

# ***BULLETIN***

## **Church of Christ Stallings Drive**

Nacogdoches, Texas  
P.O. Box 630035 (936) 564-7286

Sunday, February 24, 2008

### **THEORIES OF SALVATION**

Liberation Theology is a term referring to the liberating of oppressed peoples. In this case, salvation consists of deliverance (liberation) from the oppression perpetrated by the ruling classes, the wealthy, the powerful, etc., on those who are oppressed, poor, disadvantaged, without a voice, etc. In recent years, feminists have used the ideas of liberation theology as they sought for freedom from the oppressing confines of marriage, husband and children, home, etc.

It is of particular interest that Liberation Theology is popular in many African countries—*Third World* countries, such as Ethiopia. Countries such as Ethiopia need liberating because “capitalists” have exploited the poor. Add to this the controlling influence of the “upper classes” of society and the result is a burden of poverty and oppression, from which the poor will never extricate themselves. Another component of this discussion is the fact that the Bible (as believed by Liberation Theology) identifies with the plight of the poor. For example, the children of Israel were oppressed by the Egyptians; but God rescued His people from bondage.

Ultimately, Liberation Theology is concerned with the salvation of mankind in this life, rather than focusing on man’s final being in eternity. The perfection of the kingdom of God on earth is the desired goal;

mankind is rescued from political and economic oppression. What might bring about these desired goals? The “right” use of political power or revolution can bring about the perfectibility of mankind.

It is true that there are lots of poor people in the world. It is also true that those of us who are blessed to live in the United States have no idea (probably do not) of how the rest of the world lives. This is true of Ethiopia, or just about any other country that is classified as Third World. Recognizing the problems of others and then seeking to help as we are able can be good things. No Christian should be so heartless and uncaring that the unfortunate of this world can simply be ignored. If you don’t believe that, then read the Old Testament prophets. The children of Israel had trouble with their worship, but they also had trouble with their attitudes about other people—notably, the poor and distressed.

Can we, though, replace the gospel plan of salvation with humanitarian aid? If the United States government poured billions of dollars into helping other countries (which is what we are doing), would that be the answer to the greatest problem people have? No! All of the money in the world cannot save even one soul. Theories of salvation are just that: theories. And they cannot replace the only one who has the power to save—Jesus Christ, who came to seek and save the lost.

*Randy Harshbarger*

*To Serve The Lord's Supper in March*

*Westside*

**AM**

*Eastside*

**Wendell Goad  
Terry Harshbarger  
Aaron Martinez  
Matt Strode**

**Jim Sevey  
Tim Odom  
Taylor Fancher  
Patrick McMurtray**

**PM**

**Fred Burnaman**

**Jason Lankford**

**F Y I : For your information....**

**Comments in preparation for the Lord's Supper:** March 2 - Jerry Bolls

**Sick:** Continue to remember Marie Fuller, Larry Schmidt, Alan Balch, Ronnie Westmoreland, Nelda Dyes and others who continue to deal with health difficulties. Check on these and see if you can be of any help.

**Shut-Ins:** J.D. Blankenship; Ethel Burkett; Pauline Hicks; Myrtle McCall; Wayne Polk; Jimmie Standley; Auline Whitaker. Remember these in your prayers and see if you can be of some encouragement to them.

Making **announcements** for the month of March will be Jerry Bolls. If you know of something that needs to be announced, please see Jerry.

**SFA Thursday evening class** meet in the home of Tommy & Regina Goad with Bill & Patricia Fisk assisting. Meet at the building at 7:00.

The elders have invited Brother Clark Dugger, from Tyler, to preach during the time I am in Ethiopia and Italy. Brother Dugger is known to most of us here at Stallings Drive. He is a capable preacher and you will get much from his teaching. Make him and Debbie feel welcome.

**Bible Reading Schedule:** February 24– Numbers 11-13, Mark 5:21-43; February 25– Numbers 14,15, Mark 6:1-32; February 26 - Numbers 16,17, Mark 6:33-56; February 27 - Numbers 18-20, Mark 7:1-13; February 28 - Numbers 21,22, Mark 7:14-37; February 29 - Numbers 23-25, Mark 8:1-21; March 1 - Numbers 26,27, Mark 8:22-38.

<b>Wednesday Evening— Feb. 27</b>		<b>Schedule of Services</b>	
Scripture Reading	Devin Dean	Sunday: Bible Classes	9:30 A.M.
1 Song & Invitation	Aaron Martinez	Worship	10:15 A.M.
Exhortation	Daryl Sparks	Worship	6:00 P.M.
Closing Prayer	Mike Compton	Wednesday: Bible Classes	7:00 P.M.