



2016 Northern Division Tournament Recap

Waco – September 24, 2016

2016 AOY

Congratulations to **Randal Collins** and **Kel Collins**, the 2016 Northern Division Anglers of the Year.

Congratulations to **Leisha Loggains** and **Allen Loggains**, the 2016 Central Division Anglers of the Year.

More to come on this later.

Another bad start and another win for the Griffin/Kohutek team. They take first place.

Jon Griffin and **Al Kohutek** were positioned in front of a pack of boats that were about to head across the lake. When it was time to go on a shotgun start, Jon's motor bogged down and died. After several attempts the motor finally kicked in and they raced well behind the group that was heading to a marina next to the Ridgewood Country Club. Jon had a prime spot picked out but 3 or 4 boats beat them to that area.

They decided to settle for a stretch of rip rap in front of the marina. Right off the bat Al nails a 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ inch bass that had exploding diarrhea. That bass emptied its bowels all over Al and all over the inside of Jon's boat. About this time, another boat not fishing in the tournament, came out of the marina and was speed casting down the shoreline behind them. It didn't take long for him to pass and a few minutes later Jon nails a good 3 pounder on a spook. Several short fish later and a switch back, Jon boats another 3 pounder. It was about 7:20 am when they had the 2 nice ones in the boat.

Between the rip rap on that section of bank, there was a cove that the gar had pushed a big school of shad into. In a frenzy of activity Jon hooked a 4.5 pound channel cat on a crank bait and Al nailed the 3rd keeper on a jig. It was a solid 15 inch bass.

From there they headed to the old dam and fished next to Joe and Tina Crouch. At this point, flies were coming from nowhere, attracted by the smell of the fish diarrhea. It was driving Al crazy, so he jump in the lake with a bar of soap and got that mess off him.

After getting only 1 bite, they moved to the new dam, the mouth of a creek, and then back to the rip rap.

About 12 short fish were landed up to this point and Al lost count of the number of missed fish that he was unable get into the boat.

The decision was made to move across the lake and about 1:30 pm Jon hooked a nice 3 pounder next to a closed park boat ramp. At this point they culled Al's 15 inch bass and had about 9 pounds.

They continued to work down the bank and around a swim area. As they were fishing next to the floating swim barriers, Al notices that his jig does not sink very deep and made a comment to Jon that this is some really shallow water. About then the line start moving and Al realizes that it's not shallow, but instead a fish has it. He sets the hook and the fight is on. After it jumps and makes 5 or six runs alongside of the boat, it gets tangled in Jon's line that is still in the water. Jon finally nets the 6.02 pound kicker. The time is 2:02 pm. This bass culled one of Jon's 3 pounders.

The 3 fish weight 12.36 pounds. Total take home \$507.00.

The last time Jon and Al won 1st was 2015 on Bob Sandlin. Jon's motor broke down during takeoff and they had to fish the area next to the boat ramp the entire tournament. Motor issues might actually be good luck for Jon and Al.

John Allen caught the tournament big bass. He said ..."I caught it at 1:00 pm in the river. Saw one stump in the middle of the river and threw at it and she hit like a train. Caught her on black/blue speed craw. We culled a 14 inch for her."

Conditions

Air temp: 75-93 **Water temp:** 84 **Wind:** 9-15 mph **Wind direction:** South **Water clarity:** somewhat dingy **Lake level:** Full **Skies:** cloudy, rainy, & sunny **Grass:** not much if any **Barometric pressure:** 29.97 to 30.01 at noon, then falling to 29.91 **Ramp:** Speegleville Park – Great ramp, but no shade, no flood lights, and no beaching area. It was Corps of Engineers land day and everyone got free entry into the park. Jon Griffin did have to get a permit ahead of time.

