

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.

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## Needed News

**Jordan Wright** has been suffering with bronchitis the later part of this week.

**Thelma Echols** has been doing about the same this past week. She did eat a little better yesterday. She has another doctor appointment this week. **Ruben & Brenda Keisler** are staying with her.

**John Ragsdale** is still suffering with some back pain.

**Paula Laubach** is still having some abdominal pain.

**Phyllis Jackson** is doing better and has finished her physical therapy.

**Joyce Venable** has been doing better this week.

It is the time of year that many of us start looking forward to some vacation time. Certainly some time away can be good for any of us. Just make sure you remember your obligation to God and your work with the local brethren. We should never seek a vacation from our worship to God. We also need to make certain that our travel, or its expenses, does not interfere with our responsibility to support the work of our local congregation. Our responsibility to God leaves no time off. We should worship even when away from home.

# Seeking His Righteousness

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

April 2016

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## Life, Death and the Fear of Both

Keith Stonehart

I say it probably far more than my wife cares to hear it, In fact I know I do, but Death is the central issue of life. There is no getting around it, we all will face it -

### No One is Getting Out of Here Alive!

I often shout these words from the pulpit because I believe it should impress upon us the importance of the fact that for all of our beauty and wonder, we are in fact frail, fragile creatures and because of that life is short and death is indeed very long. By this, I hope reflection on both where you have been, where you are and where you are headed are given decent contemplation as you consider your life.

No doubt, we have all been rocked to some degree this year as it seems to be the year when so many of the talents my generation have grown up with have passed on... David Bowie, Glen Frey, Joey Feek, Merle Haggard and most recently Prince have all died and even though we all know it will happen to us all, the shock never seems to fail to escape us.

For most people it seems, there is great fear associated with death and for those who do not know Jesus I would agree with and support your fear. you should fear death... But I don't... no, I actually welcome the idea and though I do not wish for death, I am not scared of it either because I know where I am going, and I want to be there...

But even more alarming than the fear of death so many seem to have - It is the fear of life that is most perplexing and sad.

To fear life so much that one would self medicate to numb themselves from feeling every bit of life and its offerings. To numb down the senses and go through this life blurred rather than crisp and clear.

Life is painful, no doubt. Ever since Sin entered the world it brought with it its destruction and the need for comfort and salvation... but that is what makes life so bitter sweet. -

The sharp cut of the loss of a loved one, and then the comforting words of a friend that says "everything, is gonna be alright" in whispered tones.

The painful reality of no new experiences, but then the laughter from the soul when you see pictures of past moments already captured in time....

The cut to the heart that tells you that you wont see them or hear their voice tomorrow, but then the discovery of a video that keeps that voice alive for the rest of our time here..

You see - its in the painful and uncomfortable moments that life deals with its ferocious blows that we can truly have our eyes opened to the beauty of each of those moments... That between the pain, lies the beauty that was already there, and because it is surrounded by pain and ugliness - these moments begin to shine on their own and make their place forever in our hearts.

Fearing life because its painful, and death being part of that pain is to miss the beauty in what God has created!

We are beautiful creatures because of our flaws, and

because we are fragile, and because we die.

Between birth and death is only life... and it is short, therefore beautiful and also valuable and not to be wasted.

God tells us in the Bible, that while we live here - we will be tested and tried in all things and What this tells me is that this life will be messy - but what he promised is a life after this one.

**Revelation 22:3-6** says *"No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever. And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true." -* Knowing this, how could I fear what lies beyond death?

More importantly - what do we have to possibly fear about in LIFE?.

Open your eyes friends, God has provided all we need to see the beauty in it all, to see his works - To truly see HIM in all things.

Life is beautiful, live it while you can.

Facebook - Friday, April 22, 2016

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*"There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God, for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment?"*

**Ecclesiastes 2:24-25**

*Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

**1Thessalonians 5:16-18**