

“The Sheep Fold of Christ”

The Sheep Fold of ancient Israel is a simple yet effective structure that Christ used as a visual reference when teaching the people in John 10. In the opening verses of that chapter, we read, *"I Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. 2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him, the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers"* (see Num. 32:16, 24; 1 Sam. 24:3; 2 Chron. 32:28).

The Sheep Fold is a stone structure of approximately three to four feet high, only has one gate, and often had a thatched roof. Its purpose was and is to enclose the sheep during the evenings. If near a city, a common occurrence was to see them rented out for a short time. This renting practice allowed shepherds to rest for the night or handle other affairs while the flock was protected. One could also hire a young man to keep the sheep during this time.

Having one gate for the Sheep Fold meant that, should anyone wish to steal one, they must climb the wall, out of the purview of those who may be keeping watch. It would not be an easy task, but it is doable. It is especially the case if the sheep is cooperative or gave no sign of distress. Should he hire someone to oversee his flock while conducting other business, the shepherd had no reason to believe that this individual would open the gate and that the livestock would follow him elsewhere. Why? Because they did not know him.

When we consider that Christians are the sheep (see Isa. 40:11; Jer. 31:10; Zech. 9:16), and Christ is the Shepherd (see Mic. 5:4; Heb. 13:20; 1 Pt. 5:4), there is a great comfort. However, there is still a need to remain watchful, for thieves do attempt to steal what is His (see 1 Pt. 5:8), and, sadly, some will go willingly (see Mt. 7:15-20; 2 Tim. 4:3-4; 2 Pt. 2:1-3). Yet, no one can open the gate, call for the sheep to follow, and they do just that – they do not recognize his voice. The only way that a sheep is leaving the fold is if they do so willingly.

One of the essential concerns for a Christian is learning to recognize the voice of Christ. Only then will we not be led astray, and only then will we yelp when the thief climbs the walls. We must always be vigilant in our efforts to know God and the Word He has given us.

Mike

Church One-Liners

- ⇒ The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us!
- ⇒ God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.
- ⇒ God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.



Eileen Venum, former member of Freetown passed from her earthly home to her heavenly home on Saturday, September 19. Keep her husband, Quentin, and family in your prayers.

Think you missed some of the Gospel Minutes?

New packets are located in the foyer.

WHEN ALL BLUE AREAS ARE FILLED, THE YELLOW TAPED AREAS CAN BE USED FOR SEATING

PLEASE MOVE TO THE INSIDE OF THE PEWS TO ALLOW MAXIMUM SEATING IF YOU ARE ALONE.
YOUR COOPERATION IS APPRECIATED TO HELP US ADHERE TO CURRENT TEXAS REQUIREMENTS.

Freetown Members:



If you did not know, we have a private group on Facebook where we share information, prayer requests, post sermons and devotionals. If you do not have a Facebook account or are unsure of how to create one, please let Barry Seymour or Mike Lane know and they can walk you through the steps. It is a great way to stay informed if you are unable to leave the house.

For those who speed on the highway, a few hymns

- 45 mph—God Will Take Care of You
- 55 mph—Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
- 65 mph—Nearer My God to thee
- 75 mph—Nearer Still Nearer
- 85 mph—This World is Not my Home
- 95 mph—Lord, I'm Coming Home
- Over 100 mph—Precious Memories

Prayer Requests & Concerns

Keep Lisa Lucas in your prayers as she struggles with some decisions that need to be made at this time regarding her mother.



Jennifer Anglen, David and Kathy Thurman's daughter, had her first chemo treatment. Kathy reports everything went well. Please keep her in your prayers for strength and healing as she travels this road. Keep the rest of her family in your prayers for strength also.

Peggy Holveck requests prayers on behalf of one of Glenn's nieces, Dana. She will be having surgery on Friday to replace a valve in her heart. They have been told this will be a lengthy procedure, possibly up to 7 hours. Dana has some other health concerns that may cause complications. Keep Dana and all her family in your prayers that this surgery will work for her and she will be stronger.

