

## Victory

It is hard to believe that 2023 has gone by so fast. It seems like only yesterday that we were eating our Christmas meal and feeling absolutely stuffed. I have always heard that the older you get the faster time flies. I must be getting “OLD.”

The 2023 year has been somewhat typical but with “good” and “bad”. The good things are mostly everything that happens in a normal daily life. Some things, however, are things that you are never prepared for.

So many of our brothers and sisters in Christ have gone on to their rewards in heaven. We mourn them because we miss them and would like to have had them with us for a while longer. The Lord calls us home at His specified time to join Him in the greatest even our souls will ever experience. Those who have departed us would not want to come back to be with us even if it was their option. We have all lost loved ones, and though we miss them greatly, we would not have them give up the reward they now have.

The Bible tells us that we have been given **EVERYTHING** we need for life and Godliness. The main thing that we need to do is search the scriptures faithfully and live our lives accordingly. There is no need to wonder because we have what we need. We often make the comment “speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where it is silent.” God gave us His Son, who died on the cross for our sins, and we do not need to read between the lines.

Those who have left us recently have “won the fight” and are now reaping the rewards. I have often envisioned all of them meeting up with the ones that have gone on before them. Must be a great reunion to be with them all in the arms of our Lord and our Savior. Keep the faith and walk the path of righteousness as prescribed by our Lord and we will be joining with the LORD and those who are waiting for us.

### Victory in Jesus

*I heard an old, old story How a Savior came from glory  
How He gave His life on Calvary to save a wretch like me.  
I heard about His groaning, Of His precious blood's atoning.  
Then I repented of my sins and won the victory.*

*Doug Smith*



#### **MEADOWS LEADERSHIP:**

##### ELDERS:

Jerald Bass (409) 926-7998  
Derrell Hart (409) 769-0099  
Donnie Landrum (409) 842-3236  
Brad Mansfield (409) 781-3987  
Doug Smith (409) 767-1824  
Carl Sundgren (409) 658-0027

##### DEACONS:

Bobby Case  
Joey Case  
David Owens  
Daryl Phelps

##### PULPIT MINISTER:

Rick Walker (303) 359-9160

##### YOUTH MINISTER:

Remy Afre (405) 693-9333

Good stuff to think about...

**To feel sorry for the needy  
is not the mark of a good  
person ~ to help them is.**

**We seldom think of what  
we have but always of  
what we lack.**

**Gentle words fall lightly but  
they have great weight.**

**You can be young at any age.**



**January 21, 2024**

**Vol. 8 # 2**

Schedule of Services:

**Sundays:**

Morning Worship 9:30 AM  
Bible Class 10:45 AM  
Evening Worship 5 PM

Monday Night Study:  
6:30 PM

**Tuesday Ladies  
Bible Class:**

9:45 AM Fellowship  
10 AM Bible Class  
Babysitting provided

Wednesday Night  
Devo / Bible Class:  
6:30 PM

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**Beaumont Nursing Homes**

**Service Times**

**Beaumont Nursing & Rehab  
(1175 Denton Drive, Bmt.)**

**Saturday @ 2:30 pm**

**The Oasis @ Beaumont  
(2660 Brickyard Rd., Bmt )**

**Sunday @ 2 pm**

**Arden Place of Beaumont  
(4195 Milam St., Beaumont)**

**Sunday @ 3:30 pm**

**Brookdale Dowlen Oaks  
(2250 Dowlen Rd., Bmt)**

**Sunday @ 2 pm**

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409-892-6420 Office

On the web:

[Meadowschurchofchrist.com](http://Meadowschurchofchrist.com)

## Meadows Messenger



### Be “The Encourager”

I believe most people appreciate it when they receive encouragement from others. Some examples include; “You are doing a great job!” “I really appreciate how you \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_!” “You are amazing!” “I’ve never seen anyone \_\_\_\_\_ as well as you!” “Keep up the good work!”



These types of affirmations are important in the home, on the job, and especially with our Christian brothers and sisters. All believers need encouragement. For we recognize that each one of us is locked in a cosmic spiritual battle with an enemy who is seeking to destroy us! It is difficult enough to continue to live a faithful life. But without receiving encouragement from time to time many people grow weary and simply give up.

Jesus was an “encourager!” He would tell stories where people were encouraged. At the end of the parable of “The Talents,” the faithful were told, “*Well done good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your Master,*” (Matthew 25:21, 23). On another occasion, “*When Jesus saw the man had answered Him intelligently, He said, ‘You are not far from the kingdom of God,’*” (Mark 12:34). Jesus was a Master Encourager!

There are a couple of ways we can be an encourager. The most obvious is when we use our words to encourage others. This is such an important skill that God has “gifted” some to do this well for others. “*We have different gifts, according to the grace given to us . . . if it* [i.e., the spiritual gift of ‘encouragement’ given to us by God] *is encouragement, let him encourage,*” (Romans 12:8). Clearly, this gift is vital to the life of the church. But even if we are not so gifted, we are still needed to encourage others!

The other way we can encourage is through our actions. Some examples include; our attendance at services and events, or our jumping in to help with a ministry or project, or our support of our leaders; “*Obey your leaders, submit to them; for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would not be profitable to you,*” (Hebrews 13:17).

As we all like to be encouraged, choose to be the encourager for others – *we all need it!!!*

*Rick Walker*



# EVENTS

## Current Events & Activities:

The Men’s monthly leadership meeting will take place this afternoon at 3 pm in the conference room.

