

## For Our Information

Joyce Venable is suffering again with fever and flu like symptoms.

Betty Ragsdale is recovering from surgery and is doing some better.

Brenda Keisler is to get more shots in her neck next month.

Vickie McNees is dealing with a lot of pain with little relief.

Carolynn Richmond is undergoing some treatments, but is at home.

**Remember one another as we pray to the Father each day**

## Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about our work in the Lord's Kingdom.

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We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

## Who's Making Your Choices?

Eve's sin involved making a choice regarding who would determine right and wrong. God had given man instruction and following it was not difficult. Adam & Eve saw the knowledge of good and evil as a means to make their own decision regarding right and wrong. And we have been getting it wrong ever since. Let God determine good from bad and follow His direction.

I do not know who wrote the words of the above paragraph, but it does contain a much needed reminder. Most of our struggles can be traced back to a failure to let God show to way. He knows good and bad. He understands what we need. Using the mind of man to decide how to please God is going to lead to trouble, no matter what your education. Let God Lead! (DLH)

# Seeking His Righteousness

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## Love Of The Lord

### Phil Robertson

Michael Jordan has been hailed by many as the greatest basketball player ever to play the game. Some say he is even the greatest athlete ever to play any game. With six NBA championships, five MVP trophies, two Olympic gold medals, and 14 All-Star game appearances, it is hard to argue against him.

I had the pleasure of watching him play during the twilight of his career. Although he did not fly around the court and dunk the ball repeatedly like he did in his younger days, he could still shoot. He would sit back and



*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

**Romans 5:8**



## Meet With Us

### Worship Services

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

### Bible Classes

Sunday 9:30 AM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

1512 Tanner St. Malvern, AR

[TannerSt.com](http://TannerSt.com)

patiently wait for opportunities to fire and he rarely missed.

What made him great? He was not the tallest, fastest, or even the most athletic man on the court. Yet, he rarely lost.

The answer may have been in his contract. You know that written agreement between the owners and players. Jordan's was one of a kind. And, no, it was not the money that made it unique.

NBA management made players sign agreements that forbid playing basketball outside the league. It was designed to protect their investment from injury. Jordan refused to sign the standard contract. He demanded a deal that allowed him to play basketball whenever and wherever he wanted. He wanted the freedom to play during the summer leagues as well as pick up games at the local gyms. It has been called the "love of the game" clause. Jordan loved the game so much, he simply wanted to play all the time and he refused to allow anyone to tell him when and where he could play.

In a way, this is exactly what the Lord wants from His disciples.

He wants us to love Him with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength (**Mark 12:30**). This love is expressed through obedience and His commandments are not burdensome (**1John 5:3**).

Too many followers are looking for contracts that will limit their actions to the church building. They keep their "love" in the "church building" court and it is rarely seen outside the assembly.

## Store In My Heart

### Joshua 24:13

I gave you a land on which you had not labored, and cities which you had not built, and you have lived in them; you are eating of vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant.

In his closing words to the nation of Israel, Joshua reminds them of what God had done. The verse above is a good reminder for us of the message of this book. Just a few verses above they are reminded that all of the promises God had made to them regarding the land had been fulfilled. This verse reminds us, though, that they received a land in which they could thrive almost immediately. Maybe the lack of work is what led to their failure to appreciate the blessing from God.

When Jesus questioned Peter about love, He asked for more than just a commitment when everyone else was watching. He wanted sacrifice outside the assembly. He knew Peter would proudly proclaim his love around the brethren (**John 13:37**) but He wanted his love to be revealed in the dark alleys where Satan's agents were pressing him on all sides (**John 18:25**).

So, with nail scarred hands and feet, Jesus sat down at breakfast and told Peter what it means to have agape love. He said true love includes a willingness to feed sheep, walk where you do not wish, stretch out your hands, and allow others to "*gird you and carry you*" (**John 21:18**). None of these are going to happen without selfless (agape) love. At the end of their conversation, Peter finally understood the point when He recognized a Lord who loves even when the objects of that love are not very loveable (**Romans 5:8; John 3:16**).

Like Jordan, we have a contract. However, our contract is not with an owner interested in money. Our covenant is with a Lord who is only interested in our hearts. The question is, "Do we really love Him and openly express our love for Him wherever and whenever we can?"

My prayer is that all of us will have a "love of the Lord" clause in our lives. May our passion for Him outweigh any monetary or earthly gain. May we love Him in the assembly, but much more so outside this arena as we selflessly seek and serve the lost (**Luke 19:10**).