

# christian

## WORKER



"We are workers together with Him..." (2 Cor. 6:1)

Volume 105, Number 4

8900 Manchaca Road, Austin, TX 78748

April 2019

### PSALMS OF THANKSGIVING

Don Walker

The great Psalms of God's inspired Word have consoled, comforted, and lifted the spirit of many a righteous man. Where we possess God's communication with men of old in the five books of law (the books of Moses), in the Psalms we possess five books as divided by the Jews. Yet, these books are more the communication of the righteous man with his God under the various circumstances that surround his life and emotions that play a role in the shaping of his character. The Psalms are certainly inspired of God and revealed by Him, but it is man that learns how he should approach God in a practical way on a daily basis.

In our study, we will look at one particular division of the Psalms and that would be *Psalms of Thanksgiving*. Though this is one division of the Psalms, this section of Psalms can be divided into two categories. First would be "National Psalms of Thanksgiving," and the second would be "Individual Psalms of Thanksgiving." In the National Psalms we see Israel expressing gratitude to God for that which He had provided, usually in the area of the defeat of their enemies. It is interesting that in these Psalms there is usually a call for the nations to acknowledge that Israel's God is the universal God. In Psalms 124:1-5 and 129:1-4, we see the thought of that deliverance. Ultimately these Psalms were not just expressing thanks to God, but also they were a confession of their own weakness and their inability to gain the victory without the aid of Jehovah.

On the other hand, there are several Psalms that express the gratitude of an individual for that which Jehovah provided. Many of these Psalms expressed thanksgiving for deliverance from some terrible danger. It may have been severe illness (30:2,3,9) or perhaps they had been delivered from an adversary (71:4,10,11). Yet, there was much more expressed than just thanksgiving. Notice Psalm 18:16-19:

He sent from above, he took me, he drew me out of many waters. He delivered me

from my strong enemy, and from them which hated me: for they were too strong for me. They prevented me in the day of my calamity: but the LORD was my stay. He brought me forth also into a large place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me.

In this Psalm of individual thanksgiving we see an acknowledgement of the author's inability to deliver himself and the fact that he would have been consumed or destroyed without the Lord's intervention. In these Psalms there is also a remembrance of their petition to Jehovah and an appreciation for the remnants of that deliverance. Notice Psalm 41:4, 11, 12:

I said, Lord, be merciful unto me: heal my soul; for I have sinned against thee.... By this

*continued on page 7*

#### A TRIBUTE TO DON WALKER

Psalms of Thanksgiving	
<i>Don Walker</i> .....	1
I am a Debtor. I am Ready. I am not Ashamed	
<i>Cody Westbrook</i> .....	2
I was Blessed to call him Dad	
<i>Joshua Walker</i> .....	3
The Blessing of Mentorship	
<i>Clay Bond</i> .....	4
Which of you shall have a Friend	
<i>Ken Hope</i> .....	4
Don Walker as a Preacher	
<i>B.J. Clarke</i> .....	6

# Editor

Cody Westbrook



"We are workers together with Him..." (2 Cor.6:1)

## I AM A DEBTOR. I AM READY. I AM NOT ASHAMED A TRIBUTE TO DON WALKER

I'll never forget the first time I heard Don Walker preach. It was April 2005 at the Annual Southwest Lectureship. The title of his lesson was "Authentic Christianity and Moral Purity for Today." I sat in the audience that night in utter amazement at the power and conviction with which our brother preached. His command of the Scripture, his boldness, his reverence for God and His Word, everything about him was utterly captivating. I have listened to the recording of that sermon many times since then, and each time is just as thrilling as the first.

