

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

Needed News

Nettie Jackson, John's Mom, has had several seizures and passing out spells. Hospice is now helping with her care.

Thelma Echols is in Malvern Hospital Room 202. Thin blood and much swelling in her legs.

Phyllis Jackson is continuing physical therapy for a few more weeks. She will see the knee doctor again in about six weeks.

Paula Laubach has doctor appointment this week regarding her stomach pain.

Bill Venable has stitches in his head after getting hit in the head with a falling basketball goal. **Joyce Venable** is dealing with a sore throat.

The Simpson Family is out of town this weekend.

Lately our attendance has been very low, especially in our evening service and Bible classes. Some of this can be attributed to sickness in several of our families. Some almost never attend these services. Some, though, seems to be due to other interests interfering with gathering with the saints. We who are strong must do our part to strengthen and support the weak. Have you asked where others have been?

Seeking His Righteousness

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

April 2016

Volume 5 Number 14

Don't Play With Fire!

Wise parents advise their children not to play with fire, lest in doing so they would be burned. Yet many of us play around with those things that can destroy our souls forever.

The one who starts running with the crowd that seeks to break the law and see just how far they can go is opening the door to dangers that will engulf him.

The one who dates those who think it is smart to drink, smoke, pet and tell sexy jokes is passing self over the flames that can in a moment reach out and destroy reputation, happiness, and eternal soul.

Any one who displays their body before others in shorts or a bathing suit is playing with fire. Those who will "go out" with one who is married or divorced is putting temptation to adultery in his or her path.

One who focuses interest on appearance, either in self, companions or belongings is playing with fire. His focus is only in the surface and the substance will continue to be ignored. This will lead to desires of a worldly nature and they will not come to truly know God.

Are you playing with fire? Think seriously before it is too late. Sin works slowly but surely.

(This article has been adapted from an article in an old bulletin—The Edifier DLH)

Jonah's Kinfolk

Johnny Ramsey

The Book of Jonah contains only forty-eight verses, but they are dynamic and loaded with pertinent lessons for all of us! One of the rare characters of the Bible is this reluctant prophet who ran from duty to avoid preaching to his political enemies. Jonah was a super patriot but a sorry prophet. He reminds me of some brethren I have known who are "strong" Democrats or Republicans, but are virtually useless as Christians. They are far more ardent fans of their favorite football team than sincere as soul-winners for Jesus. They had much rather cheer for a touchdown than rejoice over the salvation of a sinner. Such folk may pout or complain about the lack of comfort in the church building while being willing to sit in a football stadium in a cold rain storm! We always find time for those things we deem to be worthy of our investment in time, energy and money. The psalmist gets it right: *"Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live; for thy law is my delight"* (**Psalm 119:77**).

Jonah knew that God's message was powerful enough even to convert the people of the wicked city of Ninevah. But he did not want them saved and blessed by Jehovah. What kind of preacher would deeply regret responses!? Some folk evidently have not wanted to share the gospel with blacks, the poor, Russians, Cubans, etc. How narrow is their view of the Great Commission, that Christ intended for every creature in every nation until the end of time. **Matthew 28:18-20** and **Mark 16:15-16** forever disrupt this mindset of the KKK and all other white supremacy groups. All men stand on

level ground before the grace of God at the foot of the cross. The universal nature of redemption is clearly seen in the light of **Isaiah 1:18**, *"Come now, and let us reason together, saith Jehovah: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool"*.

Jonah reminds me of the selfish prayer: "God bless me and my wife, and Joe and his wife; these four, and no more. Amen." Spiritual unconcern kills the fire of evangelism while the souls of millions die in sin. Prejudice, bigotry and bias fan the flames of respect of persons while the demons in hell rejoice over our interest in comfort, ease and personal pleasure. The prophet Jonah has a lot of kinfolk today -- sadly, even in the Lord's church. In worship assemblies we sometimes pray for the lost, but often that is as close as we personally get to them. An important part of praying is a willingness to become part of the answer. Loving our neighbors as we love ourselves would certainly mean that we yearn for their salvation. Read **Luke 10:25-37**. An old gospel song challenges our attention: Arise the Master calls for thee, The harvest days are here. No longer sit with folded hands, But gather far and near. The noble ranks of volunteers Are daily growing everywhere, But still there's work for millions more, Then for the fields prepare.

The early church, even in the midst of vicious persecution, *"Went everywhere preaching the word"* (**Acts 8:4**). The apostle Paul, even while he was in prison, shared the gospel with Governor Felix and King Agrippa (**Acts 24:22-27; 26:1-29**). Surely, we can do much more than we ever have. Or, do we want to walk in the steps of Jonah? Eternity will reveal the answer.