



October 27, 2024

Volume XXXII—Issue 43

Reasons People Delay Salvation

By Josh Ketchum

Ananias asked Paul an important question, “And now why do you wait?” (Acts 22:16). What a wonderful question to consider. Why are you waiting to be saved? Why are you waiting to give your life to Christ through belief (John 3:16), repentance (Luke 13:3), confession (Rom. 10:9-10), and baptism (Acts 2:38, Mark 16:16)? Let’s consider some of the reasons people give for waiting to be saved. If you are waiting, I hope these thoughts can help you to stop waiting!

- 1. Aren’t ready for commitment.** Jesus taught us to count the cost (Luke 14:26-33). Baptism is a believer’s wedding ceremony. It is when you commit to Christ for life. Just like some avoid marriage because they don’t want the commitment, many refuse salvation for the same reason. They fail to realize they are already in bondage and slavery to sin (John 8:34).
- 2. Believe they don’t know enough.** Some seem to perceive that they have to take a Bible test before they can be saved. They feel their knowledge is inferior to Christians and the Bible seems so overwhelming. They fail to realize we are born again as a new born babe (John 3:5)! Growth and learning are expected afterwards, but only a basic level of understanding one’s own sin and Christ’s atoning death is needed for salvation (Acts 2; 8:26-40).
- 3. Believe they aren’t good enough.** Some are deeply convicted of their sins. They seem to want to get their life clean first and then come to Jesus. They want to prove to themselves, others, and maybe, even God, that they can live good and “deserve” salvation. This is a gross misunderstanding of the grace of God (Rom. 3:23-26, 5:8-10). No-one is good enough (Rom. 3:23, 6:23). We turn to Christ for help and strength who promises to clean up our lives and empower us to live holy lives (Phil. 4:13).
- 4. Fear crowds and the public nature of conversion.** Some expect their baptism to be before the whole church or fear walking before an entire church assembly. They also understand that their decision will be broadcast to their friends and family, which can cause them trepidation and fear worried about what they may think or say. While this fear is legitimate and understandable, it must be overcome. It may be that they person needs to be baptism in a more private setting or speak to the preacher after service instead of going forward. But the person must also realize that a part of salvation is publicly and proudly acknowledging Christ as Lord (Mat. 10:32-33).
- 5. Fear the expectation to lead and serve in certain Christian duties.** Some have watched the roles Christians play for years. They see men leading in public worship or taking on leadership roles in the church. Christian women are involved in serving and leading various ministries. A potential convert may fear they will be expected to assume the same roles. Some men actually delay salvation for fear they would be called upon to lead a public prayer or read Scripture. A proper understanding of talents and gifts is needed. Each Christian has unique gifts and abilities which they are to use for Christ (Rom. 12:4-8). They are not expected to do what others do, but what they can do for Christ.
- 6. Love sin and don’t want to change.** Some delay salvation because they aren’t ready to give up the life of sin. They understand they would need to repent and they desire to live in sin (2 Tim. 4:10). This person needs to seriously consider the value of their soul (Mat. 16:26-27).
- 7. Because they have bought into the world’s thoughts that all good people go to heaven.** The common cultural thought is that everyone goes to heaven. I fear many rationalize and ease their guilty conscience by feeling like they are okay. They are a “good moral” person. God is good and will surely save them. They fail to realize they are lost without obedience to Christ (2 Thes. 1:7-9).

The real question is not “Why do others delay salvation?”, the real question is “Why do you delay salvation?” Please do not delay! Do as Ananias encouraged Paul, “Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name” (Acts 22:16).

God loves you and keep reading your Bible!
Shawn

Welcome to Woodland Oaks Church of Christ

We are honored you have chosen to worship with us this morning. Thank you for visiting us today! We look forward to meeting you!

Schedule of Services

Sunday	9:00 AM	Bible Classes
	10:15 AM	Morning Assembly
	6:00 PM	Evening Assembly
Wednesday	7:00 PM	Bible Classes

October 27, 2024

Elder of the Day Scott Blake

Communion Leader Jerry Johnson

Adult Bible Classes:

“A Study of Matthew”

by Joel Blake—Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel Center Auditorium

“Doers Not Just Hearers: Book of James”

by Bob Klemm—Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. in the Worship Center Room A102

“One Nation Under God or Man?” by Mark Freeman

Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. in the Worship Center Room A101

“What They Believe” (Young Professionals) by Mike Smith
Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel Center Room C106 (Magnolia Rm)

