

## For Our Information

Jimmy & Annette Gray are out of town. Jonathan & John Ross Simpson are also out of town.

Gracie Simpson is doing better.

Ruben Keisler has knee surgery later this month.

John LaValla visited the hospital Friday night for a severe headache and dizziness. He has begun a new high blood pressure medicine.

Carolynn Richmond is back home.

Wil & Barbara Atwood will be moving to Pennsylvania this week.

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

By casting doubt upon the authenticity of the Scriptures, the devil tries to undermine the whole structure of the faith by destroying its foundation. In truth, no human history has the credentials of the Scriptures. No human history has been scrutinized and validated over and over as the Scriptures have. One of Satan's devices is the equating of human tradition and Scripture so that, by showing the fallacies of some human traditions, he may try to make the Scriptures appear to be false. Those who give good and diligent heed to the Scriptures are, by their knowledge of the Word of God, able to recognize and distinguish human tradition and to see their errors. The Scriptures warn of apostasy, and it has occurred many times, but truth remains true (Hebrews 3:12; 2Thessalonians 2:3-4; 1Timothy 4:1-7). Simply reading the Scriptures thoughtfully surely will impress the reader with the wisdom, goodness, and harmony of the Word of God. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17), and faith is sustained and strengthened by the Word of God (Colossians 1:9-12; 1John 2:14). — Gilbert Alexander

## Contact Us

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

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# Seeking His Righteousness

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## Finish

**Jimmy Mickells**

College football season has just ended, professional football season is almost over, and basketball season is under way. As I have watched several games, of both football and basketball, I have been made keenly aware of the fact that it not always how good you start the game but how you finish that often matters the most. One of the teams that I was rooting for the other day started off really well, and even led at half time. Yet they lost the game by a good number of points. Starting good is important, but finishing is very significant as well.

*Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win.*

**1Corinthians**  
**9:24**



## 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)

I believe this to be true in our spiritual relationship with God. Some, after obeying the gospel, are extremely faithful it seems. Yet when difficulties arise, which they will, they drift away from the Lord and become unfaithful. They had a good beginning, but they did not finish what they had started. Jesus spoke about this problem in **Luke 8:13**, in the parable of the Sower. *“But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.”* That which caused their departure was not the temptation; it was the lack of spiritual growth on their part.

Growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord is vital to the relationship that we have with Him. One of the problems addressed by the writer of the book of Hebrews is their failure to become mature in Christ. He said, *“For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil”* (**Hebrews 5:12-14**). Oh that we all had that incredibly intense desire for the *“pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby”* (**1Peter 2:2**). Instead of running the risk of not finishing our race, by our failure to grow, our maturity can help insure that we finish our earthly pilgrimage faithful to the Lord.

## Store In My Heart

### Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

Happiness is the Lord.

Paul's instruction to the brethren in Philippi is still valid for us today. We need to look to Christ and the Father if we hope to find reason to rejoice.

The world is full of disappointment and sorrow. Only by seeking God can we find joy that will last through the difficult times of life. When our life is filled with God, when we put our hope and trust in Him, we can find peace and joy that will see us through anything this world might put before us.

Seek God with all your heart. Trust in Him completely in all areas of life. True joy is only found when we have a relationship with Him.

Some times the team leading at half time, may think they have the game won, lose their focus in the second half and also the game. This happens far too often to the people of God. Instead of setting their *“mind on things above”* (**Colossians 3:2**), they are consumed with the things of the world (**1John 2:15-17**). Look once again at the words of Jesus, *“Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity”* (**Luke 8:14**). It is not that the cares, riches, and pleasures of life are sinful things within themselves; they become sinful when we put them ahead of serving God. We must have our priorities in order (**Matthew 6:33**). If not, our finish will not be successful.

When Paul wrote the young evangelist Timothy, he said, *“For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing”* (**2Timothy 4:6-8**). A good start is important, but the way that we finish life's race is vital! If your life ended today, could it be said of you that I have finished the race, I have keep the faith, and now there is that victor's crown awaiting me? Obey the gospel, grow, keep your priorities right, and press on to the finish line and by the grace of Almighty God eternal life is awaiting.