If someone had told me that night that Don Walker would soon become one of my dearest friends, I would never have believed it. But today, I can say unequivocally that he impacted my life so powerfully, it is difficult to put into words. In August of 2007 I began as a student in the Southwest School of Bible Studies. In the second quarter of my first year, Don began teaching in a part time capacity. At the beginning of the third quarter, he began working as a full time instructor. It is difficult to describe how effective Don was as a teacher but those who studied under him know very well. Inside the classroom, he was firm but fair. He had the ability to make God's word come alive. He knew the scripture and he loved it deeply. He was passionate about teaching and preaching and that came out in every class he taught, but especially in his favorites—Leviticus, Ephesians, and the Messiahship of Christ, just to name a few. Outside of the classroom he was a student's best friend. He loved to joke and have a good time, but also knew when to be serious. He constantly encouraged us, but also sat us down and gave us a firm rebuke if the situation demanded it. I remember spending a lot of time in his office, talking to him about life, decisions, struggles, and whatever else happened to be on my mind. To this day I have no idea what he saw in me that made him take the time and extend the patience to listen to me and help me as much as he did, but I'm thankful that he did.

When I think of Don there is one section of scripture

that always comes to my mind—Romans 1:14-16.

I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

I can still hear him quoting that passage and emphasizing, "I am a debtor, I am ready, and I am not ashamed!" I can think of no other passage of scripture that better describes him. Don knew what it meant to be a "debtor." He knew well the grace and mercy of God and had tasted the goodness of the Lord (1 Pet. 2:3). He was so thankful for the blood of Christ, and the power of the gospel, and how it had changed his life. The Lord was good to him and he never forgot it. Don was always "ready" to preach the gospel. He loved God's Word and he knew it well. He was a diligent student and he always had a thought or a passage of scripture on his mind that he wanted to talk about and work through with you. We would often call each other to discuss an article we read or a sermon we heard, to work through and study it together. Some of my fondest memories are listening to sermons together on road trips and reflecting on what was said. Don loved preaching and anyone who knew him at all knew it well. He had a passion to proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ Jesus, and he was certainly "not ashamed" to do so. One of my favorite sermons of his is titled "Boldness Amidst Skepticism." It was another masterpiece delivered at the annual Southwest Lectures. The sermon begins with him saying,

Were there no God in heaven, then every fool would be a wise man. Had God not left His fingerprints all over creation, then skepticism would make sense. Had God not given a more sure word of prophecy, unbelief would be admirable. Had our loving Father not sent

### CHRISTIAN WORKER

(UPS 109-700)

Third-Class Postage Paid at Manchaca, Texas

Published on a Non-Profit basis by the

Southwest church of Christ, 8900 Manchaca Rd., Austin, TX 78748

E-mail: [office@swcofc.org](mailto:office@swcofc.org)

Cody Westbrook ----- Editor

Editorial Address: 8900 Manchaca Rd., Austin, TX 78748

Single Subscriptions ----- \$6.00 per year

In Clubs of five or more ----- \$5.50 per year

Per family on the Congregation Plan ----- \$5.00 yearly

In a bundle to a congregation or individual ----- \$0.75 each

Foreign (Air Mail postage) ----- \$17.00 per year

FREE online subscription at [www.swcofc.org](http://www.swcofc.org)

His Son to die on the cross for the salvation of the souls of men, then adamant rejection and the vehement anger directed toward the imposter would be a proper response. However, the atheist is still a fool. The skeptic is still unreasonable and he must stand against the mountains of evidence that proclaims the divine truths, the great truths, that you and I believe, that we love, that we honor, and that we ought to be ready and willing to defend.

My brother was not ashamed to say what needed to be said. He loved the truth and hated error and firmly believed that men need to hear a “thus saith the Lord.” Don had no tolerance for false doctrine or pulpit shenanigans. He knew that we are in the midst of a constant spiritual battle where the souls of men hang in the balance. The truth must be taught, error must be engaged, and souls must be saved. Don knew that and he was not ashamed to answer the call to be God’s mouthpiece. He was a debtor, he was ready, and he was not ashamed to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ—and thank God for it.

There is so much more that could be said about Don Walker. I could talk about fishing trips, road trips, gospel meetings, lectureships, phone calls, disagreements, pranks, and so much more. I owe him so much. Without his influence, I likely would not be preaching, I would not have my wife and children, and I would have made bad decision after bad decision over the last decade of my life. He taught me, he counseled me, and he helped me in so many ways that I cannot imagine what my life would be like without his finger prints all over it. I don’t even want to try. I loved him dearly and I thank God for the relationship we had. He was a great mentor, a loyal friend, a powerful preacher, a devoted husband, a loving father, a faithful child of God, and so much more. I look forward to the seeing him again some day, but until then, his constant exhortation stands as a reminder. “I am a debtor. I am ready. I am not ashamed!”

