Shepherds

*Johnny Davis	307-4232	
Dan Fuller	685-4454	
Paul Metzkes	870-8042	
Phil Porter	575-4782	
Richard Watson	307-2608	
*Chairman for the Month of February		

Evangelists

Dan Jenkins	379-2325
David Sproule	301-2230
Josh Blackmer	319-1418

Deacons

Mike Archer	
David Brown	972-7608
Novel Brown	848-6988
Victor Colage	719-1490
Lance Collier	985-4407
Kirk Crews	
Mike Erickson	
Tim Fry	
Jeff Goodale	
Rick Hall	622-5131
Dion Hayes	214-533-5065
Bob Higbee	303-386-6405
Gary Jenkins	
Jeff Leslie	744-3444
David Lord	
Buzz Nelson	
Lawrence Williams	



Vol. LXII

February 12, 2023

No. 7

March 5-8

Welcome New Members



Gospel Meeting with Jeff Jenkins

Eizaga, Max

Group 3



Church Office

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Ivan Villard	
Cindy Nelson	
June Pack	627-5363

A Chapter A Day This Week's Reading: Mark 3 -

Mark 7



Two Kinds of Leaven

It had to be frustrating for the Lord as He tried to prepare the apostles for the time when they would be at the forefront in the growth of the church. An illustration of this can be seen in how those men responded to the words of Jesus. "Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and

the Sadducees." The apostles totally misunderstood what He said about this leaven.

They had just traveled across the Sea of Galilee and had failed to bring any bread with them. false doctrines is danger at times like this. When Jesus mentioned leaven, they immediately thought He was talking about this. However, our Lord had far more in mind than actual bread.

Jesus first reminded them that they were not dependent on ordinary means to find food. They

had just fed five thousand men and then four thousand men with just a few loaves and fish. Jesus asked them to recall these two miracles, and the apostles began to finally understand that this kind of bread was not what he was discussing.

It was not actual bread, but the false teachings of the Jewish leaders He was discussing. "Then they understood that He did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees" (Matt. 16:5). False teaching is so much like leaven.

Think of how often the Bible mentions that a little leaven leavens the entire loaf. It does not take large quantities of leaven to impact everything that is around it. It does not take large quantities of false teaching to bring disaster into the lives of men. Sometimes we so easily overlook this.

When you first open the door to allow just a small element of false teaching to enter you may never be able to close that door. So often so much more that is wrong comes

> rushing through. This is why Jesus sounded the alarm with the words, "Take heed..." There is such grave

> The brothers of Joseph probably did not think that being jealous of Joseph's coat of many colors could lead to so much evil. However, that sinful "leaven" of jealousy lead them to plan to kill their younger brother. It lead them to bring unbearable

grief to their father, Jacob. When you open the door to allow smaller matters to enter, far more may enter that open door.

There is little difference in the sin of these brothers and the embracing and teaching of false doctrine. Any sin when left alone weakens those involved. The Bible is filled with illustrations of this truth. The tragedy is that while personal sin is devasting to the individual teaching of false doctrines is devasting to an entire church or nation. How should we deal with it? Beware of it and close that door when it begins opening.



Does It Matter What Order?

Would you say that doing things in the right order matters? Or as long as you complete all of the steps, does it matter in what order you did them?

By David Sproule

Have you ever assembled a bicycle? Have you ever purchased a piece of furniture from IKEA? Have you ever built a 3,000-

piece LEGO set? If so, does it matter in what order you assem-

ble these things? You probably know from experience that if you put together any of these things out of order that it does not end up like it should and you usually have to start over. The order matters!

Have you ever been to someone's house when they feed everyone grilled hamburgers? Did they put the ground beef on the bun before or after grilling the meat? Did they put the raw beef directly on the bun or the grilled beef on the bun? The order matters!

What about with God? Does the order matter? An example that comes up often today is this—as long as I've been baptized at some point, does it really matter when?

Consider one Biblical example. In Joshua 6, God gave the order for taking the city of Jericho. First, march around the city once a day for six days (6:3). Second, in the march, the priests shall go before the ark (6:4). Third, march around the city seven times on the seventh day and the priests shall then blow the trumpets (6:4). Fourth, after the sound of the trumpet, the people shall shout (6:5). Fifth, when all of this is done, the wall of the city will fall down (6:5). Did it matter if God's people followed His order in this? Or, as long as they did each of the steps, would it matter in what order they did them?