Results

1st Al Kohutek / Jon Griffin.....12.36-lb \$467.00
2nd Justin Garrett / Buddy Borden...11.13-lb \$271.00
3rd Gus Chavira / Toby Turner.....10.92-lb \$163.00
4th Charley David / Donna David.....10.53-lb \$108.00
5th John Allen / Shane Dupree.....10.17-lb \$75.00

Big Bass 1 John Allen.....6.06-lb \$116.00

Big Bass 2 Al Kohutek....6.02-lb \$40.00

31 teams fished

23 limits were caught (3 fish)

2 teams zeroed

78 fish were weighed in with a weight of 191.78 pounds

2.45 pounds was the average fish weight

Full results:

<http://www.cowboychurchbassclub.org/ccpoints16NorthDiv.htm> (see the Waco tab at the bottom of the spreadsheet)

Pictures:

<http://s1381.photobucket.com/user/cowboychurchbassclubnd/library/Waco%202016%2009%2024>

For the best pictures, go to our facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/CowboyChurchBassClub>

Scatter Shooting

2nd Justin Garrett / Buddy Borden caught their bass on football jigs deep on a road bed.....3rd Gus Chavira / Toby Turner caught theirs on Texas rigged senkos shallow.....4th Charley David / Donna David caught their bass on flipping jigs shallow in the river....5th John Allen / Shane Dupree caught their bass on speed craws in the river.....There was a Baylor game in Waco that day so all the hotels were triple price.....some of the top teams struggled.....It was close on tournament big bass

Lakeside Devotional

Life is only as big as your faith is.

Guest Speaker John Durham. Click on the link below for the video.

<https://youtu.be/Cqwsj05-9A0>

Athens – August 27, 2016

Congratulations to Tina and Joe Crouch. They take first place with 7.66 pounds and tournament big bass 6.01 pounds. Total payout \$601.00

Texas rigged purple/green speed craws was the winning bait.

They caught their two unders early, around 7:00 am. The big bass was caught at 9:15 am next to the bank on a point. Tina spotted a swirl and told Joe to cast at it. With precision, Joe hit the target and fight was on.

Throughout the day they caught 6 slot bass on red bug speed worms and a Model A. They only caught 1 other under bass and they were able to cull it.

Conditions

Air temp: 71-82 with 100% humidity until noon **Water temp:** 84 **Wind:** 0-8 mph **Wind direction:** East **Water clarity:** Dark looking **Lake level:** Full **Skies:** cloudy **Grass:** everywhere. We have never seen so much grass! **Barometric pressure:** 30.02 to 30.07 at 10:35 am, then falling to 30.02 **Ramp:** Great. A better flood light would help. Good parking, shade for the weigh-in. Wa-Was was on site at the weigh-in <https://www.facebook.com/WaWasSeafoodShack/> Be careful and not use too much spice powder on your shrimp. Jon Griffin discovered that the hard way.

Results

1st Joe Crouch / Tina Crouch.....7.66-lb \$481.00
2nd Randal Collins / Kel Collins.....7.18-lb \$280.00
3rd Albert Love / Matt Love.....6.98-lb \$168.00
4th Jared Jenkins / Joel Jenkins.....5.72-lb \$112.00
5th Darren Coslin / Bud Benner.....4.05-lb \$78.00

Big Bass 1 Joe Crouch.....6.01-lb \$120.00
Big Bass 2 Matt Love.....5.62-lb \$40.00

32 teams fished

26 limits were caught (3 fish / there is a 14-21" slot. Bass under 14 inches or 21 inches or greater in length may be retained. Only one bass 21 inches or greater may be retained each day per team. This includes spots.)

3 teams zeroed

82 fish were weighed in with a weight of 96.75 pounds

1.18 pounds was the average fish weight

Full results:

<http://www.cowboychurchbassclub.org/ccpoints16NorthDiv.htm> (see the Athens tab at the bottom of the spreadsheet)

Pictures:

<http://s1381.photobucket.com/user/cowboychurchbassclubnd/library/Athens%202016%2008%2027?sort=3&page=1>

For the best pictures, go to our facebook page.
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Scatter Shooting