---

CW

## “I WAS BLESSED TO CALL HIM “DAD”

Joshua Walker

**F**or as long as I can remember, growing up in our house, a plaque would hang on the wall that read, “As for Me and My House, We Will Serve the Lord – Joshua 24:15.” My mom and dad, whether through sports, school, or relationships, emphasized that we were to lead by example. Our dad held us to a high standard, and the only real expectation that he had for us to was for us to remain faithful to the Lord.

I often think of what Paul wrote in 1 Cor 11:1, “Be

imitators of me, as I am of Christ,” when I think about my dad. My dad wasn’t perfect, nor did he mandate perfection from anyone in our family. One thing that stood out about my dad from my childhood was that, when he made mistakes, he accepted responsibility for his mistakes. He did whatever was necessary to make it right. That’s why he was so quick to forgive when we would make mistakes if we desired to resolve those mistakes properly.

I remember a time in high school when my dad and I were butting heads over something that I cannot remember now. I was looking to gain more independence and, if I’m honest with myself, was probably not making the wisest of choices. I do know that my dad was trying to impart wisdom upon his stubborn teenage son, and probably frustrated that I wasn’t listening. He grounded me from my car, but offered an olive branch. If I owned up to my mistake, I could make it right and get the keys back. Obstinate as I was, I refused to admit wrong. I thought that I could simply wait for it to become an inconvenience to my parents, get my driving privileges back, and the matter would be settled. I vastly underestimated my dad’s dedication to teach me this crucial lesson. For the next week he would drive me to the places I was obligated to go, even if it meant going out of his way, or making it more of a hassle on himself. When I still didn’t budge, the rigmarole of the situation proved to be a punishment on him as well. My dad decided that he was not going to endure this annoyance any longer. That is when he decided that he was going to make his 18-year-old son, a senior in high school with a reputation to uphold, ride the bus to school. I was not allowed to ride with friends to school, because I was required to get on the bus every morning and confront the looks of confusion and terror on faces of so many freshmen. My dad had made his point. After a week of this humiliation, I owned up to my mistake and sought forgiveness from my parents. I was given the keys to the car straightaway and was driving again.

We all make mistakes (Rom 3:23). However, it is not the mistakes that define us, but rather the way we conduct ourselves after we make these mistakes. It is the difference on how we view the apostle Peter versus Judas, according to Luke 22:54-62 and Matthew 27:1-10, respectively. It was why the audience’s reaction to the message of Peter in Acts 2 is met with joy and praise (Acts 2:41), and the response to the sermon Stephen preached in Acts 7 is considered such as sad, heart-breaking tragedy (Acts 7:54-60). It is why I look back on the events I recalled with my dad and me with love and thankfulness instead of anger and contempt.

I could write much more about the wisdom and love imparted upon me and my siblings by my dad, and it still would not touch the hem of the garment. The standard my dad set for us was high, but he

had the same expectations of himself. He was fair, forgiving, and faithful. I am blessed to call him dad.

---

CW

## THE BLESSING OF MENTORSHIP

Clay Bond

**I**t was 2001; I was ten years in at a good job that offered a great retirement plan that would allow me to retire early. The evening I planned to spend working on a Harley-Davidson was an evening that would set me on a new path. Don Walker called and the conversation we had changed, not just my career, but the course of my life. He called me that evening and said “dude, you need to go to preaching school.”

