

## March 12—March 18

12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Devotional and meal for all @ 6 p.m. in the annex	Devotional @ 6 p.m. Caleb's birthday	Devotional @ 6 p.m.	Meal and Bible class 6 p.m.			

1 birthday and 0 anniversaries this week.

March 05, 2023  
Contributions: \$485.00  
Attendance: 27

Campus minister: **Caleb Hughes**  
Minister: **Curtis Wubbena**

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Password: b14Smiley  
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# Welcome to the Alpine church of Christ

March 12, 2023



Ordinary people serving an extraordinary God.



*Fun, food, fellowship, singing, and a devotional tonight at 6:00 p.m. in the annex.*

# ***Disposition And Doctrine***

*Dan S. Shipley*

A right standing with God involves both disposition and doctrine. Even though some would emphasize one to the neglect of the other, both are absolutely vital to acceptable service. As Joshua says in his farewell address, "Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and IN truth..." (Josh. 24:14). Here, sincerity connotes right disposition and truth is right doctrine. Man must provide the one; God the other. Only the Lord has the authority to tell men what they must believe and do to be right (saved). This He does for us in the gospel (or, as it is termed in 2 Jn. 9, the "doctrine of Christ"). This "word of the truth of the gospel" (Col. 1:5) is the exclusive pattern for God-approved religion. In fact, fellowship with the Father and Son is possible on no other basis (2 Jn. 9).

For this reason none can be too careful about establishing just what is and is not right doctrine — and it is here that we see the great need for right disposition. As someone has wisely noted, "Life is governed by **esteemed** values". It is one thing to say the gospel is precious and powerful; it is quite another thing as to whether one esteems it so. The man, for instance, who is as readily disposed to receive the doctrines of men as those of Christ, simply does not love the truth (2 Thess. 2:10). And the same is true of those who say it makes no difference what one believes in religion. To such a disposition, doctrine is of little importance. On the other hand, the honest and good heart values truth above all else. It hungers and thirsts for that righteousness which is according to truth.

Its continual ambition is to know, to do, and to be right! — and to encourage a similar disposition in others. Such an attitude ideally complements the doctrine of Christ.

Further, because the good heart wants to know what is right, it is also a discerning heart. Recognizing God's precepts concerning all things to be right (Ps. 119:128), it measures all things thereby. By thusly "proving all things", the good heart can identify and hold fast to that which is good (1 Thess. 5:21). Obviously, that which is not truth is not good and must so be regarded and discarded by the faithful. To hold fast that which only **seems** right and good is but another expression of a wrong disposition. One other thing in this connection — the honest heart never seeks to "prove" anything for the purpose of merely justifying self or condemning others.

That means that right disposition is important in teaching doctrine too. He who teaches truth with a spiteful and belligerent spirit is likely to hinder its reception. It does little good to speak the truth if the truth does not influence our speaking. When it does we will be speaking the truth in love, Eph. 4:15. Since love is kind and long suffering (1 Cor. 13), such should be evidenced in our teaching. Too, Paul tells Timothy to "reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all long suffering..." (2 Tim. 4:2). In teaching the lost we must learn to suffer long with their pride, prejudice and ignorance, as did our Savior — and as others have with us. May we handle truth with good hearts! (**Plain Talk**, November 1980)

Join the fellowship and food tonight at 6 p.m. in the annex. Caleb will be bringing the lesson. The meal features Mark's famous barbecue and our church family's dishes (made from favorite and sometimes family recipes)!

**We extend a warm, West-Texas welcome to our brothers and sisters in Christ from Huntsville!**