

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: Matthew 15:18-20

Needed News

John Ragsdale is doing better after getting medication for gout in his toe. **Joyce Venable** is dealing with an infection. **Bill Venable** should get his kidney stones treated at his appointment this week. **Paula Laubach** starts a series of shots to improve her respiratory health on Monday. **Phyllis Jackson** is still having some difficulty talking as she recovers from bronchitis. **Brenda Keisler** continues to deal with neck pain. She is getting shots to help with it from time to time. **Dolline Fain, Conard Harris** and several others also continue to deal with health issues.

RC Ragsdale had a wreck on his way to work Saturday. He is suffering with bruised ribs and knees.

Ronda Gray, Brady Gray's wife & Jimmy and Annette Gray's daughter-in-law passed away yesterday evening. The family had been called in earlier in the afternoon. Please keep this family in your prayers and thoughts.

Gospel Meeting, March 29– April 1, Terry Sumerlin
Sunday Bible class topic suggestions are still needed

Seeking His Righteousness

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

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My Neighbor's Electric Fence

Gardner S. Hall

Recently I have picked blackberries near an electric fence. As I did so I did a little meditating about it.

The purpose of that fence is to keep the cattle from trespassing. Regardless of how green the grass might be outside that fence, the cows could not have it. My garden is just a few feet away and the cows would like to get to my corn. They can't understand why they should be fenced out of it. But to go past that fence and get into my corn would be trespassing. Anything inside that fence is permissible for them. Anything outside is forbidden.

As I thought along that line a passage of Scripture came to my mind. It figuratively erects a fence. "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son" (2John 9). The revised version says, "Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ, hath not God." That is telling us that regardless of how good and innocent something not taught by Christ may look, we go beyond His fence when we do it. Has He taught instrumental music for His church? No. Well, we transgress and go beyond His fence when we use it in His church. Has He taught sprinkling for baptism? No. Then if we do it we go outside His fence. Has He taught His church to send money to a separate organization and let it do work for

it? No. What about congregations who thus use their money? They transgress -- they go beyond the Lord's fence. The money sent to some organization to do work the Lord has instructed the church to do is transgression, whether to do preaching or benevolence. Has Jesus taught His church to provide facilities to play games, feast and entertain? No. Then churches that provide such facilities are going beyond the Lord's fence, and are deprived of God and Christ.

God doesn't give us a shock when we ignore His fence. He has given us the power to reason and understand and told us not to be as the horse or mule which have no understanding. The cow comes in that category too. So they have to have bridles, bits, electric fences, etc. (See Psalm 32:8-9). But human beings, able to read and understand (Ephesian 3:3-5), should need no shock to remind them of their transgressions.

However, God at one time in history did give us some examples to help us understand what He means by transgression, or going beyond His Word. We have the story of two priests who "offered strange fire before the Lord, which He commanded them not" (Leviticus 10:1). "And there went out fire from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord" (vs. 2). What was wrong? They burned the incense with fire He had not commanded. Now, why should we have to have a shock to prevent our doing something in His service which He has not commanded? David transgressed once when he put the ark of the covenant on a cart instead of having the priests bear it, as God had said. Uzzah died as a result. (See 1Chronicles. chs. 13 and 15). Many other examples could be given. The Hebrew writer warned, "For if the word spoken by angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just

recompense of reward; how shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?" (Hebrews 2:2-4). With all these examples and warnings, why should we need a shock to keep us within the Lord's fence?

Maybe I should admit that I became careless and came into contact with that electric fence. No cows seemed to be looking, which is probably the reason I didn't get a cow-laugh.

Gospel Guide, Nov. 1980.

(Boundaries are there for our guidance and protection. We put up barriers around things that are dangerous and things that are precious. We use them to designate areas that are off-limits for any number of reasons. The boundaries placed by God have remained exactly where He put them for centuries. They are clearly marked and well defined. There is no good excuse for those who have given their lives to God to cross these boundaries. Once we leave the boundary set by God, there is nothing to keep us from continuing farther and farther from the safety of His care. Only by remaining within His fence can we expect God to protect and care for us. DLH)

By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

1John 2:3-6