

## GOD IS ON THE THRONE NOT ON STAGE

The God we serve is an august, spiritual being both deserving and desirous of our deepest respect. Though described in Scripture as a friend to man (Isa. 41:8; James 2:23), he is not some sort of “good buddy” to joke with or about. Our God is still on the throne (Psalm 45:6), his ways remain higher than our ways (Isa. 55:9), and his authoritative Word still promises to judge us in the Last Day (Rev. 20:12).

No measure of self-appointed, flippant familiarity with the God of heaven detracts one bit or whit from his inherent majesty. Our God is eminently worthy of our reverence, thus we must serve him “*acceptably with reverence and godly fear*” (Heb. 12:28). Truly, reverence is the “**very first element of religion**” [Charles Simmons].

Moreover, our periods of public worship should express this spirit of reverence. “*God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all {them that are} about him*” (Psa. 89:7). Worship performed “*in spirit and in truth*” (John 4:24) suggests a demeanor of awe and reverence.

We agree that our worship services should be permeated with expressions of joy and thanksgiving — they should not come to resemble a congregational visit to the dentist; but neither should the reverent worship of our heavenly Father be confused for a carnival or a rock concert. Whether our worship is that offered during a Sunday morning service, that which involves a lectureship assembly, or that which is engaged in by a zealous throng of young people attending a youth rally — regardless where, when or by whom the worship is performed — it must be characterized by reverence and decorum. “*Let all things be done decently and in order*” (1 Cor. 14:40).

The worship assembly is not the proper setting for screaming, whistling, clapping, and stomping the feet in response to a speaker's message. We do not gather to pay homage to men, but to worship God. We do not come together as to a football game or a stage-band concert; we come to worship God. We do not assemble with the intent of being entertained or sensually excited; we come to worship God. Any assembly of saints with the intent of worshipping and praising the God of heaven should reject that which emphasizes the carnal emotions and minimizes the spiritual man. An outsider should be able to attend one of our Sunday assemblies, or one of our many youth gatherings, and see a marked difference between the worship of God and the Johnny Carson show.

In the realm of worship, “*zeal without knowledge*” paves a dangerous road toward pagan, flesh-oriented, and riotous assemblies. Most of our denominational neighbors have long gone this route, with services geared more toward entertaining man than worshipping God. May we learn to temper our joy in Christ with a Christlike reverence for things holy.

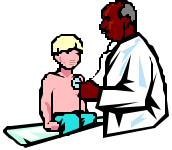
And may we teach our children so.

Remember, ***OUR GOD IS ON THE THRONE — NOT ON STAGE.***

— Dalton Key

Continue to remember in prayer:

**Sick** Marguerite Charles, Margaret Kratz, Miriam Majors, Betty Jenkins, Jim Dorsett, E.V. Wimmer, Peggy Paxton, Martha Keith, WJ Wood, Jonnie Charles, Mary Rose Michael



- Emily Richey has been admitted to the hospital.
- Lyn Anderson fell last week and was admitted to the VA.
- Marie Campbell fell and dislocated her elbow. She will see a specialist tomorrow.
- Glenn Hartman's parents continue to need our prayers.

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### Happy Birthday this week to :



**Bobby Martin—8/30**

Happy Anniversary this week to:

Jim & Marsha Cooke—8/30  
Wayne & Jackie Dixon—9/2



### AUGUST ITEMS FOR THE STAFFORDS:



Instant sugar-free chocolate pudding and Dream Whip. Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!

### Military

Jay Martin—Afghanistan



### Upcoming Events:

Mark your calendars—Team 2 and the WOW Group will be traveling to Safari Park on September 19. More details to follow.



### Teens

### September Events TBS—9/20

Got ideas for this fall?  
Talk to Mike to do some of them!!

### WOW

Next WOW meeting will be Tuesday,  
September 8 at 10:30 am.

Trip to Safari Park— September 19

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# Weekly Reminders

## For Your Information

### **2009 SUMMER SERIES**

Our annual Summer Series will feature Jerry Anderson this Wednesday. This is our final speaker in this year's summer series. We hope you all have enjoyed listening and learning from this wonderful summer.

### **FALL QUARTER ADULT CLASS OUTLINES**

If you would like an outline for this fall quarter's adult bible class on the Old Testament please sign up on the board. Tom Rogers will be teaching this class.

### **POLISHING THE PULPIT**

Several of our members are participating in this event. Remember them as they travel this week!

### **FALL QUARTER CLASSES**

The new Fall Quarter Bible Classes start next week.