You know that God's order matters. God told Saul to "arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins" (Acts 22:16). The arising was to take place before the baptizing, and the

> baptizing took place before the washing away of sins. God said, "He who believes and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16). The believing is to take place before the baptizing, and the baptizing is to take place before the saving. God said, "Repent and be baptized for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38). The repentance is to take place before the baptizing, and the baptizing is to take place before the remission.

The order matters! If it does not, why did God give it an order?

In Acts 19, there were twelve men who had already been baptized, but their faith was in a Jesus who was still to come, when in fact, Jesus had already come. The order (i.e., direction) of their faith mattered, therefore, the order of their baptism mattered also, so they were baptized properly.

God's order matters! One must believe Jesus is God's Son, repent of sins, confess faith in Jesus Christ and then be baptized in order to be saved. Have you followed God's order?

The order matters! If it does not, why did God give it an order?

The teaching of

devasting to an

entire church or

nation



Can We Show People Love?

"I find it easy to portray a businessman. Being bland, rather cruel and incompetent comes naturally to me" (John Cleese). It is easy to be mean, and the world makes it easier. Life seems to be a gauntlet of rude awakenings, playground politics, the rage of rush hour, the push-and-shove along the

By Josh Blackmer

corporate ladder, and the snippy bickering of a thousand petty conflicts can thoroughly trample any sunny disposition you may have once possessed as a child. It seems inevitable that we will be formed into a scowl. After receiving our fair share of mistreatment, we can end up approaching life with a preemptive, chronic frown. We brace ourselves for unkindness, and we are slowly transformed into a grouch.

Not so, for a Christian. A Christian must resist this darkening of the demeanor (Col. 3:12). A Christian doesn't indulge in the pettiness of the world. A Christian is known for kindness (Gal. 5:22). It's not an optional accessory. If you're a Christian, then that means you are kind. A Christian is loving. It is what defines them (1 John 3:10). The difference is obvious. Those who truly belong to God are loving, in particular, toward other Christians. This means unkindness can be a dealbreaker. As far as Jesus is concerned, we can't draw the line anywhere. Even when it comes to our enemies, the appropriate response is love (Matt. 5:44). He goes on to explain that there's nothing necessarily admirable about loving the loveable (Matt. 5:46). There's nothing unusual about loving the loveable. Loving the unlovable, that's where you'll find a Christian.

You'll also notice there are no excuses. 1 John 4:7 doesn't say, "Beloved, let us love one another unless you're in a really bad mood." Ephesians 4:32 doesn't say, "Be kind to one another unless the other person is unkind to you first or if you have a genetic disposition for anger in your family." Scrip-

ture is not open to our good reasons. It might be difficult, it might feel downright impossible, but we are commanded to be kind to everyone. Love is the key ingredient. If we remove love from any situation, we are reduced to nothing more than an irritating noise (1 Cor. 13:1). If we do not love, we degrade our position. Even if we're right, we're wrong because we didn't set out to do the right thing with love.

For a Christian, at the heart of every action is a basic question. When dealing with conflict and annoying personalities and even your enemy, it comes down to this very simple question. Do you love them? This question would stifle gossip, deception and maliciousness. This is the first brick that goes into place determining everything else.

Love, or the lack of it, will determine whether or not any action we take after that is godly or not. Action without love is easy.

Articles Published in PBL Family News Emails Last Week

We've got something to tell!

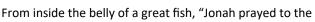
If you had seen Jesus multiply five loaves and two fish to feed over 5,000 people, what would you do? Would you tell others about it? If you had seen Jesus heal a man born blind, what would you do? Would you tell others about it? If you had seen Jesus raise someone from the dead, what would you do? Would you tell others about it? I dare say that you would NOT have been able to keep those amazing things to

yourself!

Brethren, what has Jesus done for us? Has He not given us spiritual abundance and to spare? Have we told others? Has He not opened our eyes to the danger of sin, the horror of hell and

the hope of heaven? Have we told others? Has He not raised us from the watery grave of baptism to a new life in Him? Have we told others?

We have the greatest news, the most powerful message and the most exciting promises in the world! What is keeping us from telling every soul we meet? The only answer to that question is the one you see in a mirror. -DS



Lord" (Jonah 2:1). Wouldn't you? As he "cried out to the Lord" (2:2), Jonah realized, "I have been cast out of Your sight" (2:4). Why? What could have happened to lead Jonah out of God's sight? Back up into the first chapter.