I had doubts, concerns and objections, but for each one, Don had an answer. “I’ll go in ten years after I retire.” Don’s reply, “the Lord needs you now.” “I’ve got commitments: a job, a motorcycle shop, a new wife, a baby on the way.” Don’s reply, “the Lord’s work is too precious and He needs workers.” After our discussion I went in to work the next day and gave my two weeks’ notice. My boss asked me to reconsider. He reminded me that I had ten years with the Co-Op and that I was next up for promotion to supervisor. It all made sense, but I was already gone! It seems that from that point on doors opened. In a six month market, our house sold in a few weeks. We needed a place to live in Austin and one of the elders had a house to rent. We needed financial support to live on for the two-year study program, and Don stepped in and wrote a letter of recommendation encouraging brethren to support me. The good name and recommendation of my mentor helped me raise the support I needed.

Don encourage me to quit my job for a higher calling, he helped me enroll and he helped me get the financial support to go Southwest School of Bible Studies, but he didn’t stop at that. He also made sure I finished! One week was all it took for me to realize I was in way over my head. I didn’t know how to type, I was an extremely slow reader, and I had a very long list of requirements for the first quarter classes and no idea how or where to begin. I had a formal dress code and I didn’t even know how to tie a tie! I was so stressed that my eye lids were twitching and I couldn’t read. I talked to Don and told him I made a mistake. He encouraged me by directing me to Philippians 4:13 and 2:12, and then he reassured me some more. Every step of the way, Don kept encouraging me to press forward and not give up.

The two years of study passed quickly and then the real work began. It was at the point of beginning my first full-time work with a congregation that I began to rely heavily on my mentor. I would face many challenges, but almost always, he had been there before. I was discouraged, he had been

too. We worked together on side jobs trying to make ends meet and while we worked, we also discussed lessons. He would ask me questions about passages and I would wonder why. I understand now that he was helping me learn to think and reason through the Scriptures. His desire was to help me grow as a spiritual man and a gospel preacher. He gave me opportunities to speak, sermon ideas, feedback, and some constructive criticism. He invested in me with an aim toward helping me develop into a useful vessel (2 Tim. 2:20-22).

Don and I shared many things in common. We both loved to hunt, to fish, to argue, and pull pranks on each other. Even more so we loved to share our challenges and struggles. We loved to pray and talk Bible. This was the core of our friendship. This was the core of Don’s mentorship. For years we had worked for the Lord separately and talked about how great it would be to work together. An opportunity came when he returned to Southwest School of Bible Studies as Director. The opportunity we so looked forward to was full of its own unique challenges. Don’s health was the biggest. The months of his illness provided many opportunities for us to talk, pray, and encourage each other.

Without Don’s mentorship I would probably be retired from my good Co-Op job. Maybe I would still be thinking about going to preaching school – maybe. Instead, I am looking back on a decade and a half of service in the Kingdom. Don was a great mentor and a blessing to me because he pushed me and set a goal to develop me into something useful to the Master. He was to me the “friend that sticketh closer than a brother.”

---

CW

## WHICH OF YOU SHALL HAVE A FRIEND?

Ken Hope

*Note: On January 24 we said goodbye, for the time being, to our beloved brother Don Walker. Don was one of the nearest and dearest of my friends. What Don was to me, a great friend, he was to countless others as well. This entire issue of the Christian Worker is devoted and dedicated to him. As a preacher, Don was unsurpassed in proclaiming God’s Word with clarity, certainty, and confidence. As a mentor, Don brought the very best out in the men he taught and became an example to. As a friend, he left an indelible impression, a lasting legacy, not to mention, a huge void at his departure. In this article we want to consider Don as a friend.*

I first met Don because my father-in-law, Johnny Ramsey, encouraged me to look him up when I went to the annual Southwest Lectures in Austin. Since we were close in age, both preaching full time and had mutual interests, Johnny

knew that we would have a lot in common. Little did I know that Don would become a life-long friend and one of my best. Our friendship spanned well over three decades. I certainly was blessed over those years because of the joy I experienced, the lessons I learned and the spiritual growth I attained.

The immense worth of a friend cannot possibly be overstated. The value of friendship has been acknowledged and appreciated by all people throughout all times. God created man with the kind intention that he would be a social creature (Gen. 2:18). Our perfect example in all things, Jesus (1 Pet. 2:21), beautifully set forth the desired four fold development God intends for all of us. In Luke 2:52, we read, "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men". Thus, we learn from Luke's inspired words that Jesus grew intellectually, physically, spiritually, and *socially*.

