

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](http://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.

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## Consider: Acts 22:16 Needed News

**Ruben Keisler** will not need back surgery but will be doing therapy multiple times this week. **Brenda Keisler** is doing better after receiving shots for her neck pain.

**John & Betty Ragsdale** are both awaiting result from their recent tests.

**Paula Laubach** is doing much better after receiving a steroid shot. **Conrad Harris** will continue to have chemo treatments several weeks a month. **Joyce Venable** is doing much better this week. **Dolline Fain** is suffering from a cold.

The **Simpson** Family is out of town this weekend.

The **Keislars & Thelma Echols** will be leaving on a trip to Alaska the end of this week. The **Hendersons** will be out of town next weekend also. They are going to Georgia to see Jonathan Henderson graduate High School. **Seth Barger** will be speaking in **Dan's** absence next week.

As always, talk to these families to see if any help is needed. Pray for God's will in all things.

# Seeking His Righteousness

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

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## I Saw a Friend Die

Dee Bowman

Death is indeed sad. To watch a death scene is an event not easily erased from one's catalog of memories. I saw a friend die one time. It was a slow death—so slow in fact that he didn't even know it was happening. I saw it coming. I warned him. Others did likewise. But it was all to no avail. He just finally died. May I take a few moments of your time and tell you about it? It could save your life.

He first began to show signs of disease with a loss of appetite. He didn't seemingly care to eat, and even when he ate, he paid not attention to what he ate. He simply was not bothered nor interested in diet. He remarked that other matters needed his attention. His work needed his attention. So did his yard. So did several other things. He had little time to eat. Too many things were demanding of his time.

Now showing signs of a loss of strength, he became sluggish and obviously anemic. It became more and more apparent that he was ill. I talked with him about it. He was evasive and showed no signs of wanting to talk about his condition. He made excuses about this loss of weight, and was not at all impressed with my suggestion that he see the doctor. "I will," he said, "when I become convinced I need one."

Then a terrible thought occurred to me. This is a

contagious disease; and even if he will not allow us to take care of him, surely he will let us help his children. “My children are my businesses,” he said. “If I die, they’re going to die with me.”

Now they are all gone. My friend, his wife and a lovely group of children. At one time, all of them were the picture of a healthy, happy people, busily engaged in living a good, clean, healthy life. Now they are gone, and I can’t believe it has happened. Why should it happen? Why should a seemingly happy family just up and die like that? It’s sad. So sad.

The preceding story is true. You have already surmised, I’m sure, that the death of this family was spiritual, not physical. I hasten to remind you, however, that the fact that the death was not physical should not lessen the impact of the story. On the contrary, it should bring a greater emphasis to it. Spiritual demise is a most tragic, unnecessary event. Hope is gone. The future is bleak beyond belief. It’s sad, because this death has a remedy; it can be prevented.

What causes this spiritual demise? If it is so that there is a remedy, why in the same of common logic was not the remedy applied? Why was not something said or done to stop this spiritual passing away?

The fact is, you can’t force people to serve God. They have the right to refuse spiritual warnings, ignore spiritual warnings, cast off spiritual concerns. And they will often disdain admonitions to take care of their spiritual health.

I hope this father and mother realize that consequences and implications in their lack of concern. It is not enough that they don’t realize their own spiritual condition, but how sad that they are committing spiritual homicide by bringing

about the spiritual death of their own children, children who had before been interested in learning about Jesus and His people. What man has the right to commit such an act? Will not God hold him accountable for such dereliction? Surely He will!

Yes, I saw a friend die—just pass away. A friend and brother in the Lord has gone. Will he come back? Can he bring his family back? I don’t know, but I hope so. How sad to see someone you love die.

# A Tree

**Michael Green**

I was perusing the internet this morning and came across an interesting story. It was the story of a tree. A tree growing alone in the desert. Abused by the sun, sand, heat and wind the tree stood nonetheless. A passing bird found rest in its boughs and inquired of the tree why it bothered to grow in the dead misery of the desert. The tree told the bird, "For you." The bird did not understand. The tree simply explained that were it not there, the bird would have nowhere to sit and would himself be alone and useless in the desert.

You have a purpose. It may not be clear to you, or anyone around you, what that purpose is — but by your mere presence you offer purpose and meaning to others around you. You may be the lone tree in the desert of life that gives another reason for being here or the hope of respite from the unrelenting agony of life. As Mordecai told Esther, "And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14 ESV) Be someone's tree today.