“Select Verses from the Gospel of John” by Shan Jackson
Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m. in the Worship Center Auditorium

“The Bible Quoting the Psalms” (Ages 18-25) by Andrew Isherwood
Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m. in Worship Center Room A102

Teen Bible Classes:

“Hebrews” (9th–12th) by Quinn Tolbert
Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. in the Education Center B-107

“Life of Christ” (7th –8th) by Morgan Whatley
Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. in the Education Center B-101

“Our Identity as Christians and Using Our Talents” (9th –12th)
by Bruce & Bryce Caldwell
Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m. in the Education Center B-107

“Joshua” (7th –8th) by Ross Randow/Colten Cavanaugh
Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m. in the Education Center B-101

Treehouse Kids Bible Classes:

0–1 year	A103
1 year	A105/A106
2 years	A107
3 years/Pre-K	A108
Kindergarten	B200
1st grade	B202
2nd grade	B203
3rd grade	B207
4th grade	B208
5th grade	B206
6th grade	B209

A **Facility Map** and other information is available at the Welcome Center.

A **Secure Check-in System** is active for children ages 0 to 4 years.

A **Nursery** is available during Sunday morning worship for children 0-23 months. For children 24 months and up, there is a **Training Room** available at the back of the auditorium, behind the glass windows.



Woodland Oaks Church of Christ
7300 Crownridge Drive, The Woodlands, TX 77382
Phone/Voicemail: (936) 273-0010
Email: information@woodlandoaks.org
www.woodlandoaks.org



Elders

Scott Blake
Mac Brockman
Mark Freeman

Butch Merriman
Marty Miller
Raymond Walker

Staff

Pulpit
Shawn Montandon
shawn.montandon@woodlandoaks.org

Youth

Children’s Coordinator
Janna Wilkerson
janna.wilkerson@woodlandoaks.org

Office Manager
Karen Ardito
karen.ardito@woodlandoaks.org

Deacons

Administration Joel Blake
Audio/Visual & Media Mark Jetton
Building & Grounds John Tolbert
Sam Washburn

Children’s Programs Richard Hyde
Education Matt Fitzgerald

Family Life Center Chris Davis
Fellowship Tim Riggs
Finance Jeff Fleming
Foreign Missions Paul Gidden

Information Technology Adam Fracht
Involvement Al Ardito
Frank Kerze
Networks/Special Ministries Jeremy Haynes
Serving Hearts/Hospital Visits Steve Baker

Sharing Mike Stevens
Kyle Gordley
Bradley Welborn

Reaching Out/Welcome Center Gavin Dao
Bryce Caldwell

Ushers
Homebound/Men’s Ministry Robert Shock
Worship Eric Kirkland
Bill Malone

Youth Brant Mathis
Todd Watrous
Daniel Fair
Trent Tadlock

Contacts:

Faithful Fathers: Chuck Bryant
Celebrate Recovery: Tom Kernan

Missions

For updates regarding the mission efforts supported by WOCC, please visit our church website, woodlandoaks.org, under Connect, click Ministries and Missions.

Last Week’s Attendance

Sunday, October 20, 2024

9:00 AM Bible Class	380
10:15 AM Worship	597 @ WOCC 168 Views online
6:00 PM Worship	249
Contribution	\$30,950.77

Wednesday, October 23, 2024

7:00 PM Bible Class	383
---------------------	-----

You may give online at:

<https://woodlandoaks.givingfire.com/>

Or mail contributions to our PO Box at:
Woodland Oaks Church of Christ
6700 Woodlands Parkway Suite 230-252
Spring, TX 77382

Budget

Actual unrestricted contributions through August 31, 2024 were \$1,346,164.24 compared to a budgeted amount of \$1,276,924.64 producing a surplus of \$69,239.60.

Notes

Announcements

Congratulations to **Stephen Hopkins** who was baptized Saturday, October 19. Welcome to the family Steven!

Please check the **Lost & Found** (Located in the cabinet in the foyer seating area) TODAY. All items that are not claimed will be donated or thrown out on Tuesday, October 29!

Please make plans to join us for **Speed Fellowship** TODAY at 5:00 p.m. in the Chapel Center. Please arrive early.

It's time for **College Care Packages!** Please sign up your college/military kids by TODAY in the foyer. We also need donations for the Care Packages. Item donations and letters of encouragement can be placed in the box at the Welcome Center. Monetary donations may be given to John Tolbert, Denise Tolbert, or Kendra Blake or place checks in the offering plate with College Care Package marked in memo line. Please have all notes and donations turned in by Sunday, November 17.