From Genesis to Revelation we are reminded that if we are to grow socially it will be because we recognize the virtues and value of friendship. Solomon teaches us that if we want to have friends then we must show ourselves friendly (Prov. 18:24). We are told that even ruthless Haman had friends (Esther 5:10,14; 6:13). Likewise, wicked Herod and worthless Pilate set aside their long lasting enmity to become friends (Luke 23:12). As we can see from the last examples cited, it's not enough to have friends. The key is to have the right kind of friends. Furthermore, it's not enough to **have** the right kind of friends but also to **be** the right kind. Don had many friends because he was the kind of friend that you appreciated and valued.

My title, *Which Of You Shall Have A Friend*, is taken from Luke 11, where Jesus asks in verse 5, "Which of you shall have a friend and go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves!'" In asking this question, Jesus masterfully attracts the attention of everyone in the audience. With the mere mention of the word, friend, Jesus now has opened every ear and captured the interest of all present. Since everyone understands the tremendous value of friendship, all ears are fixed on Jesus and receptive to His teaching.

#### ***Which Of You Shall Have A Friend...***

***So Faithful As Don!?*** The very hallmark of friendship is faithfulness and loyalty. Solomon declares in Proverbs 17:17, "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity." God lamented the lack of loyalty in Ephraim by declaring, "For your faithfulness is like a morning cloud, and like the early dew it goes away" (Hosea 6:4). If you were blessed to have Don as a friend he was there for you through thick and thin. Don was no "fair weather" friend but genuine and true to the end.

***So Close As Don!?*** The faithfulness and loyalty I just spoke of insures, and even demands, an unparalleled

closeness. The friendship of David and Jonathan was legendary because they loved each other as their own soul (1 Sam. 18:1,3). Their loyalty to each other was so true that even Saul, Jonathan's father, could not come between them. Solomon speaks of a whisperer who "separates the best of friends" (Prov. 16:28). "The best of friends" sums up the kind of friend Don was to me and others as well.

***So Helpful As Don!?*** When it came to projects that I needed help with around my house I viewed Don as my "right hand man". Even though we did not impose upon each other for every little thing that came up, when I needed a skillful hand and a knowledgeable mind I knew that I could call Don. Whether it was running crown molding at my house or tearing down a massive fireplace and chimney stack at his, we knew who to call upon for help. Through the years, some of my fondest memories were the times Don and I fixed (or messed up) something at his house or mine.

***So Happy As Don!?*** Don's happiness and joy was contagious. His laughter was infectious. Don loved life (1 Pet. 3:10). He was happy to be a child of God (Ps. 144:15). The joy that he approached life with was "inexpressible and full of glory" (1 Pet. 1:8). Don was a constant reminder that Christianity was never intended to make man miserable. It didn't matter what Don was doing he was sure to enjoy it. He was extremely happy as a husband. He found immense joy in his role as a father. Above all, Don was so glad to be a Christian (1 Pet. 4:16).

***So Valuable As Don!?*** How can you calculate the value of a true friend? Like the virtuous woman, a friend's worth is far above rubies (Prov. 31:10). Like the kingdom of heaven, a friend can rightfully be compared to treasure found (Matt. 13:44). Solomon speaks of the value of a friend when he discloses the following reality; "As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend". A true friend helps others to grow spiritually, thus, making them more useful in the kingdom of God (Jer. 13:7,10; Matt. 5:13; 2 Tim. 2:21). I can honestly say that I am a better man today because of my friend, Don Walker.

***So Beloved As Don!?*** When Paul writes to Philemon, his fellow laborer, he refers to himself as "a prisoner of Christ Jesus". He then calls Timothy "our brother". When he again turns his attention to Philemon he speaks of him as "our beloved friend" (Phile. 1 NKJV). What Philemon was to Paul, Don certainly was to me... a beloved friend. In life, Don wore many "hats": a loving husband, a devoted father, a faithful Christian, a beloved brother, an amazing teacher, a powerful preacher and the best friend a person could have. It was a blessing to know Don and it was a joy to count him a dear friend.