A stench that should wake us up



For a Christian.

at the heart of

every action is a

basic question.

When God commanded Jonah to "go to Nineveh" (1:2), "Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord" (1:3). He got on a ship "to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord" (1:3). Jonah was rebelling against the Lord's command, which would (and could) only take him to one place—away from the presence

of the Lord! Inside the fish, Jonah realized that he was exactly where he had been trying go—out of God's sight and presence.

Maybe we do not always realize it, but when we choose to not obey a command of God, we are running from His presence at that moment! While a fish is not going to swallow us, may we come to our senses, smell the stench of sin, cry out to our God and return to Him! He will not leave us! Let us determine not to leave Him! -DS

Keep in Your Prayers

Pray for These PBL Members

Novel Brown	recovering at home, slowly improving	
Pat Brown	Brown dealing with health issues	
Patricia Hackshaw	ckshaw recovering from major surgery	
Maxine McCoy	recovering from an injured knee	
Cheryl Milton	recovering at home	
Sherri Richmond	slowly recovering from oral surgery	
Betty Sanders	s diagnosed with colon cancer	
Sam Simpkins	recovering from surgery on 3 cancerous bladder tumors	
Jettie Sweetenburg	ettie Sweetenburg lung cancer, chemo & radiation treatments	
Jennifer Walker	recovering from a colectomy	

Ongoing Health Issues

Lillian Bankston	dialysis treatments
Judy Carmack	multiple health issues
Robin Landen	multiple health issues
John Loftis	back pain, weakness
Joel Ramirez	dialysis treatments
Sherri Richmond	multiple health issues
Henry Williams	dialysis treatments

Pray for Our Shut-Ins

Millie Ames	Inell I
Josie Dawson	Danie
Zula Garrett	Betty
Terri Hahn	Joyce
Margie Hardin	Leigh
Loretta Holaday	Ricky
Joan Holloway	





Pray for These Relatives of PBL Members

Joan Alberga	Ally Alberga's mother, health continues to decline	
Louie Bone	Betty Davis' brother, recovering from multiple seizures	
Frank Daniels	Melinda Price's father, treatments for prostate cancer	
Brian Harvey Allison Snyder & Lisa Suarez's father, prostate cancer		
Libby Harvey Allison Snyder & Lisa Suarez's mom, knee replacement		
Gineas Mauvais Juliette Mauvais' father, in the hospital in Haiti		
Delores Sims Jimmie Banks' mother, may need a port in her chest		
Darlene Smith	Willie & Ricky Smith's mother, recovering at home	
Lillie Teague Sabrina Pietro's mother, dealing with spreading canc		

Church Family **Calendar of Events**

Sunday, February 12

• No His Kids Class. Class will resume on February 26.

Monday, February 13

 Monday Night Bible Study at 7:00 p.m. in the Family Room.

Tuesday, February 14

 Tuesday Morning Bible Study at 10:30 a.m. in the Family Room.

Friday, February 17

• Family Group 3 Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Family Room. Please bring a potluck dish. This is for all PBL members and families who live between Blue Heron Blvd. and Southern Blvd.

Saturday, February 18

 Ladies & Lattes at 7:00 p.m. hosted by Joan Holloway and Skye Brown at Waterford (601 Universe Blvd). All PBL women in Grades 9 and up are invited to fellowship and grow together in God's word. Coffee and tea will be provided. Please bring a dessert.

Sunday-Wednesday, February 19-22

• Gospel Meeting hosted by Sebring Parkway each night at 7:00 p.m. (Monday-Wednesday). David Powell will be speaking on "Things Most Surely Believed."

Saturday, February 25

• Family Group 1 & 2 Meeting at 6:00 p.m. at the home of David & Skye Brown. This will be a potluck event. Please bring a main dish, dessert, and/or drinks. This is for all PBL members and families who live north of Blue Heron.

Sunday, February 26

 New 10-Week Classes Begin at 9:00 a.m. for Jr. High, Sr. High and adults.

Wednesday, March 1

 Prayer Meeting at 7:00 p.m. to prepare for the Gospel Meeting. Jr. High, Sr. High and adults will meet together in the auditorium after the devotional. Children in Grade 5 and under will have their regular classes.

Saturday, March 4

• Congregational Work Day from 8:30 a.m. until noon.