There will be a **Senior Saints Game Night & Potluck Supper** tomorrow, October 29 at 5:00 p.m. in the Chapel Center.

Early voting has started in Texas. As a service, if you need a **Ride to Vote**, Denise Tolbert has volunteered to provide transportation. Also, Denise & Kay Dawdy will be available to stay with your little ones while you vote this Tuesday, October 29 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. at the church building. Please bring a sack lunch for your child and let Denise know if you will attend so she can plan accordingly.

October 30 is the 5th Wednesday of the month. There will be **NO Fellowship Meal**.

For many years Mrs. Joyce Pieper has been know her baby quilt gifts. Now the **Quilting Group** will be carrying on the tradition of making the quilts for the new babies. This group of ladies meets the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of every month at 9:30 a.m. in room C102. If you are interested in being involved or would like more information, please see Sheri Acosta, Becky Splawn, or Joyce Pieper.

Men's Breakfast will be this Saturday, November 2 at 8:00 a.m. in the Chapel Center.

We are gearing up for our **WOCC Fall Festival**, which will be held this Saturday, November 2 from 2:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m. We are in need of candy/prize donations that are NOT chocolate to be handed out at the "Car-nival." Ideas for donations include pencils, lollipops, fruit snacks, bouncy balls, etc. There will be a box marked "Fall Festival Treat Donations" in the worship foyer near the Children's Check-Out area to place your items.

Mark your calendars! **Daylight Saving Time Ends** next Sunday, November 3.

Please join us for a **Bridal Shower honoring Sarah Mayo**, bride elect of Matthew Walker, Sunday, November 3 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Chapel Center. Sarah & Matt are registered at Amazon, Crate & Barrel, & Lowes (gift cards).

We are seeking additional **World Bible School** study helpers. Please consider joining this growing group to help students progress through WBS courses to better understand the Bible. Click the QR code to sign up. For additional info, contact Adam Fracht or Paul Gidden.

Shower Gifts can now be placed in the closets in Room A101. The closets are clearly marked with the shower honorees names.

Matt Walker & Sarah Mayo would like to extend an invitation to attend their **Wedding** on Saturday, December 7 at 1:00 p.m. at WOCC. If you will attend, please RSVP by November 24 by scanning the QR code.

Sympathy

Heartfelt condolences to Abby Richardson at the loss of her grandfather, **Cliff Purvis**, Thursday, October 17. Cliff is the father of former member, Ken Purvis. The service was held October 22 at Magnolia Funeral Home. Please keep the Purvis family in your prayers. You can read the obituary and find more information [here](#).

Youth News

There will be a **Youth Invasion** TONIGHT immediately following the evening assembly at Primo Hoagies (810 Pine Market Ave, Unit 160, Montgomery, TX 77316) and Jeremiah's Italian Ice (810 Pine Market Ave, Unit 200, Montgomery, TX 77316). *Bring balls to throw in green space.

There will be a **High School Devo** Sunday, November 3 from 7:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Youth Service: The Youth Group will be deep cleaning the building in preparation of Friends Day on Saturday, November 9 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please sign up on the youth website if you will attend.

Mark you calendars for the **November Girls Dinner Devo** Thursday, November 14 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Washburn home. Please RSVP on basicyouthministry.com.

We will be attending **Camp Red Oak Springs Fall Retreat** this year November 22-24! Come and have a great weekend! The link to sign up is on basicyouthministry.com. The cost is \$20.

WOCC Youth have been extended an invitation by the EBCC to participate in their weekend **Youth Rally** on February 21-23, 2025. WOCC Youth deacons will need a RSVP by November 17 in order to facilitate planning. Find more info & RSVP [here](#).

Treehouse Kids

Moms of Dorcas Girls, please meet with Jane-Ann Fleming TODAY in room A101 immediately after Bible Class to discuss the upcoming events in November and December.

Our **October Memory Verse Check In** will be TODAY in between Bible Class and Morning worship service in foyer. The October Memory Verse is Ecclesiastes 3:1 "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."

For those who signed up, the **October Pumpkin Painting Social** will be held TODAY at 5:00 p.m. in the grassy area by the Education Building near the Butterfly Gardens.

Bible Builders: Children ages 2 yrs-Kinder will be dismissed at Sunday evening assembly to go "through the Bible in a year" and learn about how God has interacted with His people throughout the ages.