### This Week’s Birthdays ...

1/22 Londynn Thomas  
1/26 Scott Hood  
1/27 Medley Coatney  
1/28 Adriene Reliford

### February Anniversaries ...

2/2 Bertin & Frances Howard  
2/14 Kevin & Karen Barry  
2/17 Brian & Cheryl Probst



When you say “yes,” say it quickly. But always take a half hour to say “no,” so you can understand the other person’s side.

Jaime & Meagan Case were married on January 2nd. Since they live in another town and can’t make it back to Beaumont for a wedding shower, Meadows will shower them with a money and gift card tree. If you would like to participate by giving them cash or a gift card, please give your card/gift to Meshell Heartfield. Please keep Jaime & Meagan in your prayers for a long and happy marriage. Our congrats to Jaime & Meagan and Bobby & Carol on their marriage.



### Community Outreach List of Needed Supplies:

Bottled water  
Blue Powerades  
Fruit Cups  
Individual Bags of Chips  
Packages of Gold Fish  
Vienna Sausage or Chicken, (pop top)  
Breakfast Bars, soft  
Desserts (ind. wrapped)  
Cookies (ind. wrapped)

### Brownies (ind. wrapped)

Please bring any of the items listed above and put on the Community Outreach table that is located in the foyer. Thank you very much for your help! There are sign up sheets on the round table in the foyer if you would like to help with making lunches or delivery at the park.

Today, (3rd Sunday), is Meadows day to serve at the park.

### Attendance & Contribution

2024 Weekly Budget: \$  
Collection 1/14/24: \$13,489.74  
Sunday AM (1/14) ... 122  
Sunday BC (1/14) ... 80  
Sunday PM (1/14) ... 39  
Wednesday PM (1/17) ... 33

### Weekly Averaged Collection for December:

\$13,691.26

### Building Fund/Parking Lot Balance:

\$6,189.65

## New Convert Class for the YOUTH: The Need for Authority

*Taught by Joey Case*

Generally speaking, Joey asked the class, “How would you define the word ‘standard’? Or what is an example of a standard?” Some said, “A standard is like certain people playing on the offensive line.” In other words, someone skinny and with long arms would not be an offensive lineman. That type of person would typically play wide receiver or defensive back. The coach would only allow bigger players to play on the line because that position has a specific standard for playing and winning the game.



Likewise, God has a specific standard. He had one since the beginning of time. For instance, God’s standard for Adam and Eve was to eat from any tree in the Garden of Eden beside one (**Genesis 2:16-17**). They went beyond the standard God set for them by eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil (**Genesis 3:1-6**). Handing out consequences to Adam and Eve resulted in their falling short (**Genesis 3:16- 19**). The same thing happened to their children, Cain and Abel (**Genesis 4:1-5**).

In **Leviticus 10:1-2**, Aaron’s sons, Nadab and Abihu, did not live up to God's standards. They offered strange fire before the Lord. God did not command that type of fire. Death was the consequence of their actions. The same principle can be seen in the life of Uzzah. In **2 Samuel 6**, as the Ark of the Covenant was about to tip over, Uzzah protected it by catching its fall. However, God had specific instructions on who could touch the Ark (**Numbers 4:15; 1 Chron. 15:13-14**). Because that standard was not met, Uzzah died.

The Bible is God’s Standard. It is the truth (**John 17:17; Psalm 119:160**) and must be lifted above all sin (**1 Timothy 3:15**). Those who wrote down that truth were holy men of God (**2 Peter 1:20-21**). They made no mistakes. The words they wrote did not come from their mind. God must define the interpretation of those words. They came from His mouth (**2 Timothy 3:16**). Some of those holy men of God who wrote those words were Jesus’ apostles and prophets (**Ephesians 2:20; 3:1-5**).

Every time they wrote and taught, they wrote down and taught the authority of Christ. They knew what consisted of His authority when they were empowered by the Holy Spirit (**Acts 1:8**). The Spirit of truth would help them remember what Jesus said (**John 15:26**) and guide them into all truth (**John 16:13**). While they wrote and taught, they loosen and bind some things that were already loosed and bound in heaven (**Matthew 16:19**). Anyone who did not uphold to the apostles’ teaching was to be avoided (**2 Thess. 3:14**). Therefore, the authority of the Bible must reflect in our words and actions (**Colossians 3:17**). If we do not live up to that standard, the consequence is spiritual death (**Matthew 7:13-14, 21-23; Romans 6:23**). Follow His instructions. They are clear. There is no excuse not to know what they are.

*Remy Afre*

### Meadows Prayer List:

#### Members:

Cathy Henley / rec @ home  
Sharon Hood  
Linda Landrum / home rehab  
Mazzy Milich  
Tina Paul / recovering  
Erskine Reliford/heart, lung issues  
Keri Robin / Cancer  
Betty Scott / fell, rec @ Kerry’s house in Conroe

Larry & Vicki Thomas /  
L—arteriogram, V—tests  
Betty Turner / health  
Rick & Chris Walker / health

#### Members Unable to Worship With Us:

Mildred Campbell  
Marjorie Crabtree  
Floyd /Georgia Guillory  
Marsha Hoskins

Mary & Mirinda Kattawar  
Annie Pearl Leigh  
Betty Jo Sorrell  
Shirley Stum

#### Our Friends & Family:

Brad & Johnny Hood / B-  
encouragement, J-terminal cancer  
Vera Thomas / L & V Thomas’  
sis in-law / chemo