

“RENEW YOUR SPIRIT”

There is a parable about a man who, one evening, went to a rather expensive restaurant in the upscale business district. He ordered a serving of chicken legs, gently braised in the oven until the meat was nearly falling off the bone. Halfway through the meal, that little bone became a much bigger problem as he began to choke. He stood quickly and stumbled back, grabbing at his throat. All of the other patrons stared blankly, not knowing what to do, except for one who rushed over. After he identified himself as a doctor and telling the man that he would be alright, he performed the Heimlich maneuver and the bone popped out.

The man coughed a few times and said, "Thank you, I thought that I was going to die for sure. How can I pay you back?" The doctor smiled and replied, "You can pay me just one-tenth of what you were willing to pay while you were choking."

Now, you and I are probably thinking the same thing: that's still a lot of money! And it is. But that is not the point of the parable.

When we face a disaster in our lives, especially those that endanger our lives or well-being, we promise anything and everything. There is nothing we will not do, and money is of no object. Yet, have you ever noticed that we are often the same way when it comes to spiritual matters?

How often in your own life have you encountered a dilemma and prayed something akin to, "Lord, if you get me through this, I promise to go to every service" or, "I'll be there every time the doors are open" or, "I'll read my Bible every day." Most have done this at one time or another. But what happens when the emergency has passed? Our sense of urgency also fades.

We are choking – spiritually speaking – on sin (Rom. 3:23; 1 Jn. 1:10). However, if we commit to the Great Physician just one-tenth of what we promise during those critical moments, then most would experience a renewal of the spirit that has previously lost to them.

Paul wrote to those in Galatia, "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Gal. 2:20). And, to those in Philippi, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Phil. 1:21).

There are times when we are in earnest need of God, and we cry out for strength and guidance, for He is a very present help (Psa. 46:1). Our situation serves us with a poignant reminder of our necessity for the Heavenly Father. Yet, those feelings soon fade when tribulation has passed. We quickly settle in with complacency and self-reliance.

Continued in next column

Only when we are thankful in all circumstances (1 Thess. 5:18) will we realize the presence of God in all places (Jer. 23:23-24). He is One who rewards them who seek Him (Heb. 11:6), both in occasions of weakness and in strength.

Let us move forward into the new year with a renewed engagement of the spirit and with our minds and hearts set toward the cross, knowing that when obstacles come, we are already firmly planted – not quickly uprooted by life's adversities.

Mike

Kudo's Corner

Have you noticed the doors of the annex? The glass is clean thanks to Annie Lane. Go take a look. While there, notice how white the tables are, thanks go to Mr. Clean's Magic Eraser.

BTW if you wish to send a Kudo out to anyone or a group of people, let the office know.

Attention All Cleaning Crews



Inasmuch as this is a five-Sunday week, Monday, November 30, is a day for all cleaning crews to come together and clean.

Join us at 2:00 p.m.

Sign up sheets for 2021 are on the bulletin board in the hallway for greeters and for building lock up. Please grab your partner and sign up!



Prayer Requests & Concerns

Dwaine Gough continues to be in the hospital. He was moved to ICU so that his blood pressure can be monitored closely. They have currently taken him off of the meds which they were giving him to bring his blood pressure down but want to watch it closely in case it starts to rise again. Also his kidney function is not good. Keep him and Rita in your prayers.

Continue in prayer for Diann Milstead and family; Paul Grace and family; Wayne Anderson and family; Weldon Smith; Jimmie Newton; Peggy Schubert, Janith Hood.



Thoughts for the day

Always keep your head up because if it is down you won't be able to see the blessings that have been placed in your life.

Speak in such a way that others love to listen to you. Listen in such a way that others love to speak to you.

Daily Bible Reading

November 29 Ezekiel 44:1-45:12; 1 Peter 1:1-12; Psalm 119:17-32; Proverbs 28:8-10

November 30 Ezekiel 45:13-46:24; 1 Peter 1:13-2:10; Psalm 119:33-48; Proverbs 28:11

December 1 Ezekiel 47:1-48:35; 1 Peter 2:11-3:7; Psalm 119:49-64; Proverbs 28:12-13

December 2 Daniel 1:1-2:23; 1 Peter 3:8-4:6; Psalm 119:65-80; Proverbs 28:14

December 3 Daniel 2:24-3:30; 1 Peter 4:7-5:14; Psalm 119:81-96; Proverbs 28:15-16

December 4 Daniel 4:1-37; 2 Peter 1:1-21; Psalm 119:97-112; Proverbs 28:17-18

December 5 Daniel 5:1-31; 2 Peter 2:1-22; Psalm 119:113-128; Proverbs 28:19-20

Sermons, Bulletins and More @
freetownroad.com

Freetown Road Church of Christ

1038 Freetown Road
Grand Prairie, Texas 75051
972-641-4596 fax: 972-641-4597
Web: freetownroad.com
Email: freetowncoc@sbcglobal.net



Service & Class Times

Bible Class: 9:30 AM

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 AM

Sunday Evening: 6:00 PM

Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 PM

Minister:
Mike Lane



Sunday, November 22, 2020

Sunday Attendance-AM Worship: 66
2020 Budget: \$3,697.75
Contribution: \$2,229.24



Rachel Lane—November 30

Lisa Lucas—December 2

Joyce Singleton—December 3

Patricio Anguiano—December 3

Welcome Guests!

Please Stop By Our Visitor Center Located in the Foyer!

We are delighted you have chosen to worship with us. You honor us with your presence. We pray you find your time with us uplifting and encouraging and that our worship will honor our God and bring you closer to Him. If you have any questions, simply ask one of our members, or speak to one of our ministers. Please take a moment to fill out one of our visitors' cards, so we can have a record of your visit with us. Feel free to let us know what you think by writing comments on that card. You are always welcome!

Those to Serve December 6, 2020

Song Leader: Stephen Woods
Welcome, Opening Prayer, and Family Matters
Raul Rendon
Family prayer: Jim Lucas
Communion Leader: Perry Grace
Scripture Reading: Aaron Melenderz
Closing Prayer: Brandon Anguiano
Greeters: Sharon Jordan
Building lock up: Gary Gough
Cleaning crew: Yellow team

The Family Gram

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Freetown Road
Church of Christ
2020

Becoming a Rainmaker

Order of Worship

Song Leader	Scripture Reading
Perry Grace	Joey Anguiano
Hymn	Acts 4:11-12
Wonderful Love of Jesus	Sermon
Hymn	Salvation in the Bible
Holy, Holy, Holy Is the	Hymn
Lord of Hosts	Only a Step
Welcome & Opening Prayer	Hymn
Gary Gough	O Sacred Head
Hymn	Communion
Sowing the Seed of the Kingdom	Communion Leader
Hymn	Mike Lane
Let the Lower Lights Be Burning	Family Matters
Family Prayer	Gary Gough
Tommy Seymour	Hymn
Hymn	Will Your Anchor Hold?
Peace, Perfect Peace	Closing Prayer
Hymn	Brandon Anguiano
The Battle Belongs to the Lord	

Greeters: Peggy Holveck/Kimiko Sonterre
Building lock up: Mike Lane
Cleaning crew: Purple team