

In Jesus Name, Amen

"In Jesus name, Amen." How many times have you said that phrase repeated at the end of a prayer? Thousands of times, right? How many times do you find that phrase at the end of a New Testament prayer? Zero. Not even a single time. That seems strange, doesn't it? Of all the recorded prayers we have in the New Testament, there is not a single time we see that phrase at the end.

I'm not arguing against saying this in prayer. In fact, I think this is a tremendous way to end our prayers (and begin, for that matter). What I am concerned about is "vain repetition" (Matthew 6:7). I fear that because we use this phrase so much that it can become a mindless formula. It is possible for us to pray something with our lips and not our hearts (1 Corinthians 14:15).

So I want us all to pause for a moment before the next time we pray. Let's stop and think about what we are

By Doy Moyer

doing when we pray "in Jesus name." When we do this we are calling on Jesus' authority. He is seated at the right hand of the Almighty God (Hebrews 1:3). He is above all rule, authority, power, and dominion (Ephesians 1:21). His name is exalted above every name (Philippians 2:10). He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Revelation 19:16). He is the Creator and Sustainer of all things, visible and invisible (Colossians 1:16-17). He rules in heaven with a rod of iron (Revelation 19:15). He is the Son of God (John 1:34).

In His name we can boldly come before the throne (Hebrews 4:14-16). Meditate on this great and awesome thought before you approach our Father in prayer. "Father, in the mighty name of Your only Son, Jesus Christ, we approach Your throne of grace in prayer!"

Classes This Week

Tuesday 8 PM Truth-seekers in Student Center Rm 2310	Thursday 7 PM Ladies Class at the Rouse's on "Giving God Control"	Saturday 6-8 PM 1st-5th grade at the Hahn's	Saturday 6:30-8:30 PM 6th-12th grade at TBD
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Brad Marshall (Allie Hosey's Cousin)	Jesse Godwin (Troy's father and Mac's grandfather)	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	Louise Pack (Anna and Christopher's grandmother)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)	David Hartsell (Holly and Brad's Father)	Kate Miller (Daughter of Brandon and Erin Miller)
Betty Mcareavey (Mary Ann Roberts' mom)	Audrey Barnett (Joanetta's sister-in-law)	Betty Bradford	Hazel Gilliland and Sherry Carroll (Toni's relatives)
Tom Davis (Walker Davis' Uncle)	Joy Powell (Tori Luther's grandmother)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	William Smith (Ken Sullivan's brother)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	William Herd	Rebecca Davis (Chuck Hahn's Niece)	Ray Humphrey (Seth's dad)
John M. Rhodes and Bonnie Rhodes Kirkley (Toni Herd's family)	Joe Perkins (Scott Perkins' Dad)	Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephew)	Ellie Vaughn (Scott and Genna's baby)

October Birthdays

- 1-Jacob Smith
- 1-Aiden Hahn
- 3-Jennifer Hasty
- 3-James Malloy
- 4-Jordan Corneil
- 6-Jessica Anderson
- 7-Molly Borden
- 8-Heath Fowler
- 12-Stacy Norman
- 17-Abbie Harrison
- 18-Eric Shotts
- 20-Evan Pender
- 20-Keith Bailey
- 21-Zac Slay
- 22-Christopher White
- 22-Meredith Bragwell
- 24-Sara Beth Roberts
- 24-Suzanna Roberts
- 25-Bethany Bradford
- 26-Palmer Daniels
- 26-Esther Biddle
- 29-Belle Johnson
- 29-Matt Hall
- 29-Julie Britnell
- 29-Madi Luther
- 29-Stewart West
- 30-Caleb Gandy
- 31-Kitty Tam

