will of the Father to be acceptable (Matt. 7:21). The wise person will look to scripture to be sure that he is indeed serving God as he desires, especially in these times when numerous religions all profess to worship God.

Man's greatest *hope* is to live with God in eternity, which is the promised reward of faithful worshipers. If we want to be with the saved in that glorious worship assembly, then surely we must be among his worshipers now. In Revelation chapter 7, John foresaw the redeemed of all nations in heaven, worshiping God (7:5-11).