CW

# DON WALKER AS A PREACHER

B. J. Clarke

I remember very well the first time I heard Don Walker preach the Word. I could tell he had a fire in his bones to get the message out (Jer. 20:9). He spoke with clarity and conviction. As he quoted passage after passage, and tied the Scriptures together so effectively, I knew I didn't want it to be the last time I heard him preach. And fortunately for me, it wasn't. Little did I know, at the time, that I would be blessed, not only to hear Don preach many, many, times in the future, but I would also get the privilege of getting to know him as a dear, dear friend. My assigned focus in this article is to put the spotlight on Don as a preacher.

One of Don's favorite passages was Psalm 34:3: "O magnify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together." This verse meant much to both Don and Jackie—it was a theme verse for their wedding and marriage. What a fitting verse it is also for the way that he lived his life, and the way that he preached.

## DON'S PREACHING MAGNIFIED GOD

One of Don's favorite songs was *O Lord, Our Lord, How Excellent Is Thy Name*. This is not surprising, for his preaching was very focused on magnifying the excellence of God. In his preaching...

**He magnified the power of God.** One of Don's favorite books of the Bible was the Book of Ephesians. This book extols the power of God in unforgettable fashion, "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us" (Eph. 3:20). Don emphasized the greatness of God and lifted him up. In so doing, Don deemphasized man and magnified God!

**He magnified the presence of God.** He loved the Book of Psalms and often quoted its contents: "God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble (Ps. 46:1). Don knew how to comfort the heavy-hearted by using the Word of God to make the hearer aware of the comforting presence of God:

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings as eagles; They shall run, and not be weary; And they shall walk, and not faint (Isa. 40:31).

Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God (2 Cor. 1:3-4).

## DON'S PREACHING MAGNIFIED THE WORD OF GOD

Don's first sermon at Prescott Valley in Arizona provided a preview of the kind of preacher Don would become. He cited 150 scriptures in 15 minutes, and then realized he was at the end of his outline. However, he didn't want to cut the sermon so short—so he preached the same content backwards to where he had started the sermon, once again emphasizing the same Scriptures in reverse order! Paul told Timothy to "Preach the Word" (2 Tim. 4:2), and that is precisely what Don Walker did—from his first sermon to the last. He saturated his sermons with Scripture!

The only way to preach so much Scripture, and to do so effectively, is to be thoroughly familiar with the Word of God. Don's love for study reminds me of the description in Proverbs 2 of the one who cried after knowledge, and sought it like silver and a buried treasure

My son, if thou wilt receive my words, And hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, And apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, And liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, And searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, And find the knowledge of God (Pro. 2:1-5).

Because Don spent so much time in the Word, he could "speak as the oracles of God" and, in so doing, he glorified God "through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen" (1 Pet. 4:11).

## DON'S PREACHING MAGNIFIED JESUS CHRIST

I absolutely loved hearing Don teach/preach through the Book of John. To say that these were Christ-exalting presentations is an understatement! One of Don's specialties was exalting Jesus Christ in his preaching. Like Paul, he did not enter the pulpit with "excellency of speech or of wisdom" in declaring the testimony of God. Rather, his whole focus was to preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified (1 Cor. 2:1-2). He developed and directed an entire lectureship on the subject of *Exalting Jesus Christ*.

The following statement, from the pen of the apostle Paul, is also descriptive of Don as a preacher and as a Christian:

According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing shall I be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life or by death. For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain (Phil. 1:20-21).

Don believed and preached that God would supply all of man's needs "according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:19).

Of course, man's greatest need is that of salvation,

and Don preached the truth uncompromisingly about where this salvation can be found. He preached,

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: (Eph. 2:4-6).

