

MEADOWBROOK BAPTIST CHURCH

Worship This Sunday

October 11, 2020 ~ 9:00 AM

In our Sanctuary (please wear a mask)

or

Outside Parking Area

Services on YouTube

meadowbrookbaptist.cc

October 4, 2020

Worship Attendance 37 World Hunger \$15.00

Budget Offering \$2,127.00

Weekly Needs to Date \$106,000.00

Weekly Offerings to Date \$112,802.95

From Preacher Bob,

It never ceases to amaze me how faithful you, the people of Meadowbrook, are in your giving of your tithes and offerings. Most of us are in our "Senior" years and we have learned that no matter how hard we try, we cannot out give God. In 1969 I was 32 years old and in my first pastorate - Mount Carmel Baptist Church in Caddo, Oklahoma. I preached my first steward-ship message and said this:

"This does not mean that tithing will serve as an insurance policy against disaster. The man who gives with one eye on his gift and the other on his bank account is giving for the wrong reason. God may well test us and give us things that money cannot buy. Suffering may be part of our blessings."

A member shook my hand at the door and said, "Preacher, my wife and I have learned we cannot out give God. He just keeps on blessing us with things we do not deserve."

The thing is, he gripped my hand with his left hand because his right arm had been chewed off in a hay bailer accident several years earlier. A few months before he told me this, lightning had struck his kitchen and he repaired it using his left hand. (He was right handed) And he was praising God! God's choice blessings come in the realm of the soul. I know it pays financially to tithe but strength of character like this is worth more than money. And our church now is filled with people like him.

RECEIVING JESUS AND SALVATION

"As many as received Him, He gave the right to be called the children of God."

(John 1:11-12)

What is a Christian?

John says we can see God in creation and on conscience. But they say nothing about Him loving us or being willing to forgive us. That is why He sent the chosen people and their Bible. The zenith of Bible revelation was reached when God came to earth Himself, as the outshining of God's glory (Hebrews 1:1-3).

We become Jesus' follower when we pray for and "receive" His forgiveness and His help to slowly become a better person.

This is **personal**. Christianity includes **WHAT** we believe, but primarily it is **WHO** we trust and who we follow. We can sing about our prayers to him:

"And He walks with me and He talks with me /
He tells me I am his own / And the joy we share
as we tarry there / None other has ever known."

Are You Forgiven?

When John says we become "**children of God**"; this is one of the three wonderful things that happen in salvation. For one thing, we are forgiven by God. We who have been "children of Satan" (John 8:44), are claimed by Him as His forgiven child. And it does not matter what we have done in the past. God said to one church:

"The wicked will not inherit the kingdom of heaven - the immoral / the idol worshippers / the adulterers / the homosexuals / the thieves / the drunkards / the slanderers. And some of **you were like that!** But you were *washed*, you were *sanctified* (God calls us His own), you were justified (declared innocent), in the name of the Lord." (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

The great New Testament word for forgiveness is "justified". It is a courtroom term that means "not guilty" and in this case the verdict comes not from a jury, but from the