### **COLLEGE ADDRESSES**

Please have all college kids addresses to the office by September 6. These will be posted in the following weeks bulletin and posted on the board in the hallway!

### **LADIES NIGHT OUT**

Our LNO will begin again on September 10 at 7:00 here at the building. Bring your favorite appetizer and the recipe. Drinks and paper products will be provided. (cookbooks will be made of the recipes and passed out at a later date!!) We will also be scheduling for the months of October thru May. If you cannot be there but would like to schedule a month—see Jo Ann.

### **TURN, TURN, TURN**

T3 will be held on October 3 here at the building. Registration forms are located in the foyer or see Velda to register.

### **TEACHERS WORKSHOP**

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, October 17. We have a GREAT TEACHER workshop planned for you. April Meacham and Teah McWhorter from Alabama and Mississippi will be here. They will have a HUGE amount of materials for you. Please register with Danny or the office by Oct. 3. Light breakfast and lunch will be provided.

### Prayer list:

Marguerite Charles  
Lyn Anderson  
Martha Keith  
Miriam Majors  
Betty Jenkins  
WJ Wood  
Margaret Kratz  
Jonnie Charles  
Jim Dorsett  
E.V. Wimmer  
Sandra Wood  
Emily Richey  
Peggy Paxton  
Sammy Simpkins  
Charlie Puckett  
Martin Family  
Marie Campbell  
Mary Rose Michael

### Activities:

PtP—8/28-9/3



<b>Announcements</b>	Paul Mays
<b>Song Leader (AM)</b>	Jeff Durham
<b>Opening Prayer (AM)</b>	
9/6	Bob Martin
9/13	Collin Gregory
9/20	Richard Simms
9/27	Glenn Hartman
<b>Preside at Communion</b>	Don Pettit
<b>Serve Table</b>	Herb Baker      Garrett Durham Glenn Gabbard    Ben Nikkel
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	
9/6	Eric Earnhart
9/13	Jason Oldham
9/20	Tom Richardson
9/27	Mitch Jearls
<b>Song Leader (PM)</b>	Eric Earnhart
<b>Opening Prayer (PM)</b>	
9/6	Jerry Anderson
9/13	Jeff Durham
9/20	David Brown
9/27	Charlie Maness
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Ethan Rogers
<b>Closing Prayer (PM)</b>	
9/6	Adam House
9/13	Jim Bush
9/20	Jim Harrington
9/27	Marc Laplante
<b>Serve Table (PM)</b>	Cameron Brown    Bradford Durham
<b>Song Leader (Wed)</b>	Josh Whitlow
<b>Prayer (Wed)</b>	
9/2	John Black
9/9	Danny Guard
9/16	Charlie Gwaltney
9/23	Mike Durham
9/30	Greg Edwards
<b>Open/Close Bldg Greeters</b>	Lyn Shrader Guards/Reeds
<b>Nursery Attend</b>	Grace Earnhart    Evelyn Scott
<b>Ushers</b>	John Black        Roger Mays
<b>Handouts</b>	Tanner Reed        Noah Laplante Jimmy Harrington    Nathan Pelfrey
<b>Prepare communion</b>	Evelyn White      Jessica White
<b>Cards &amp; Pencils</b>	Conner Jearls      Garrett Laplante

**Last weeks attendance 8/23&26/09**

Bible Class—134      Worship Service—167  
 Sunday Eve.—129      Wednesday Eve.—150  
 Contribution—\$4812

We continue in our study of the phrase "if any man."

Peter stated, "Yet *if any man* suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf" (I Pet. 4:16). Peter penned his epistle around 62 A.D. (around the beginning time of Neronian persecution) with the purpose of strengthening and encouraging brethren who had been scattered because of such (I Pet. 1:1). Many had already suffered and many more would face it. Such was to be expected. Jesus had spoken of it. He said, "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." (Mt. 5:10-12). He told His disciples, "Remember the word that I said unto you, the servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also" (Jn. 15:20). Paul stated, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (II Tim. 3:12). Regarding persecution he noted, "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body" (II Cor. 4:8-10). Paul could well write such from personal experience (cf. II Cor. 11:24-28). It is amazing how these people persevered and stood firm during such trying times. Sure, there were those who turned their backs (cf. Demas- II Tim. 4:10), but there were many who refused to let outside forces, regardless of how forceful, rob them of an eternity in heaven. Like the apostles, they counted it an honor to be deemed "worthy to suffer shame for his name" (Acts 4:12).

-Eddy