

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: Ezekiel 18:20**

## **Needed News**

**Paula Laubach** is receiving treatment for a bone spur on her heel. **Dolline Fain** had tests last Friday to check for any problems from her recent fall. **Joyce Venable** is dealing with fever and stomach issues in addition to her ongoing health difficulties. **Conrad Harris** is taking chemo treatments three times a month.

**Brenda Keisler** will be heading out Tuesday for a school conference in New Orleans, LA.

Our meeting is over but opportunities to teach the Gospel are not limited to that effort. Remember courses are available for home Bible studies or correspondence studies. Men of the congregation are ready and willing to study with you or anyone you know who needs the Gospel. Our website, [TannerSt.com](http://TannerSt.com), has articles and sermons available to help you reach those who may be looking for Truth.

Remember, the early Christians "went about preaching the Word."

# *Seeking His Righteousness*

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

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## **The Importance of Thoughts**

Bill Crews

If you are concerned about your character, your conduct, your life and your destiny, then be concerned about your thoughts. *"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life"* (Proverbs 4:23). The heart is the mind, and the mind is the center of thoughts. *"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he"* (Proverbs 23:7). A man may not be what he appears to be, but he is what he thinks.

What goes into your mind, then, is extremely important. Be careful about the interests you acquire, the tastes you cultivate, the desires you develop. They shape what goes into your mind. The conversations you listen to, the scenes you observe, the movies you view, the TV programs you tune into, the newspapers, magazines and books you read, the songs by which you are entertained, the jokes you laugh at, the things you are taught all have a part in feeding information into your mind.

You evaluate and monitor all that you hear and see. Your standard for evaluation and your conscience are vital and play their roles. You may seek out or receive what is vulgar or distorted, or you may reject and refuse it. You may pursue and embrace what is wholesome and true, or you may have no interest in it and neglect it. Be cautious, particular and selective about what goes into your mind. If you allow garbage to go in, then garbage will come out in the form of

words and deeds.

What goes on in your mind is also extremely important. Be careful about your thoughts, meditations, desires, ambitions, daydreams and fantasies. You determine what goes on in your mind. You are the master of it because you have control over it. It is your own little secret world -- except that God knows all about it, and will one day bring it to light when you have to answer for it in the judgment (Ecclesiastes 12:14; Acts 17:30-31; Romans 2:16; 2 Corinthians 5:10). And sooner or later it will find expression in your life and make itself known.

We cannot be like God without thinking the thoughts of God. We cannot know the thoughts of God apart from the revelation of the things of God in the word of God (1 Corinthians 2:11-13). We cannot have the thoughts of God in our hearts apart from reverent study of and meditation upon the word of God, coupled with a sincere desire to do the will of God (John 7:17).

## God Will Always Love Us More

Gary Henry

*“We love Him because He first loved us”* (1 John 4:19).

It should be strengthening to us to know that we are surrounded by the limitless love of God. As our Creator, He is able to love us with a love that is infinite. We cannot understand it completely or respond to it fully. Even if, like our antediluvian ancestors, we were to live hundreds of years upon the earth and love God as Enoch and Noah did, we could not learn to love God with the same love that He has for us. But this fact should not discourage us. It should “challenge” us in a most delightful way. Although we can’t

love God as He loves us, we can learn to love Him more and more as time goes by. No matter how much of God’s love we learn to enjoy, there will always be much more waiting for us up ahead. His love is boundless and inexhaustible.

One thing that we should try to keep clear is that whatever love we show toward God is always a RESPONSE. It is God who has taken the initiative. As John wrote, *“We love Him because He first loved us.”* This means that our love for God must always be offered in profound HUMILITY. If He had not first reached across the chasm and extended love to us, it would be futile for us to love Him. As Paul said, Christ died for us *“when we were still without strength”* (Romans 5:6). And so John could say, *“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins”* (1 John 4:10).

The surest way for us to grow in our love for God is to meditate on the depth of His love for us. The knowledge of God’s love is a “compelling” force: *“For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again”* (2 Corinthians 5:14-15). In the end, faithful service must always spring from fervent love. If we have even the smallest fraction of the love for our Lord that He has shown toward us, we will not be content to love Him with anything less than all of our hearts.

“Our soul is Christ’s bride and loves him ardently. But even when she thinks she is completely in love, she feels that her love is inadequate because she is loved so much. And that is true. How could she love as much in return? God loves with all his being” (Bernard of Clairvaux).