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<b>Sunday AM Bible Study</b>	9:30 AM
<b>Sunday AM Worship</b>	10:30 AM
<b>Sunday PM Worship</b>	5:30 PM
<b>Wednesday Bible Class</b>	7:00 PM

#### Elders

<b>Eddie Frizzell</b>	(931) 526-3505
<b>Gary Medley</b>	(931) 528-8768
<b>Roger Mayberry</b>	(931) 537-3265

#### Deacons

<b>Colonel Wheeler</b>	(931) 526-5808
<b>Greg Frizzell</b>	(931) 265-2192
<b>Kale Burchett</b>	(615) 533-9134

#### Preacher

<b>Randy Bybee</b>	(931) 268-0912
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#### Welcome

The Pippin church of Christ extends to you a cordial welcome. We hope the services have been uplifting, and you will want to return at every opportunity.

Our purpose in meeting is to worship God in Spirit and in truth. God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and Truth. John 4:24

#### How to Become a Christian

Hear the Word - Romans 10:17  
Believe - Mark 16:15  
Repent of Past Sins - Luke 13:3  
Confess - Romans 10:9  
Be Baptized - Acts 2:38  
Remain Faithful - Revelation 2:10

#### Radio Programs

The Lord's Way  
AM 920 WLIV - Tuesdays @ 10:10AM

A Challenge to Think  
AM 1400 WHUB - Sundays @ 9:05AM

Volume 34, No. 48

## Being Optimistic

by Randy Bybee

A glass that is half filled with water is placed before someone. In response, the person might describe the glass as half full or as half empty. Which response would first come from your lips? The person who answers half full is an *optimist*, while the person who answers half empty is a *pessimist*. These terms are often heard and sometimes applied rather broadly, but the Bible does offer some interesting commentary on these ideas.

According to the Miriam-Webster dictionary, optimism is a feeling or belief that good things will happen in the future; a feeling or belief that what you hope for will happen. More formally, optimism is an inclination to put the most favorable construction upon actions and events or to anticipate the best possible outcome. On the other hand, pessimism is a feeling or belief that bad things will happen in the future; a feeling or belief that what you hope for will not happen. Pessimism can be described as an inclination to emphasize adverse aspects, conditions, and possibilities or to expect the worst possible outcome.

Although it is important to be realistic in view of the situations of life, the Bible encourages positive thinking – an optimistic attitude. Instead of dwelling in fear, God declares that *"perfect love casteth out fear."* (1 Jn. 4:18) Rather than focusing on the mistakes and sins of the past, Paul's inspired words are these: *"brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."* (Phil. 3:13,14) Paul knew well the failures of his past, but he refused to allow them to handcuff him to a life of pessimism. Rather than languishing on what cannot be done, the far better approach is to say, *"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."* (Phil. 4:13)

Pessimism usually brings feelings of helplessness, despair, and failure. The message of the Bible through Jesus stands opposed to this. Consider the promise of scripture. *"So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."* (Heb. 13:6) In this text, the Christian can with boldness anticipate the help of the Lord. Since God loves His children, He will provide and sustain. (Mt. 7:7ff) As a result of that confidence and trust, the Christian need not be anxious or worried (which breeds pessimism). (Phil. 4:6) In fact, the Christian can humbly approach God and lay all concerns on Him.

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