



We are honored and blessed to have you worshipping with us today and we extend our warmest welcome. Our service is modeled after the New Testament pattern of worship. If you have questions or concerns please express them to us. We are all here to serve.

Today's Services

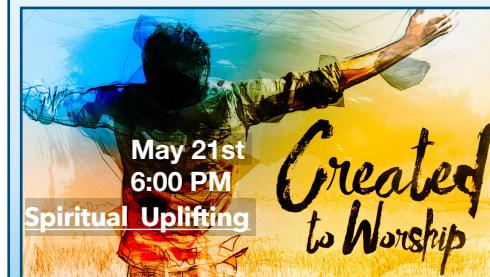
Singing
Opening Prayer
Singing
Preaching
Invitation Song
Communion Song
Communion
Offering
Announcements
Closing Song
Closing Prayer

God's Plan of Salvation

Hear	Romans 10:17
Believe	Mark 16:15-16
Repent	Luke 13:3-5
Confess	Matthew 10:32-33
Baptism	1Peter 3:21
Live Faithfully	Revelation2:10

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Class	10:00 AM
Sunday AM Worship	11:00 AM
Sunday PM Worship	5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Class	7:00 PM



Let's Pray!

Health: Zandra, Ebony, Francisco & Wanda & family, Peaches, Prince, Leola & Larry, Thom & Mary Elizabeth, Irma, TC & friend Don, Sylvia & Patrick, Carol's mother Loretta, Lorena & the Young family as they mourn their loss, Blake's mother (Heather), Carla's husband, Arcy's Mother (Theresa), Young Jeremiah's cousin (Rashad). Shannon's friend Julia.

Surgery/Recovery: Lenard, Lorena, Jullian, Ricky & Albert Young (Lorena's brothers). (King) Jessica's nephew.

Also: Kevin Williams & family. Shannon's well being. Paul Brass' well being. The Johnson's and the Harmon's are traveling.

May 27th - 29th 6:00 PM

GOSPEL MEETING



Need volunteers:

To help with Gospel Carnival on June 15th.
Sign up sheet is in the foyer.

The Great Invitation

by Rodney Nulph

"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden..." (Matthew 11:28a). This is without doubt the greatest invitation that has ever been given! Of course, the One Who gave this invitation really desired and desires that everyone will accept it. **"For God so loved the world..."** (John 3:16). Most everyone would like to enjoy what this invitation brings—rest, forgiveness, joy, peace, love and among other wonderful blessings, an eternal home in Heaven when life as we know it is over. While it is true that we can never earn this invitation (it is freely given), each one must accept the invitation on God's terms. Sadly, not everyone has the spiritual ambition to accept our Lord's invitation. What is involved in accepting this Great Invitation?

Firstly, there must be an **awareness**. In order to accept Christ's invitation, one must be aware of his or her condition. If one is not aware that he "labors" and is "heavy laden" without acceptance of this invitation, then why would anyone "come"? On another occasion, Jesus put it this way, "... if any man thirst..." (John 7:37b). If one does not know he is thirsty, why would he seek water? Sadly, many folks are walking around "spiritually dehydrated" and never even know it! On still another occasion, Jesus said, **"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst..."** (Matthew 5:6a). Until we are aware that without Christ our spiritual bellies are "growling," we can never accept the Great Invitation!

Secondly, there must be an **apprehension**. Simply stated, one must feel concerned and uneasy about



his or her spiritual hunger and thirst! Sadly, some seemingly know they are lacking but are not really concerned about the remedy. Think for a minute physically. If a person is hungry, usually everything gets put on hold and life's activities somewhat cease until he or she is fed. Even when a loved one dies, we usually have a dinner and partake of necessary food. Yet, far too often, spiritual hunger takes a "backseat" to life's activities. We frequently allow the smallest interruption to keep us from our spiritual food. However, the blessing ("being filled") goes to the one who is not satisfied about being hungry and thirsty (Matthew 5:6). The blessing ("rest") goes to the one who is not content with "laboring" alone and being "heavy laden" (Matthew 11:28). It is the one who is completely dissatisfied with spiritual dehydration that is filled with **"living water"** (John 4:10; 7:37). We will never be filled with heaven's "bread and water" (John 6:35; 7:37) until we are no longer happy to empty!

Lastly, there must be an **action**. In the Great Invitation, the action was clear, **"come"** (Matthew 11:28). In John 7:37, the action was clear "come and drink." This is a personal choice on the part of each individual. This is one of the most difficult parts of sharing the message of

Jesus that we often face. We desire for a certain person to obey and find this awesome storehouse of spiritual food and water, and yet, individually he or she has little or no desire. Christianity is a personal choice! Sadly, some make the choice not to accept Christ's invitation. While Christians plead and encourage, there is a choice each accountable person must make! We will

never experience the bounty of the Lord until we make that personal choice to do so.

As John closed the Book of Revelation, some of the last words were a plea to accept Christ's invitation, **"And the Spirit and the bride say, come. And let him that heareth say, come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely"** (Revelation 22:17). Dear Reader, our plea and our prayer is that you will accept this invitation. Otherwise, you will miss out on the greatest feast ever. Please accept it!

The Mature Faith

by Ronald D. Reeves

I suppose everyone would like to view himself as reasonably mature concerning all the facets of life, whether as a family man, a worker or as a citizen in the community as assessed by one's friends and acquaintances. What about maturity of faith? Do we know enough about faith to be able to properly judge a mature faith? James advises us that the mature faith is both exclusive and inclusive in character (3:13-5:20). The mature faith excludes envying and strife, the enthronement of pleasures, speaking evil of brethren, sins of omission, the improper use of wealth, grudge holding, vacillation and hypocrisy. On the other hand, the mature faith includes purity, peace, forbearance, compliance, mercy, humility, resisting the devil, mourning for sin, spiritually sound business practices, patience, dependence on godly prayer and the conversion of the lost. No doubt all of us have room for growth unto maturity. May each of us have the courage to commit himself to possess the character of faith presented by James so long ago. Such a commitment will surely sponsor the favor of the Lord and the receipt of blessings unanticipated in kind and measure.

My Attitude

by Cliff Holmes

I woke up early today, anticipating all I had to do before day's end.

I have responsibilities to fulfill today.
My job is to choose what kind of day I am going to have.

Today I can complain because the weather is rainy, or
I can be thankful that the grass is getting watered for free.

Today, I can feel sad that I don't have more money, or
I can be glad that my finances encourage me to plan my purchases wisely and guide me away from waste.

Today, I can grumble about my health, or
I can rejoice that I am alive.

Today, I can lament over all that I didn't have when I was growing up, or
I can feel grateful that they allowed me to be born.

Today, I can cry because roses have thorns, or
I can celebrate that thorns have roses.

Today, I can mourn my lack of friends, or
I can excitedly embark upon a quest of being friendly.

Today, I can whine because I have to go to work, or
I can shout with joy because God has given me the power to "create" wealth.

Today, I can murmur because I have to do housework, or
I can feel honored because the Lord has provided shelter for my mind, body and soul.

Today stretches ahead of me, waiting to be shaped.
Here I am, the sculptor who gets to do the shaping.
What today will be like is up to me.
I get to choose what kind of day I will have!

Have a really Great Day—unless you have other plans?