

# Worship Service Duties

<b>TODAY</b>	<b>November 6 2016</b>
<b>GREETER</b>	
<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	Josh Lee
<b>SONG LEADER</b>	Kevin Thomas
<b>OPENING PRAYER</b>	Marcus Palmer
<b>SERMON TITLE</b>	
<b>PREACHING</b>	Josh Lee
<b>COMMUNION</b>	Steve Stamper
<b>CLOSING PRAYER</b>	David Peters
<b>TUESDAY EVENING</b>	
<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	
<b>CLASS TOPIC</b>	Muscle & A Shovel
<b>TEACHER</b>	Josh Lee
<b>CLOSING PRAYER</b>	Various

## SUNDAY SERVICES:

Bible Classes 10:00 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:45 a.m.

## TUESDAY SERVICES:

Bible Classes 6:30 p.m.

## PREACHER: Joshua M. Lee

Home: (937) 540-9350

Cell: (937) 789-8055

Email: Thechurchatfranklin@gmail.com

## THE PLAN OF SALVATION: WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

- ♥ HEAR the gospel (Rom. 1:16; 10:14,17)
- ♥ BELIEVE the gospel (John 8:24; Mark 16:16; Heb. 11:6)
- ♥ REPENT of past sins (Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:31)
- ♥ CONFESS Jesus (Rom. 10:9-10; Mt. 10:32-33)
- ♥ BE BAPTIZED for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Mk. 16:16)
- ♥ LIVE FAITHFULLY unto death (Rev. 2:10; Mt. 6:33; Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 15:58).

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## The Church As God Intended It For His Glory Part I By Tommy Thornhill

In previous articles, it was pointed that the church was no accident, nor unessential, as some contend. God, from eternity, planned the church. He intended the church to play an important role in His plan of salvation, not to save people, but to proclaim and defend the gospel of Jesus Christ, once it was revealed **1.Cor.15:1-4**, which is God's power to save those who would believe and obey it **Rom.1:16-17**. Just as God intended, as the church performed its role in God's plan He would be glorified, *"To Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen"* **Eph.3:21**.

God designed the church to reveal His manifold wisdom in both the spiritual and the physical realm **Eph.3:10-11**. This was the purpose for which Jesus cleansed and purified it, that it might be a glorious church **Eph.5:27**. But, from the human standpoint, it is an imperfect church, composed of inglorious, sinful people. To an undiscerning world this might seem a contradiction, that God would design the perfect church, then add to it undeserving sinners, who could be saved by His grace. Yet, since the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, sinful people are the only kind of people God has ever had to work with. So, God doing what He did shows that He really loves and cares for the creatures (human beings) made in His image.

So, while God doing what He has done may seem strange to many people, God is still glorified when we recognize His wisdom and ability to use man's imperfections for His glory. Even though human beings were imperfect, God still used them to perform works in ways that would glorify Him, not them. Let me give you a couple of examples in the OT where God chose sinful men to do things where it would be obvious that the glory would be His, and not the men who performed the actions required of them.

When God chose Gideon to deliver the Israelites from the Midianites, Gideon was not a virtuous man. Yet, God selected him, and in the process, whittled down Gideon's army from 30,000 to only 300 men. Armed with torches, clay pitchers and good voices, they were victorious over the immense army of the Midianites **Judges 6-7**. Who got the glory? When David defeated the giant, Goliath **1.Sam.17**, he was not wearing the king's armor, but, as a young man in shepherd's attire, armed with a sling and 5 stones doing battle against the giant. When the battle was over, who was the one really glorified? On the other hand, we learn from Moses what happens when God is not honored and given the glory He deserves **Num.20:27**. Because Moses did not follow God's instructions, Moses dishonored God, and God would not permit him to enter the promised land.

Think how God is the one glorified in the church, when men follow His design. For example, the plan of salvation (belief, repentance, confession, baptism) that one must obey, in order to be saved and added by the Lord to the church is certainly not glorious from a human standpoint. Everything in the plan points to God being glorified, not man. The gospel is a very simply message, one that men don't find appealing **1.Cor.1:18, 21-25**. The men whom He chose to carry the soul-saving message were simply imperfect earthen vessels **2.Cor.4:7**. The contents were valuable, not the container. God and His Son received the glory when men preached the gospel message given to them by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, for it was Deity's gospel they preached, not their own.

Who gets the glory when His people assemble each first day of the week to pray, praise and worship Him, and memorialize His Son's sacrifice as the saints partake of the Lord's Supper? What about local church organization? Could man come up with a better design for the church to function than God's simple design in **Phil.1:1**? History shows us what happens when men tamper with God's organizational design. Man, seeking glory for themselves, using flawed human wisdom has produced a divided religious world, known as denominationalism. God receives no glory when men build their human ornate houses of worship and name them after men, nor is He honored when men build institutions He has not authorized, and attach them to the church.

So, how can we be sure that the local congregation of which we are a part, is glorifying God as He intends? First study the NT pattern carefully, for this is the ideal or perfect church, the one that God approves of. Then we (the members) will strive to do all we can to conform to that pattern. This also means we will continually examine our faith and practices in the light of God's word to remain faithful to God.

Part of this examination means that we will also notice where actual churches in the NT failed to measure up to God's ideal plan, and learn what they were told to do to correct the problems where they had failed.

Once we have learned what God expects of His church, then we do all we can to conform ourselves as a group to the revealed truth. As members we will honor God by respecting His authority, which He gave to His Son, and revealed in His word **Matt.17:5; Col.3:17; 2.Jn.4-6; 1.Tim.1:3; 6:3-4; 1.Cor.14:37; 1.Pet.4:11**. The members will have the mind of Christ **Phil.2:5; Gal.2:20**, always willing to submit to His leadership **1.Pet.2:21-23**. The members will uphold (defend) God's truth **1.Pet.3:15; Gal.2:5; Eph.6:10-13; Phil.1:17**. They will love spiritual things **Col.3:1-5; Matt.6:33**. And they will strive to be faithful **Rev.2:10; Col.3:17**. Doing this will glorify God, not ourselves.

### *Prayer Requests:*

—Stewart Hatfield (brother of Sis. Stephanie Thomas). Eck and Myrtle Gabbard. Ray Hatfield. Melissa Robinson. Vivian Hatfield. Jane Curry.

### *General Announcements:*

—The DVD's on the back table are free and are there for the taking. Even VISITORS are welcome to take them. In fact, we encourage you to take them!

—Remember, our website is now updated. The addresses are <http://www.Franklin-church.org>.

—A note to the men who lead in prayer: It has been requested that, if physically possible, you stand while delivering the opening/closing prayer as it will help some to hear you better.