2nd **Randal Collins / Kel Collins** caught their bass on Texas rigged watermelon worms.....3rd **Albert Love / Matt Love** caught their big one on a wacky rig and the others on top water and Texas rigs by the golf course.....**Jared Jenkins / Joel Jenkins** caught theirs on wacky rigs, frogs right near the ramp.....
5th **Darren Coslin / Bud Benner** (the only ones in the money without an over) caught theirs on A-rigs when the bass schooled.....**Al Kohuttek** caught one over 6 pounds on a giant senko, but it was in the slot.....**Jon Griffin** was playing tricks on **Joe** and **Tina** the night before. **Al** and **Jon** stayed at the Victorian Inn across the street from the Best Western where the Crouches were staying.....4 overs were caught.....It was tough backing in the boats at the ramp due to lighting and foggy windows.....Grass and pads everywhere!.....**Jon Griffin** caught a limit within the first 30 minutes of the tournament.....everyone caught fish.

Head-to-Head

Joe Lee / Mike Thurman beat Heath Taylor / Bill Platt. Joe and Mike get free entry at the Waco tournament. This was the last Head-to-Head of the year.

Lakeside Devotional

Jon Griffin led the Devo. He started out by giving an introduction and then reading:

James 1: 2-4 Trials and Temptations

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Story of my father's last 13 months.

It was one year ago that Jon told us about his mother's death on a mobility scooter (see the August 22nd devo at <http://www.cowboychurchbassclub.org/writeup2015nd.pdf>) A few weeks ago Jon's dad lost his home to a fire and to top it off, his Oil and Gas business is hurting with price of oil right now.

Some have commented that his story resembles that of Job, so in a nutshell, here's the story of Job (taken from the book of Job).

There was a man named Job who lived in the country of Uz. He was a good, honest man. He respected God and refused to do evil. Job had seven sons and three daughters. He owned 7000 sheep, 3000 camels, 1000 oxen, and 500 female donkeys. He had many servants. He was the richest man in the east.

Then the day came for the angels to meet with the LORD. Even Satan was there with them. The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you been?"

Satan answered the LORD, "I have been roaming around the earth, going from place to place."

Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you noticed my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him. He is a good, faithful man. He respects God and refuses to do evil."

Satan answered the LORD, "But Job has a good reason to respect you. You always protect him, his family, and everything he has. You have blessed him and made him successful in everything he does. He is so wealthy that his herds and flocks are all over the country. But if you were to destroy everything he has, I promise you that he would curse you to your face."

The LORD said to Satan, "All right, do whatever you want with anything that he has, but don't hurt Job himself."

Then Satan left the meeting.

So as the story goes, Satan went to work.

* His servants were attacked, killing them all and taking all his oxen & camels & donkeys.

* Lightning struck & killed all his sheep

* A tornado hit the home with all his sons & daughters killing them all, no survivors

When Job heard this, he fell to the ground to bow down before God and said,

"When I was born into this world,

I was naked and had nothing.

When I die and leave this world,

I will be naked and have nothing.

The LORD gives,

and the LORD takes away.

Praise the name of the LORD!"

Even after all this, Job did not sin. He did not accuse God of doing anything wrong. (Recurring line throughout Job)

7000 sheep, 3000 camels, 1000 oxen, and 500 female donkeys. He had many servants. 7 sons, 3 daughters. He was the richest man in the east. All gone.

Relating my father to Job is admittedly a stretch but similar nonetheless, what we all can expect in this life. ALL OF US.

Cancer, marriages, kids, jobs.....we WILL have our own trials.

JAMES 1: 2-4

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

HOW DO WE DO THIS? It starts with a relationship with Jesus himself.

SO HOW DO YOU DO THIS? Get to know him. Has anyone heard God speak to them? He does through His word. The bible is the living, breathing, active voice of God Himself. So get to know him through his Word. And meeting with Him on.....SUNDAY MORNING.

Toe stepping time here. If you're fishing on Sunday morning instead of being a part of church on Sunday mornings, you're loudly telling God "MY TIME IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOURS GOD".

