

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: Colossians 1:13-14

Needed News

Phyllis Jackson continues to deal with her knee problems. **Adene Gray** is doing better but her cough is still hanging on. **Paula Laubach** is also doing better but has a lingering cough. **Joyce Venable** is suffering from a severe sore throat along with continual health issues that are aggravated by recent weather changes.

Chris Wright will have surgery at St. Vincent's in Little Rock this Friday to get rid of kidney stones that have caused him problems for a long while. He will be off work and under restrictions for a few weeks.

John Ragsdale had some heart tests last week. A new stint was put in also. He is still not quite recovered.

Several members continue to deal with sore throat and sinus issues. These are certainly more prevalent this time of year. When these issues are added to other health problems they lead to much discomfort and difficulty. We all need to remember one another as we approach our Father each day in prayer. Daily study is a necessity if we are to remain faithful. Live by the Word, not in the world.

Seeking His Righteousness

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

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Listening Like Jesus

Ron Drumm

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was a listener. He listened to Nicodemus (**John 3:1-15**), the Samaritan woman at the well (**John 4:7-30**), Martha (**Luke 10:38-42**), the rich young ruler (**Luke 18:18-23**), Zacchaeus (**Luke 19:1-10**), the Syro-Phoenician woman (**Mark 7:24-30**) and many others.

The ability to listen well is an art that we all can develop. When Jesus spoke of things that would be revealed or brought to light He admonished, *"If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear. And He said to them, Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you. For to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away"* (**Mark 4:23-25**). Jesus was telling His disciples that the ability to hear well involves applying oneself to hearing or listening attentively, and that God will take into account how well we take notice of what we hear.

We focus on what others are saying so that we can correctly hear them. We heed their words with the purpose of understanding. Closely examining their words will help us know how to respond. Someone once wrote: "Listening to one another and sharing our lives becomes a means by which we nourish a sense of community in relationship while also nourishing our freedom and individuality."

By listening to one another, we are opening a pathway that shows we are seeking the well being of someone other

than ourselves. The apostle Paul instructed, *"Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor"* (**1Corinthians 10:24**). King Solomon of old wrote that there is *"a time to keep silence, and a time to speak"* (**Ecclesiastes 3:7b**). The apostle James expressed it this way, *"Know this my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness that God requires"* (**James 1:19-20**).

When we listen, how we react to what we hear is really important. One of the proverbs expresses it well, *"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver. Like a gold ring or an ornament of gold is a wise reprove to a listening ear"* (**Proverbs 25:11-12**). We do not listen just to help by offering a solution, but also that the person expressing his feelings might find clarity and even self-direction in the things he has said aloud for your hearing.

Listening like Jesus will nurture caring relationships. A loving open ear will nourish a sense of community and family sharing far more than a constant flapping tongue. May God bless us to be good listeners!

Why Is It?

Morris D. Norman

We see so many in today's society that are doing so many things to destroy health and shorten life. There are many campaigns and much public advertisement to keep people from the evil of drugs, drink and tobacco but the number who participate is ever growing. Sober thinking people say "Why is it?" But there are areas in which preachers, elders, teachers and concerned Christians may ask, "Why is it?"

Why is it that people have to be urged to love and serve the Lord? It is the only way that man can possibly escape an

eternal hell. When people find out that they have some dread disease they will immediately see a doctor and hope that there is a remedy that they will be able to follow to rid themselves of the disease. But when they find out that they are on the road to eternal ruin, they very often take offense at the one who sounds the warning. Why is it?

Why is it that people have to be urged to even consider what the Bible says? It is extremely difficult to find people who are even interested in a study of the Scriptures; people who are interested enough in their souls to sit down and talk about what the Bible says for a few minutes.

Why is it that people have to be urged to obey the gospel after they have learned the truth and know what jeopardy their souls are in? Every assembly is characterized by repeating the Lord's invitation. Lesson after lesson is presented to urge upon those who are not Christians to respond to the Lord's pleadings. But they spurn invitation after invitation. They spurn the yearnings, the love and encouragement of those who are interested in them. Why is it?

Why is it that "Christians" have to be urged to regularly attend the worship and study assemblies? One would think that those who "love" the Lord would not have to be urged (and really, those who love the Lord do not have to be urged to attend). But those who take the responsibility of teaching, spend so much of their time trying to get people to do what is good for them and what they know they ought to do. Why is it?

Does this not speak of the fact that others love our souls more than we love our own when we have to be urged to do what is good for our eternal security? Others spend hours in study and prayer, but we lightly turn away their pleadings. Why is it?