

The Tanner St Church of Christ meets each Lord's Day beginning with Bible classes at **9:30 AM**. We continue with our worship at **10:20 AM** and again at **5:00 PM**. We also meet each Wednesday evening at **7:00 PM** for Bible study and worship. Our meeting place is located about ¾ of a mile from I30 at 1512 Tanner St in Malvern, AR.

If you have questions about what we believe and teach, please visit our website, tannerst.com to listen to sermons or read past articles from our bulletin. Or you can contact us and we will be glad to find a convenient time to study with you.

Phone: (501) 332-8806 Email: preacher@tannerst.com

Consider this Verse: **Matthew 18:35**

Visit storeinmyheart.com for a few words regarding these verses.

Needed News

Bill Venable has an appointment with doctors in Little Rock Monday regarding treatment for his kidney stones. **Joyce** is still recovering from Bronchial Pneumonia.

Paula Laubach is still suffering from a severe cold. **Addison Wright** has not been feeling well this past week. **Jordan Wright** now has a cold also.

Continue to pray for good health for those on our "extended family" list **Carolynn Richmond**, **Nettie Jackson**, **Don Venable** and other friends and family. **Ronda Gray** did receive an oral chemo treatment this week.

While prayer is certainly appreciated and needed, maybe a card or letter of encouragement would also be helpful. Any of us who have had an extended illness understand the power of a kind word or expression of care and concern by a friend. We may never know the full impact, but kindness to the less fortunate shows godliness.

Seeking His Righteousness

"...seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.." Matthew 6:33

January 2015

Volume 4 Number 02

Meditate On These Things

Kent E. Heaton Sr

The mind is a beautiful blessing given to man whereby he can ponder and think and challenge his world with better things. From the mind come imagination and thought. The mind represents the hope and the aspiration of all man's needs and wants. From the complex mass of the brain, millions upon millions of thoughts explode upon the eyes of the soul. *"I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well."* (**Psalm 139:14**)

The mind is also the seat of a great battle. In the garden of Eden, Satan used persuasive words to tempt the woman. He did not force her by strength of physical power but with words he caused her to ponder the law of God. *"So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate."* (**Genesis 3:6**) Paul describes the battle with Satan as a spiritual war - *"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."* (**2Corinthians 10:3-5**)

The overwhelming battle of the mind is brought to full reality by Paul in **Ephesians 6:12** - *"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."* With every moment of our existence, we wrestle against the power of Satan seeking to control and direct our lives. He accomplishes this by the power over our minds. God has offered a way to defeat Satan and refuse to allow Satan to control our lives: *"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 praiseworthy -- meditate on these things."* (**Philippians 4:8**)

Paul encourages us to set our minds on these types of things to protect us from the influences of the devil. Meditating on truth, nobility, things that are just, pure and lovely and those things that are of good report with virtue and praise - this should be the mind of the child of God. To meditate on these virtues purifies the mind of the evil influences. Thinking on these things will defeat the works of the flesh (**Galatians 5:19-21**). Giving thought to these things will increase the fruit of the Spirit (**Galatians 5:22-23**).

To mediate on something is to give timely cause to its design, purpose and growth in my life. I must awaken in the morning with the desire to think about things that are true during the day. My actions - determined by my thoughts - are based upon an honest character showing righteousness to those around me. The outlook I have is pure and lovely and looking for the "good report" instead of the bad. My

mind looks for the moral goodness in myself and those around me and I seek to share my life with others in need. The result is a day filled with praise and thanksgiving to God for allowing me to meditate and set my mind on things above, *"Where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God."* (**Colossians 3:1**)

The mind is a terrible thing to waste - especially when we have so many good things to think about. These good things come from time spent in the house of God, sitting at the feet of the Creator and seeking His counsel from His words. What do you think about all day? Meditate on these things!

Just For You

The elders have scheduled a Gospel Meeting for our benefit for the end of March. Mark March 28-April 1 on your calendar and start making plans to receive the full advantage of this opportunity. Terry Summerlin will be presenting lessons for our learning and encouragement.

Names and addresses for last year's visitors are available. Please take the opportunity to get in touch with those who have visited with us, especially those from our community. A letter or visit could be all that is needed to encourage one to engage in Bible study. Also listed are Matt & Tammy Cook who have not visited with us, but Matt's mom (Anne Moyer) desires that we all try to encourage him to return to the Lord. Here is your opportunity to reach a soul for the Lord. It could also be a good start for meeting invitations.

Don't forget to make topical study suggestions for our Sunday Morning Class. Here is your opportunity to let the elder's know what you want to study. DLH