IF YOU SAY "I GET MY CHURCHIN ON THE FRONT DECK OF MY BOAT", Satan has lured you into a massive lie & you are a fool.

So I plead with you, if you're not already, check out a bible teaching church you're comfortable with. They're everywhere.

The only thing sustaining my father through a tumultuous 13 months is his faith in Christ & the love of his family. Because if you have neither right now, get ready, because trials & difficulties are headed your way. And you'll have no defense. You will be crushed.

Even at the age of 78 God is still developing perseverance in my dad. And he is a man at peace. It's the peace of Jesus Christ alone that transcends all understanding. It's that peace that is available to us all !

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Charley David reminded everyone that they could call on the club leadership at any time for prayer request, physical needs, and spiritual needs. He said he is there for us even if it's helping you put shingles on your house.

Charley mentioned Connect Groups at his church and other churches and how Jesus wants us to fellowship together.

After the message Darren Coslin closed us with a prayer and we were dismissed.

Fork – July 23, 2016

Congratulations to John Allen and Shayne Dupree. They take first place with 9.34 pounds and big bass 5.99 pounds.

A Day On The Lake with John and Shayne

John said that they started out in Birch Creek and caught a couple of slot fish on a frog first thing in the morning, then switched to trap and caught 2 small keepers about 12 inches. Around 8 am they started

throwing shaky head and Shane caught one around 7 lbs (22 inches long - slot fish) in Birch. They then caught a **15 inch fish** in Birch and that was their only good keeper there.

They then moved to Oak Ridge marina area and caught a couple of 10 to 11 inch fish all on shaky head. They tried deep but could not get anything to bite.

Around 12:00 pm they moved to Little Mustang and that is where most of their good fish were. They caught a **fat 14 inch bass** and that culled an 11 inch bass, now they have a 14 inch, 15 inch, and 12 inch bass.

At 1:00 pm they threw a green pumpkin red on shaky head under a dock and the **big fish (24 ½ inches)** bit in about 4 ft of water. It culled out the 12 inch fish caught in Birch earlier that morning.

Shayne and John stayed in Little Mustang and caught some smaller fish that did not help. They culled 3 times and caught 3 good slot fish.

9.34 pounds / \$406.00 first + big bass \$135.00 = \$541.00 payday

Conditions

Air temp: 82-98 **Water temp:** 89-93 **Wind:** 0-8 mph **Wind direction:** South **Water clarity:** a little murky **Lake level:** Full **Skies:** clear and sunny **Grass:** Plentiful. Good groups of flooded willows too. **Barometric pressure:** 29.98 to 30.02 at 10 am, then falling to 29.97 almost flat! **Ramp:** Great. We launched out of Lake Fork Marina. Good parking, shade for the weigh-in. This is a good place to launch for a tournament. <http://www.lakeforkmarina.com> Something else, Lake Fork Marina lets tournaments launch free.

Results

1st John Allen /Shayne Dupree.....9.34-lb \$406.00
2nd Randal Collins / Kel Collins.....5.64-lb \$236.00
3rd Ben Griffin / Steve Reynolds.....4.52-lb \$141.00
4th Joe Crouch / Tina Crouch.....4.12-lb \$94.00
5th Brandon Clayton / Heath Harper...4.01-lb \$66.00

Big Bass John Allen.....5.99-lb \$135.00

27 teams fished

16 limits were caught (3 fish / there is a 16-24" slot. Bass under 16 inches or 24 inches or greater in length may be retained. Only one bass 24 inches or greater may be retained each day per team. This includes spots.)