#### **DON'S PREACHING MAGNIFIED THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST**

It was my privilege to attend a Wednesday Night Bible Class, which Don taught on the Book of Ephesians. He knew that Book backwards, forwards, sideways, and every which way in between. It was thrilling to hear Don explain how Jesus reconciled sinners unto Himself in one body by the cross (Eph. 2:14-18). It was a joy to hear Don magnify the Head of the body (Eph. 1:22-23), and His one body as the location of the saved (Eph. 4:4; 5:23).

Don never preached the Man without the Plan, or the Plan apart from the Man Christ Jesus. Don magnified both the Christ of the church and the church of the Christ! He loved the church for which Christ bled and died (Acts 20:28).

#### **DON'S PREACHING MAGNIFIED THE HOPE OF HEAVEN**

Long before he fell ill, Don had a way of making Heaven come alive in his preaching. His passion for going there made every hearer yearn even more for Heaven than before. Although Don desired to stay here on earth and continue his work of preaching, and his time with his family and friends, he was fully confident of what would happen to him at the moment of his departure from this life (Phil. 1:21-23). He trusted in the guarantee of Jesus Christ:

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. (John 12:24-25).

He believed that Jesus meant it when He said, "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death" (Rev. 1:18).

Don suffered much in the physical realm as he fought for his life, but he believed and preached the following truth: "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Rom. 8:18).

Don loved preaching so much that one of the very hardest parts of being sick for him is that he missed the opportunities to preach. Month after month he was in the hospital, unable to preach. But in reality, Don was preaching

one of the best sermons ever! His life was preaching a loud and clear message to the Doctors, Nurses, Hospital Staff, and those who came to visit him. The conclusion to his living sermon could not be silenced by his death, for he died victoriously (1 Cor. 15:53-57)! He was ready to be offered! He fought a good fight! He finished his course! He kept the faith! Henceforth, his death was not the end of Don Walker. It was rather a means to an end, that end being the crown of life, given to him by the same Lord Jesus Whom he magnified in the preaching he did, both by his lips and by his life! What a sermon!

CW

---

#### *continued from page 1*

I know that thou favourest me, because mine enemy doth not triumph over me. And as for me, thou upholdest me in mine integrity, and settest me before thy face for ever.

Then, finally, we see praise heaped upon Jehovah in the last verse: "*Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting, and to everlasting. Amen, and Amen*" (Psa. 41:13).

As New Testament Christians, we are well aware that our God has given us innumerable reasons to be thankful. As James wrote,

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning (James 1:17).

Whether we consider the physical blessings, or especially the spiritual blessings, we as Christians have much for which to be thankful. Paul wrote, "*But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ*" (1 Cor. 55:57). Again he wrote,

Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place (2 Cor. 2:14).

As the recipients of so much, how should we respond to our God? We learn from the Psalms of Thanksgiving that there are certain elements that must be present in our humble approach to Jehovah. First, we should praise our God as the Great God He is. Second, we should express our appreciation for that which He has provided. And third, we should express our smallness and inadequacies and inability to deliver ourselves.

May we never take the blessings of our God for granted, and may we follow the example of righteous men who have gone before in our expressions of thanksgiving to Him, as we study our Bibles more and more.

CW



# SOUTHWEST

---

## Southwest School of Bible Studies

### FACULTY

**Steven Lloyd** *director*

**Clay Bond** *associate  
director*

**Wayne Jones**

**Trent Kennedy**

**Carl McCann**

**Ronnie Scherffius**

**Logan Summers**

**Cody Westbrook**

Southwest graduates serve as preachers, authors, campus directors, missionaries, and school leaders on five continents. Whatever your passion, with strong academics and hands-on training, our collegiate program will empower you to serve Christ and His church.

- **Two year full-time program for men and women**
- **Well-respected Bible faculty**
- **Verse-by-verse study of the entire Bible**
- **Training in expository preaching**
- **No tuition**
- **Living expense assistance available**
- **Studies in Biblical languages**



[swsbs.edu](http://swsbs.edu)

*“To know Jesus and...  
make Him known”*

Southwest church of Christ  
**Christian Worker**  
8900 Manchaca Road  
Austin, TX 78748

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Manchaca, Texas  
Permit No. 85