News and Notes

- ☒ - Let's keep in our prayers our expectant mother Nicole Pender.
- ☒ - Our new Teaching Quarter starts today!
- ☒ - The Men's class on Wednesday Night will now meet in the auditorium and the Ladies class will meet in the college room.
- ☒ - We express sympathy to the Anderson's at the loss of their expectant child.
- ☒ - Ariel Ramsey's uncle, Dan Hamilton, was in a serious car accident last week.
- ☒ - Please pray for Jordan Alexander, the baby daughter of Sheryl Fowler's friends, Justin and Brittany, as she has open heart surgery on Thursday.
- ☒ - Please pray for Eleanor McKay, 6-year-old friend of Erica Seymore, who is undergoing chemo treatments.
- ☒ - Please remember Ada Owen's sister, Wanda Price, in your prayers as they try to determine the cause of sudden blindness in one eye.
- ☒ - There is an opportunity to sign up to host and/or teach the monthly kids' classes for the school year on the bulletin board.

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Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

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Learning to Trust God

By Larry Rouse



Thoughts to Ponder

For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Cor 3:11).

What is the purpose of the body of Christ, the church of our Lord? Are we building in a wise way or are we pursuing things that are not in the Lord's will? It is important to know the foundation that God gave His people so that we can be sure to build upon it. "According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Cor 3:10-11).

We must build on the foundation of Jesus Christ. In the work of conversion and in the work of helping a Christian to grow, we must help others to build a personal faith in the Lord. To truly bring one to "see the unseen" and then to "know the Lord" is not an easy process. When you see the reality of the spiritual realm, then you will make decisions that will be very much "out of step" with this world. When Moses rejected the riches and esteem that was offered to him as a prince of Egypt so that he could "suffer affliction with the people of God," he did this because he could "see Him who is invisible" (Heb 11:24-27). Are we helping people to "see the unseen" or are we making people comfortable in their worldliness?

Does the local church that we attend make the building of faith a priority? Are our homes a place where a daily trust in God is a priority? The reason why I ask these questions is that I fear some Christians and some churches have drifted from this great foundation.

My Personal Struggle to Find a Biblical Faith

How did you come to trust in the Lord? I can remember many years ago, when I was in High School, an occasion in my life where I saw the emptiness of the path I was following and desired to find something more. On a clear, cold night I went outside and looked up at the stars and prayed a simple prayer for God to let me find Him. It was a humble prayer for light and truth that I followed up with my first attempt to read the Bible for myself.

As I started reading the scriptures there were so many things that I did not understand but there were some things that stood out distinctively to me. As I

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Walker Davis (334) 703-0050
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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

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read the book of Romans I came to see the power and optimism of a genuine faith in Christ. When I read the words of Paul concerning his life and sufferings as viewed by the heart of faith, I was amazed! “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (**Rom 8:18**). Later, in the same chapter, Paul expresses the confidence that faith brings in our outlook on our day-to-day events. “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose” (**Rom 8:28**). After reading that chapter I sincerely wanted to have that kind of faith in my life!

I came to find out that the process of building such a faith takes time! In the year that followed I began to seek the Lord in the best way that I knew (**Jn 7:17**). So many steps that I took were imperfect, but I constantly sought to do what I believed the Lord had spoken in His word. As I went through this seeking process I tried to surround myself with people who also placed a high value on walking by faith. I found that both in the denominational world and in the local churches that I would later attend, that I was “out of step” with others that seemed to have another reason for attending the assemblies of the local church.

The stand that I take today is one of faith. When I left the human movements that dominate the religious world, I simply wanted to follow the Lord apart from the rule and the traditions of men. Paul left Judaism with this simple goal in his heart: “But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him” (**Phil 3:7-9**). When I was baptized into Christ, I did so with “faith in the working of God” (**Col 2:11-13**). As I came to face the unpredictable difficulties of life, I came to know that I serve a God that will never forsake me and thus learned to live without fear (**Heb 13:5-6**). Over time I have found a faith that allowed me to view my life in light of the promises of God (**Rom 8:18, 28**)!

Have We Drifted?

Does the local church that we attend make the building of faith a priority? Are our homes a place where a daily trust in God is a priority? The reason

why I ask these questions is that I fear some Christians and some churches have drifted from this great foundation. “Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin” (**Heb 3:12-13**).

