

IN THE SERVICES

November 25, 2007

Lord's Supper—

- L1Officiate: Jim Threadgill
- L2Helper: Trey Crandall
- L3am(only): Aaron Crandall
- L4am(only): Brett Hopkins
- R1Assistant: Doyle Osborne
- R2am(only): Stanton Hodge
- R3am(only): Mike Hebert
- R4am(only): Freddy Moak

Morning Prayers—

- Opening: Kenneth Barry
- Closing: Les Pastorella

Evening Prayers—

- Opening: Tony Vela
- Closing: Billy Guidry

December 2, 2007

Lord's Supper—

- L1Officiate: Stanley Archer
- L2Helper: Matt Holt
- L3am(only): James Crutchfield
- L4am(only): Brian Little
- R1Assistant: Rob Mullins
- R2am(only): Brian Hopkins
- R3am(only): Lonnie LaRue
- R4am(only): Paul Pappireddy

Morning Prayers—

- Opening: Jarren Garrett
- Closing: Chris Robin

Evening Prayers—

- Opening: Larry Richard
- Closing: Edgar Wolf

EVANGELISTS

Steve Dewhirst 727-1568
 Home 722-1188 Cell 718-7708
 Email: sdewhirst@juno.com
Steven Cuffle 727-1568
 Home 767-8776 Cell 543-2589
 Email: stevencuffle@gmail.com
 Church Website: www.stonegatechurch.com

ELDERS

Blake Bergman
 Jerry Covington
 Andy Crandall
 H. G. "Buddy" Hamby
 Sam Holt
 Randy Robin

DEACONS

Jeff Baker	Jimmy Moss
Ken Barry	Doyle Osborne
Lee Dean	Stephen Savant
Jeff DeLord	Ricky Scogin
Jarren Garrett	Andrew Smith
Jathen Garrett	Jim Threadgill
Keith Gremillion	Tony Vela
Garry Hamby	Edgar Wolf
Greg Hamby	

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Family Bible Study	9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Family Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

Announcements — Andy Crandall

Greeters — Andrew Smith, Don Mouton, Cody Pastorella, Larry Richard, Steve Savant

Lockup — Jeff Baker, Kenneth Barry, Trey and Andy Crandall, Rob Mullins



The Stonegate Standard

“Lift up a standard for the people...” (Isaiah 62:10)

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Volume XIV

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Issue 47



FORMING GODLY HABITS

Last week, in talking about 2 Corinthians 2.11, I made a short list of some things that Satan might try and use to outwit us. It was by no means a comprehensive list, but it had some things in it that are fairly common to all mankind – anger, revenge, addiction, depression and apathy. Nearly every “wile of the devil” has the effect of drawing our attention away from God and focusing it on something else. However, one in particular does something in addition which is very insidious: addictions steal our time.

Medically, if I remember correctly, addiction specifically refers to something upon which an individual has become chemically or psychologically dependent – in that sense I may not be using the right word. I know for certain, however, that the word “habit” fits very well. Habits are things that we settle into, tendencies or slight actions that over time become more pronounced and ingrained into who we are and what we do.

Some habits mentioned on Sunday were things like watching television, browsing the Internet and playing video games. While there is nothing wrong

with any of these activities, they *can* become problems. The difficulty in talking about these habits is that no place in the Bible details exactly how much television is all right and how much is too much. We will have to decide for ourselves based upon principles we can find Scripture, and, since there is no hard and fast rule, we will have to allow others to have their own faith before God and make their own decisions.

With specific reference to television, I thought it might be helpful to elaborate on what was said Sunday. I made a very amateur mistake, one that novice preachers tend to make quite often: we talked about removing a problem, but there were no realistic solutions offered to help “fill the gap”. It’s not hard to talk about problems we have; as I mentioned, I know that I spend too much time on the Internet. It *is* hard to find real, practical solutions for replacing those “bad habits” with something that is both godly and constructive. We must become master builders for God who remove all of the unsightly, clay bricks from our lives and replace them with refined bricks of gold and

silver. We need to take care how we build our lives upon the foundation of Jesus Christ (cf. 1 Corinthians 3.10-15).

