

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: John 17:20-21**

## **Needed News**

**Dolline Fain** is still not feeling very well. She is at Encore in Room 202.

**Paula Laubach** is feeling some better as she continues to deal with tendinitis.

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

**Phyllis Jackson** is in Conway today. I think it has something to do with a new granddaughter, **Kadence Elliot Keisler**.

**Conrad Harris, Thelma Echols, John Ragsdale, Joyce Venable** and others of our number, as well as family have ongoing health issues. **Ricky Ragsdale** is still undergoing therapy for his back injury. The **Harris'** Grandson-in-law, **Wayne Lewallen**, who has visited here several times, had emergency gall bladder surgery last week. We need to pray for each of these and keep in touch with one another so we can help as needed.

Our **Meeting** with James Hamilton **begins today** and goes through Tuesday evening. Have you made plans to attend every service?

# *Seeking His Righteousness*

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

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## **A Close Encounter Of A Spiritual Kind**

Kenneth E. Thomas

In the minds of some Christians to speak of "accepting Jesus as one's personal Savior" is akin to heresy. Why so? Perhaps it is because the language smacks of the denominational doctrine of "salvation at the point of faith in Jesus Christ" as has been made popular by Dr. Billy Graham of North Carolina, a doctrine may I say which flatly contradicts the teaching of the apostles of Christ, (James 2:14-26; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38). However I desire to talk about the idea that our salvation from sin must be a heartfelt personal matter! (Acts 8:37; Romans 6:16-18; 10:8-17) After one's initial salvation from alien sins, the true Christian must maintain a close spiritual relationship with our Savior (John 12:48;14:21-23; 1John 1:6-9).

It is my opinion that in order to maintain the "close relationship" with our Savior we must of necessity maintain a two way communication with Christ. I mean by this we read and meditate upon His inspired word allowing our Savior to "talk to us" (Hebrews 1:1-2). And we speak to Him as our Advocate in prayers of petition as well as thanksgiving from time to time,(2Corinthians 12:7-10; Philippians 4:13; 1John 2:1; 5:11-14). Please read the Scripture references!

### **We Must Not Demote Christ**

Christians should recognize and honor the exalted position to which the Father has granted His Son (Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 1:19-23; Ephesians 5:22-33; Colossians

1:18; Philippians 2:5-11). Please read references! In the “gospel dispensation” The Father has given the Son “all authority both on earth and in heaven.” The one exception being the Father Himself (1Corinthians 15:27).

### **An Illustration**

To Illustrate (Matthew 28:18 & Ephesians 1:19-23), let me tell a story which in some small way perhaps will serve to illustrate what these passages mean:

Let us suppose that the owner of a large plantation should call his only son and say something like the following: Son I wish to give you the oversight of my plantation. All of my servants will now be under your immediate authority, I reserve Myself as the only exception to this rule. The Son accepts this exalted position and begins His reign over all the workers.. However as time passes by few or none of the workers come to the son with their petitions or to ask Him what to do about the various tasks to be carried out, rather they continue to go over the son’s head and petition His father. Now just suppose you were the son and few If any recognized your authority! How do you suppose you would feel about such a situation? Would you not be disturbed as the manager of the great plantation? Sure you would. How do you suppose Christ feels when we fail to allow Him His rule over our lives and rather defer to the Father?

### **We Draw Closer To Those With Whom We Communicate!**

This Should Be Noted As We Observe Communion!

We Are To Observe The Lord’s Supper  
(1Corinthians 11:17-26).

We Meet Around The Lord’s (Christ’s) Table  
(Matthew 26:26-28; Acts 20:6-7).

This It To Be Observed On The Lord’s (Christ’s) Day  
(Acts 20:7; Revelation 1:10).

It Is A Communion of Christ’s Body and Blood  
(1Corinthians 10:16).

### **A Major Question For Each To Consider**

Don’t you believe we should during the course of this observance at least hear a “Thank you, Jesus” in our prayers to the Christ with whom we are gathered to commune? Must Jesus only over hear in an abstract way how much we appreciate His sacrifice as we thank His heavenly Father for Jesus’ death?

And now for all those who are still reading and have not already tuned me out, or deleted this treatise, I wish to list a multiplicity of Bible passages which authorize Christians to address either or both the Father and the Son as we pray. Again let me ask that you please read each of the following passages of holy writ: Colossians 3:16-17; Luke 23:34; Hebrews 4:15; John 14:13; Acts 7:59-60; 1Thessalonians 3:11-14; 2Corinthians 12:8-9; 1John 2:1; 5:11-15; 1Timothy 2:5; Revelation 5:7-9; 22:20; Acts 1:15-26, to whom do you suppose the apostles prayed for divine guidance as to a replacement for Judas, the apostle who hanged himself? Jesus chose the original twelve, isn’t it only reasonable to believe that they prayed to Christ on this occasion? Surely all will agree that this is so.

If it be wrong to address Jesus in at least some of our prayers, pray tell why do we address Him in many of our hymns as we sing in our assemblies, songs such as, “Now Let Us Have A Little Talk With Jesus.” Brethren, it is just as sinful to sing unauthorized words as it is to preach unauthorized teaching from the pulpit. If not, please tell me why not? We often sing such

Songs as, “Jesus Keep Me Near The Cross...” I believe such to be scriptural how about you?