There are many who need our prayer: Diann Milstead and family; Wayne Anderson and family; the Venum family; Weldon Smith; Jimmy Newton; Paul Grace and family



Attention ladies

The Ladies Bible Workers will resume on
September **29**, 9:30 a.m.

Daily Bible Reading

September 27 Isaiah 51:1-53:12; Ephesians 5:1-33; Psalm 69:19-36; Proverbs 24:7
September 28 Isaiah 54:1-57:14; Ephesians 6:1-24; Psalm 70:1-5; Proverbs 24:8
September 29 Isaiah 57:15-59:21; Philippians 1:1-26; Psalm 71:1-24; Proverbs 24:9-10
September 30 Isaiah 60:1-62:5; Philippians 1:27-2:18; Psalm 72:1-20; Proverbs 24:11-12
October 1 Isaiah 62:6-65:25; Philippians 2:19-3:3; Psalm 73:1-28; Proverbs 24:13-14
October 2 Isaiah 66:1-24; Philippians 3:4-21; Psalm 74:1-23; Proverbs 24:15-16
October 3 Jeremiah 1:1-2:30; Philippians 4:1-23; Psalm 75:1-10; Proverbs 24:17-20

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 Worship: 10:30 AM

Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 PM

Minister:
Mike Lane

Sunday, September 20, 2020

Sunday Attendance-AM Worship: 68
2020 Budget: \$3,697.75
Contribution: \$4,155.90

In the late 1940s, David Dunn wrote a delightful little book by the above title. He determined that he would practice, as a hobby, the art of giving himself to other people. His goal was to do small, thoughtful deeds for others as he went about his daily activities. He found that while such kindnesses did not cost him very much in terms of money, time or effort, they brought great results.

His kindnesses might range from a simple smile shared with a passerby, a word or note of appreciation, or a word of encouragement. He found that while such deeds brought an element of joy to the recipient, he was the one whose heart became filled with joy. In the chapter entitled "Bread Upon the Waters," he stated, "Doing what you can to make life more livable for other people makes your own life fuller. Friends multiply and good things come to you from every direction. The world has a way of balancing accounts with givers-away - provided their hands aren't outstretched for return favors."

While Dunn's book is not specifically a religious volume, his practice of giving himself to others is based upon a principle expressed by Jesus Himself. In Acts 20:35, the apostle Paul stated, "I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Imagine the difference each of us could make in the lives of those we meet if we could become "givers-away."
Patrick Hogan

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

October 4, 2020

Song Leader: Perry Grace
Welcome, Opening Prayer, and Family Matters
Raul Rendon
Family prayer: Jim Lucas
Communion Leader: Tommy Seymour
Scripture Reading: Arron Melenderz
Closing Prayer: Brandon Anguiano
Greeters: Jim and Lisa Lucas

The Family Gram

September 27, 2020 Volume 42 Number 37



**Freetown Road
Church of Christ
2020**

Becoming a Rainmaker

Order of Worship

Song Leader	Scripture Reading
Perry Grace	Matthew 5:13-16
Hymn	Joey Anguiano
The Lily of the Valley	Sermon
Hymn	The Main Thing
You Are the Song That I Sing	Hymn
Welcome & Opening Prayer	Lord, I'm Coming Home
Mike Lane	Hymn
Hymn	Dear Lord and Father of Mankind
The Way of the Cross	Communion
Hymn	Communion Leader
More Love to Thee, O Christ	Gary Gough
Hymn	Family Matters
Family Prayer	Mike Lane
Dwaine Gough	Hymn
In Heavenly Love Abiding	There Stands a Rock
Hymn	Closing Prayer
In My Life, Lord, Be Glorified	Wren Smith

Greeters: Israel and Bonnie Esparza

Building lock up: Jim Lucas