There is nothing wrong with watching the news or having a favorite show (provided the content is acceptable), but we cannot allow our television set to take away from work that we could, and should, be doing for God. Rather than watching television, why not call someone who is ill? Let them know that you're praying for them and ask if there is anything they need. Call someone who you haven't seen at services in a while or someone you think might need to be encouraged. Call someone who you miss, who you love, admire or think would like to talk with you about spiritual things. We should receive more calls from our brothers and sisters in Christ than we do from telemarketers, and I will be the first to admit I need to pick up the phone and do some calling.

If you aren't comfortable just calling someone out of the blue, then write them a letter. Very few things are as flattering as receiving an I-was-just-thinking-about-you letter. Write a letter to someone who you thought did an exceptional job leading singing, praying or giving a Wednesday evening invitation. Write a letter to one of the people on our prayer list to let them know you are praying for them or to one of our members who is shut-in. I have kept nearly every non-commercial-holiday letter that I have ever received; they are treasures to me. You can make a difference in someone's life just by writing a few words to them.

One could also write an article for our bulletin. A good idea for sharing the gospel is to write an article about something like baptism, repentance or loving God. After you've written the article, give it to someone who isn't a Christian and ask them to "read it over for you". Not only will you get the personal benefit of your studies through this process, but you may very well write just the thing to pique someone's interest in becoming a Christian.

We could also read the Bible more. In the Scriptures we have the "words of eternal life" given by God Himself (John 6.68). Those words are capable of making us "wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3.15). They will light our path so we will not stumble, they will guard our hearts against sin and unrighteousness, and they will lead us to an eternity in heaven with God. Surely that is something worthy of our time every day. If we took the leisure time that we spent watching TV (or surfing the Internet for that matter), we could probably read the Bible several times through in a year. That's certainly something to consider.

Sometimes, in particular when we've had a terrible day at work or school, we want to come home and "veg-out". We attempt to release emotions and burdens through entertainment or by forgetting them altogether. Rather than watching television, those are times when we ought to develop our prayer habit. Prayer takes more effort than watching TV, but the benefits far outweigh our exertions. The God who created the universe is ready and willing to hear our prayers. Jesus Christ is willing to bear our burdens if we will but take the time to pray. When we pray to God rather than looking to TV for our comfort, "the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard [our] hearts and [our] minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4.6-7).



I am not suggesting that we get rid of our televisions (or computers), but there is a host of good for ourselves and others that we miss because we are too entrenched in our habits.

—Steven Cuffle

Family Talk

Responses—Sandra Goins' work schedule has prevented her from worshipping with us as she desires and she requests our prayers and encouragement. She also requests our prayers on behalf of her sons that they may come to know the truth.

About Our Sick—

Wanda Pruitt, Health South Rehab, #128B

Charles Fleniken, Health South Rehab, #120B

Wilma Beasley, bruised hip

Samantha Hodge, recovering from jaw surgery

Billy Moore, has not been feeling well

Rex Phillips, radiation treatments

Tammy Holt, chemo treatments

Hilda Morgan requests our prayers on behalf of her three brothers, all suffering from Alzheimer's, and their wives who are taking care of them.

Becca Scott began chemo treatments this past week. Please keep her in prayer.

Rebecca Scott
7777 Greenbrier, Apt. 1049
Houston, TX 77030

Carl & Annette Yaws
3023 Hemingway Dr
Montgomery, TX 77356
(936) 582-4316

Singing Night This Wednesday Evening— Be sure to join us as we sing praises to our Heavenly Father.

Ladies Card Making Group—will meet this Friday at **Ollie Robin's** home, 6pm.

December Dates to Remember—

12/6 Senior Rehab Bible Study, 10am

12/9 New Song Practice

12/9 7-12th Grade Devotional @ the **Bakers**

12/16 Elders and Deacons Meeting, 4pm

12/20 Senior Rehab Bible Study, 10am

Men's Bible Study, every Thursday morning at 6am, Cowboy Red's

Friday Night Bible Study, different homes each week, 7pm

We Are So Blessed!

GIf you own just one Bible, you are abundantly blessed. One-third of all the world does not have access to even one.

GIf you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.

GIf you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death, you are more blessed than 3 billion people in the world.

GIf your parents are still married and alive, you are very rare, even in the United States.

GIf you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

GIf you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head, and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world.

—Copied