Some Personal Questions

1. Do I have a daily confidence in the promises of God and of His care, or do I worry and have the scornful attitude of the world?
2. In times of uncertainty and hurt do I read the promises of God and pour my heart out to Him in prayer, or do I complain and seek out worldly companions to take my burdens? (**Mt 11:28-29**).
3. When I attend the assemblies, am I able to place myself before God and personally find application to my life from His word regardless of how interesting the speaker is or how friendly others are?
4. Do I often think about the Lord, His present approval, His future return so that in everything I do I see Him as my constant companion (**Col 3:17, 22-23**)?

Do Not Accept Substitutes

Please do not let the approval and the praise of men be the “joy” you find among Christians (**Gal 1:10, 2 Cor 10:12, 17**). Some become “issue-oriented” out of a sense of party loyalty or out of a desire to display their personal knowledge and thinking skills. There is a big difference between building up another’s faith in the Lord and in preaching one’s personal glory (**2 Cor 4:1-2**).

What will the Lord find when He returns? It is my prayer that He will find in each of us a genuine, pure faith that has been tested by fire! Does this describe you and me?

“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls” (**1 Peter 1:6-9**).



Living Godly Lives

By Stan Cox

The apostle Paul wrote to Titus, “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age” (**Titus 2:11-12**). In these words are found the response of every Christian to the gift of grace. We have the hope of salvation because of what God has granted to us. Our response is an ordering of our lives: “we should live soberly, righteously and godly.”

The definition of the word godly is minimally helpful. The term refers to piety, devotion and reverence. More helpful are the verses that describe the kind of life that characterizes the Christian profession. For example, when considering the proper role model for a godly life, we consider Jesus Himself. Peter wrote, “But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy’” (**1 Peter 1:15-16**). Jesus was guileless (**cf. 1 Peter 2:21-24**), and pure (**cf. 1 John 3:1-3**). In His life, and in His death, He always sought to do the will of His Father in heaven (**cf. John 15:10**).

A truly godly life is an informed one. Paul wrote about the Jews, who “have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God” (**Romans 10:2-3**). In order for us to live a godly life, we have to know what God considers godly. Fortunately, He has revealed these things to us in scripture.

So, simply put, a godly life is a life that is lived in accord with God’s expressed will. The Psalmist wrote, “Teach me, O Lord, the way of Your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart. Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it. Incline my heart to Your testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, and revive me in Your way” (**119:33-37**). He contrasts God’s way with “worthless things,” and contrasts God’s testimonies with covetousness. God’s will is the antithesis of evil. His way is the way of godliness. Consider these words: “How sweet are Your words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every

false way. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (**119:103-105**).

So, we seek to emulate our Lord. We seek direction from God to know what is right and wrong. And, as we attain such knowledge, it is important that we dwell upon it. Paul wrote the Philippians, “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praise-worthy — meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you” (**Philippians 4:8-9**). Meditation on what is righteous, in contrast with the pablum of popular culture, helps to direct the Christian’s path in the way of godliness. The man whose mind dwells in the muck of worldliness will be corrupted in his walk.

Finally, a godly walk is a motivated walk. It is easy to become distracted by the tedium of this life. We can become “shortsighted, even to blindness” (**cf. 2 Peter 1:9**). In fact, Peter’s statement is made within the context of adding virtuous characteristics (including godliness, **vs. 6**), to ensure we don’t suffer from that myopia that would endanger our eternal standing before God. As Paul put it, “Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (**Philippians 3:13-14**). A disciplined Christian, seeking always to do all and only what God allows, will most certainly attain the prize he seeks.

A righteous life is attainable with effort and focus. Such godliness is wonderfully profitable, “For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come” (**1 Timothy 4:8**). Later in the same epistle, Paul wrote, “Now godliness with contentment is great gain” (**6:6**). If we remember that this life is preparatory to eternity, we will answer the call of grace with a life that is lived in accord with God’s righteousness.