Young Adults

Saturday, February 18

 Ladies & Lattes at 7:00 p.m. hosted by Joan Holloway and Skye Brown at Waterford (601 Universe Blvd). All PBL women in Grades 9 and up are invited to fellowship and grow together in God's word. Coffee and tea will be provided. Please bring a dessert.

Saturday, March 4

• Young Adult Devo at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Gary & Jacqui Jenkins. See Ivan Villard for details.

Monday, March 13

 Men's Meet at 7:00 p.m. at the church building. All PBL men in Grades 9 and up are invited. Bring your Bible, a chair, some meat to grill, a drink and your own plate/utensils. This is a great opportunity for men of all generations to fellowship.

Saturday, March 17

 Ladies & Lattes at 7:00 p.m. Location TBD. All PBL women in Grades 9 and up are invited to fellowship and grow together in God's word.



Sunday, February 12

• No His Kids Class. Class will resume on February 26.

Saturday, February 18

 Ladies & Lattes at 7:00 p.m. hosted by Joan Holloway and Skye Brown at Waterford (601 Universe Blvd). All PBL women in Grades 9 and up are invited to fellowship and grow together in God's word. Coffee and tea will be provided. Please bring a dessert.

Sunday, February 26

- **His Kids Class** at 5:30 p.m. for Age 3 and up. Meet in the front of the auditorium.
- Jr. High & Sr. High Devo after evening worship at the home of Allison Roman. Please bring your Bible, drinks and desserts. See Josh Blackmer for more details.

Wednesday, March 1

 Prayer Meeting at 7:00 p.m. to prepare for the Gospel Meeting. Jr. High, Sr. High and adults will meet together in the auditorium after the devotional. Children in Grade 5 and under will have their regular classes.

Global Warming, Earth's History, and Jesus' Return



by Eric Lyons

As to whether or not the Earth is currently going through a warming trend, there is much debate. Although many, including former Vice President Al Gore, vehemently defend the man-made global warming theory (see "An Inconvenient Truth," 2006), countless others, including thousands of scientists, have rejected the theory in part or in whole (see "Weather Channel Founder...," 2007; Bonnici, 2008; Brennan, 2008). One truth that seems to get little attention, however, is the fact that the Earth has gone through various warming and cooling periods in the past.

Today, Antarctica is covered by seven million cubic miles of ice, which represents 90% of all the ice on Earth ("Antarctica," 2008). The continental ice sheet at the South Pole is about 9,000 feet thick (Amundsen-Scott..., 2008).

The **average** temperature at the South Pole is nearly -50 degrees Celsius. Nevertheless, Antarctica has not always been the frozen tundra it is today. The pro-atheistic, evolutionary science journal *New Scientist* recently ran an article titled, "Once the South Pole Was Green..." (2008, 198[2661]:34-38). The journal admitted that scientists are well aware that "Antarctica was once warm and forested" and inhabited by at least six different kinds of dinosaurs (p. 34). "Antarctica once enjoyed a climate warmer than that of England today" (p. 38). The fossil record indicates that in the past Antarctica was "almost subtropical," lush with ferns, cycads, and conifers (p. 37). What's more, fossils of breadfruit trees, crocodile-like creatures, and turtles have been discovered well inside the Arctic Circle (pp. 35-36). It is "abundantly clear" to scientists that at one time "both the Arctic and the Antarctic were ice-free and warm" (p. 37)—"more than warm enough for a pleasant swim" (p. 38).

Although today certain ones (e.g., Al Gore) are attempting to scare people into a "global-warming submission," the fact is, our planet has gone through various stages of warming and cooling throughout its history—long before the invention of carbon-emitting planes, trains, and automobiles. At one time, the polar ice sheets were more extensive than at present; at another time, the Earth's Arctic and Antarctic regions were virtually ice-free. In view of such naturally changing climates on Earth during its history, why should it surprise us if our planet does occasionally get warmer or cooler?

Our forefathers, along with plants and animals, have been on the Earth "from the foundation of the world" (Luke 11:50-51; Genesis 1-2; Exodus 20:11). They survived the ice-age(s), as well as the so-called "hothouse phase." Today, we are flourishing in what scientists call the "icehouse" phase. In truth, man will continue the cycle of life on Earth until our Lord returns and destroys the Earth with fire (2 Peter 3:10-13)—a global warming for which man must prepare, else he will suffer in the hothouse of hell forever (Matthew 25:46; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10).

