

# Oaks-West Church of Christ

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**March 28, 2021**

## **Different But The Same**

*by Rickie Jenkins*

Are we really so very different? Perhaps there are some differences in the externals but deep down we are pretty much all the same. We all have the same problem, sin. We all need the same remedy, salvation. If we are all pretty much the same, then let's recognize it.

We all hurt. Who is there that has not been hurt by someone? Something said or not said? Who is there that has not been hurt by feeling left out? Who is there that has not been hurt by being ridiculed? We hurt and we are hurt.

We all suffer something. Maybe it is loss of a job, a parent, a child, or a mate. For New Testament Christians, it was the loss of their lives. While we have not come to that, in other parts of the world Christians suffer from oppression due to famine, despotic governments and disease.

We all rejoice. We all have good things happen to us. A new baby is born. A job promotion. How about just finding a job? A marriage. A winning team. Truthfully, we have more to rejoice about than weep about.

What I want us to see are not the externalities that surround us but who we are. Who we are in our heart and who we are in our character. Can words and behavior reveal the heart? Yes, but remember none of us is perfect. I remember complaining to Dan Shipley one time, when we lived in Del Rio, about people. He stopped me and said Robert Turner told him, "Dan, after all they are just people." People with the same problems, same needs, same desires for their children and marriages. God's people with the same interest, same goal and the same dreams of the local church.

Let's stop just a moment and

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acknowledge the things in which we are alike. Satan wants us to amplify our differences. There is a book entitled, "The Things That Make You Different, Makes You the Same." Stop and appreciate the likeness in a world that promotes chaos and confusion. That is not us! That is not who we are!

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## Complaining

By George Slover

"Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: "Who will give us meat to eat? We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!" (Numbers 11:4-6)

Scenes of this chapter provide a glimpse of the pathetic character of Israel. Their constant grumbling is a source of extreme irritation for Moses, their leader. (Vs.11) "Manna, manna, all we have is a manna!" Could this same kind of dissatisfaction be found in our hearts?

It is first worth noting just where the sin began. A "mixed multitude" or foreigners were living among the people of God. A cry among these aliens seems to incite a rebellion among the Israelites. Thus, the

danger of listening to the counsel of friends of the world, especially when one's faith and commitment are challenged.

The Israelites had forgotten all that God had done for them. They do remember the manna, only to grumble about it. They are mindful of the delicacies of Egypt, but have they forgotten how they were treated in bondage? Their exaggerated language: "our whole being is dried up"; "we have nothing," reveals much about their ungrateful heart. Jesus has conquered sin and death, yet how easy it is for us to complain about matters far less important.

And so the people demanded flesh, and God gave them flesh beyond their request. They get their desire, but not God's blessing. One must be careful to become impatient with our real or imagined hardships. What we receive may not offer the pleasure that we are looking for.

To avoid the dangers of such thanklessness, we must take our eyes off the pleasures offered by the world. We must flee these harmful lusts, and turn our hearts to pursue heavenly objects. We must make the Father's business the main thing, and pray: "Father, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

## Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

**We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.**



**Upcoming Ladies' Bible Classes** - Next class April 13.

**Services** - The elders have decided to continue with the current service times of 10:45 am Sundays and 7:00 pm Wednesdays through the month of April. We will reevaluate in April. Thank you for your support and encouragement as we make these difficult decisions! --DT for the elders

**Mark Your Calendars** - our spring meeting with Tim Stevens is scheduled for April 25-28

*If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.*



Please remember the following individuals in your daily prayers:

Jack Wilson  
Jerry & Nancy Richardson  
Ron & Sue Stanberry  
Karen Hallmark  
Morgan O'Hair  
Dinah Williams  
Bobbie Gibbons  
Tyler Hairston  
Don & Alene Simmons

*And continue to pray for each other*

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

We have many that face challenges on a daily basis and need your prayers as well.

**“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”**  
**(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)**