Sprouts Storytime meets Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in room A109. This program is for children ages 0-Prek4. We will meet together for sensory play, songs, story time, a craft, and fun with friends!

Dorcas Bible Class (for girls K- 6th grade) will meet this Saturday, November 2 in the room A101 from 9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m. For more information, please see Jane-Ann Fleming.

Friends Day

Be praying for **Friends Day**, which will be Sunday, November 10. You should receive a letter in the mail about the activities planned for the day.

Everyone is encouraged to invite at least three friends to Friends Day. There will be a **Fellowship Luncheon** immediately following the morning assembly. Each family is asked to please bring cookies or cake in a disposable container cut into single serve size.

We kindly request that you please park in the Bush Elementary Parking Lot, if you are able, and leave the visitor spaces in front open for our guests.

Reminder: There will NOT be an evening assembly on Sunday, November 10.

***A cart for all donations is in the Worship Center foyer.
The WOCC Sharing Pantry is in need of Cereal.***

This Week

Today	9:00 a.m.	Sign Up for College Care Packages Due
	9:45 a.m.	Bible Class
	10:15 a.m.	Meeting for Dorcas Moms—A101
	5:00 p.m.	October Memory Verse Check In
		Worship
	6:00 p.m.	Speed Fellowship
	6:15 p.m.	THK Pumpkin Painting Social
	7:00 p.m.	Evening Worship
Monday	4:00 p.m.	TX Bible Bowl Practice
	5:00 p.m.	Bible Builders
	6:00 p.m.	Youth Invasion—Primo Hoagies & Jeremiah's Italian Ice
Tuesday	4:00 p.m.	Pickleball-Women
	5:00 p.m.	Senior Saints Game Night & Potluck Supper
	6:00 p.m.	Pickleball
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Ladies Bible Class
	11:30 a.m.	Voting Childcare
Thursday	10:00 a.m.	Sprouts Storytime
	7:00 p.m.	Bible Classes - No JourneyLand (experience night-God's Creatures)
	10:00 a.m.	Community Bible Class
	7:00 p.m.	Celebrate Recovery
Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Basketball
	9:30 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
	2:00 p.m.	Dorcas Class
		Fall Festival

Upcoming Events

November 3	Daylight Savings Ends Bridal Shower for Sarah Mayo (bride elect of Matt Walker) Texas Bible Bowl Practice Begins @5:30 p.m. Congregational Singing High School Devo
November 5	Men's Luncheon—Hopdoddy Burger Bar (Lakeside)
November 6	Quilting Group Friends Day Set Up Youth Service
November 9	Friends Day
November 10	Youth Bible Study—Watrous Home
November 12	Youth Girls Dinner Devo—Washburn Home
November 14	THK The Little Mermaid @ Lone Star College Tomball
November 16	RSVP Due for Weekend Youth Rally—Enterprise Blvd CoC
November 17	Donations & Letters for College Care Packages Due L2L Boys Song Leading Class Junior High Devo
November 18	Senior Saints Game Night & Potluck Supper
November 22-24	Youth Fall Retreat—Camp Red Oak
November 24	November Memory Verse Check In College Care Package Pick Up THK Sunday Social Youth Invasion
November 27	Combined Devo—No Meal/No Children's Classes
November 28-29	Church Offices Closed

Prayers

- ✠ **Lorene Burrig**/surgery October 25 to fuse right SI joint.
- ✠ **Ann Glenn**/left hip replacement surgery October 21.
- ✠ Please remember our members: **Dennis Chrisco, Sharon Freeman, Ann Gilbert, Rex Reeve, Laurie Riggs, Raymond Walker, Scottie West.**
- ✠ Please remember our friends & family: **Shannon & Gary Ditterline.**
- ✠ Members battling cancer: **Bill Blumenshine, Tania Cantu, Pharis Fowler, Cynthia Haney, Cynthia Lockwood, Terri Lowry, Erica Lunn, Bob McDougal, Marsha Owens, Jeanne Riggs, Janice Tadlock.**
- ✠ Friends & family battling cancer: **David Bloh, Patricia Franklin, Lisa Geerman, Camellia Jackson, Ella Kasinger, D'Ann Norwood, Erika Philips, John Singletary, Sabrie Stamper, Barbara Starr.**

If you could use meals during times of need, please contact the church office at 936-273-0010 or information@woodlandoaks.org