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"...always abounding in the work of the Lord..." (1 Cor. 15:58)

this week





Our 40th Annual Ladies' Day will be on Thursday, April 20 at 6:00 p.m. Lacy Crowell (Henderson, TN) will be speaking on "Jesus, Our Loving Shepherd." Dinner will be served. All ladies are encouraged to attend!

Power Up! A Recharge for Christian Men will be on Saturday, May 6 from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. This year's theme is "Disabling the Devil's Devices." Lunch will be served. All men are encouraged to attend!



Sunday, February 5

LOCAL VISITORS: Mr. & Mrs. Keith & Kim Hutchison; Mr. & Mrs. Dennis & Sharon Mann; Mr. Don McClintock; Miss Victoria Michwanazi; Mrs. Liz Otero; and Mrs. Swati Samson.

OUT-OF-TOWN VISITORS: Mr. & Mrs. Chet & Brenda Brown, Elko New Market, MN; Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Donna Carron, St. Charles, MO; Mr. Jerry Cole, Okeechobee, FL; Mr. & Mrs. Terry & Regina Crews, St. Albans, MO; Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Astrid Menendez, CA; Miss Meagan Metzkes, Tampa, FL; Mr. & Mrs. Phil & Anne Smith, Gallatin, TN; Miss Nodda Stuckey, Durham, NC; and Mr. & Mrs. Max & Jane Thomas, Eustis, FL.



Sunday, February 12th Dave Holaday Suzanne Weber

Monday, February 13th Eugene & Penny Williams (Ann.)

Tuesday, February 14th Jaime & Natasha Campbell-Flores (Ann.) Marty & Leslie Williams (Ann.)

Thursday, February 16th Pat Parnell Laura Schuemann

Friday, February 17th Julie Williams

Those to Serve

If you are <u>unable to serve</u>, please contact the Service Coordinator for the week or Rick Hall at 827-4269. If you are scheduled to serve on Sunday morning, please meet in the Grades 6-8 classroom at 9:50 a.m. If you are scheduled to serve on Sunday evening, please meet at the front of the auditorium at 5:50 p.m.

Sunday Mornina, February 12

<i>, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , </i>		
	Philip Porter	Singing
Singing	Dion Hayes	Opening Prayer
Contribution	Richard Watson	Scripture Reading
Scripture Reading	Orlando Lolo	Singing
Singing		Lord's Supper
Sermon		Contribution
Singing		Singing
Lord's Supper		Sermon
Singing		Singing
Closing Prayer	Douglas Alvarenga	Closing Prayer
Serve at Table:		Serve at Table:
Troy Alberga	Tim Mahlbacher	Silas Balfour
Namdidie Ikon	Robert Mariano	
Todd Juckett	Taylor Reeves	Audio this week: David
Richard Kelley	Vincent Rogers	Computer this week: C
Steward Lynch	Tyler Williams	Video this week: Edwa
		1
Service Coordinator:	<u>Ushers</u> for this	week: Nahum Villard & Set
Eugene Williams	Safety Team for	this week: Victor Colage

Sunday Evenina, February 12

······, -····		
Singing Ivan Villard		
Opening PrayerTom Garrison		
Scripture Reading Trey Higbee		
Singing		
Lord's Supper Willie Smith		
Contribution		
Singing		
Sermon		
Singing		
Closing PrayerStephen Beliech		
Serve at Table:		
Silas Balfour Nicholas Pietro		
Audio this week: David Brown		
Computer this week: Cris Cuevas		
Video this week: Edward Gager		

Video this week: Edward Gager week: Nahum Villard & Seth Watson

Wednesday Evening, February 15

Singing	Jimmie Banks
Invitation	Dan McLeod
Family Prayer	Willie Smith

Our Record			
Attendance	<u>Feb. 5</u>	Jan. Avg	
Sun. Bible Study	144	158	
Sun. AM Worship	232	254	
Sun. PM Worship	111	120	
Wed. Bible Study	121	125	
Contribution \$	14,372	\$18,331	
2023 Weekly Budget: \$16,450			
Y-T-D Contribution-to-Budget: \$5,445			



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Upcoming Events

February 11 Sweetheart Banquet

March 5-8 Gospel Meeting with Jeff Jenkins Theme: "God's Glorious Plan for Us"

March 18 & 25 Door-Knocking in Clewiston

<u>April 20</u> Ladies' Day with Lacy Crowell Theme: *"Jesus, Our Loving Shepherd"*

May 6 Power Up! A Recharge for Christian Men Theme: "Disabling the Devil's Devices"

May 14 Promotion Sunday