5 teams zeroed

58 fish were weighed in with a weight of 66.05 pounds

1.13 pounds was the average fish weight

Full results:

<http://www.cowboychurchbassclub.org/ccpoints16NorthDiv.htm> (see the Fork tab at the bottom of the spreadsheet)

Pictures:

<http://s1381.photobucket.com/user/cowboychurchbassclubnd/library/Fork%202016%2007%2023>

For the best pictures, go to our facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/CowboyChurchBassClub>

Scatter Shooting

We shared the lake with **Media Bass** and the **National Lake Fork Open High School Scholarship** Tournament.....2nd place **Randal Collins** and **Kel Collins** caught their bass on TX-rig worms 3-8 foot on isolated pieces of grass.....3rd place **Ben Griffin** and **Steve Reynolds** caught their bass on rattle snakes in shallow water.....4th **Joe** and **Tina Crouch** caught their bass on red bug speed worms. Tina caught the big one in 4.5 ft of water and the rest came from 8-12 ft.....5th should have been 4th, but a dead fish knocked them down a place. **Brandon Clayton** and **Heath Harper** caught their bass on frogs, flukes, c-rigs, and finesse worms.....There were two big drum catches.....It was so hot that an inflatable life vest exploded in a boat's storage box.....**Al** had to dive down a dock pole to retrieve a bass that was tangled up.....**Jon Griffin** was on a church mission trip in Cleveland Ohio. **James Croney** substituted for him.....**Mark and Julie Grigsby** were planning on fishing, but **Mark's** motor got stuck in reverse.....**Kyle Barfield** caught the perfect bass.....**Charley David** had a slow trailer tire leak.....Next tournament is on Lake Athens.

Lakeside Devotional

Jacob Stanford brought us a message on being a witness. He read:

Matthew 5:13-16

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

The two things we need are salt and light.

Salt was seen as a necessity of life, we would die without it. That made it so valuable that it was even used as currency. Salt preserves and flavors food and our body's need the mineral. Salt creates thirst, the thirst for Jesus.

We all need light to navigate the darkness.

There are two kinds of witness. One is a salt witness and the other is a light witness.

1) You are the salt of the earth, a silent witness of the Christian believer. Salt changes things. Let your influence season and preserve eternal life. How you act and behave is a salt witness.

2) Light is described as a form of energy and it's always moving and Jesus is the true source of light. Light is to be seen. Light is used to guide others in darkness. Those who follow Jesus actually become reflectors of the light. We do this when we teach and speak of Jesus and give testimony. That is a light witness.

We as Christians need to be the salt and light of the world and it all boils down to love. There is a lot of hate in our nation right now....killing police, terrorists, and racial divides. It seems the flag is more often at half-mast than not. Love people regardless, like when Jesus was on the cross. Men hated and killed him but he loved them anyway.

This is just a summary of what Jacob spoke about after the weigh-in.

In closing, Jacob challenged us to show love toward someone who does not love us back. Every one of us can take the challenge.....the opportunities are all around.

After the message we closed with a prayer and we were dismissed.

Winnsboro – June 25, 2016

First Place Team - Heath Taylor / Bill Platt caught their stringer on yellow magic top water and mini Carolina rig (split shot rig) with watermelon red flukes. 12.49-lb with a 5.31 kicker worth \$391.00. They had their limit within the first few minutes of the tournament and their final keepers by 7 am.

Big Bass - Mike Smith caught her on a watermelon blue wacky rig. 6.24-lb \$130.00

Air temp: 79-91 **Water temp:** 87 **Wind:** 5-10 mph **Wind direction:** South: **Water clarity:** murky **Lake level:** Full **Skies:** clear and sunny **Grass:** around the edges **Barometric pressure:** 30.05 to 30.08 at 1pm, then falling to 30.06. **Ramp:** Great. Good parking, shade for the weigh-in, new roads and new parking lot.

Results

26 teams fished

24 limits were caught (3 fish)

0 teams zeroed

76 fish were weighed in with a weight of 209.59 pounds

2.75 pounds was the average fish weight

1st Heath Taylor / Bill Platt.....	12.54-lb	\$391.00
2nd Darren Coslin / Bud Benner....	11.52-lb	\$227.00
3rd Phil Hickie / Craig Lewis	10.49-lb	\$136.00
4th Mike Aman / Mike Smith	10.46-lb	\$91.00
5th James Fabby / Jonah Segovia...	10.30-lb	\$63.00

Big Bass Mike Smith.....6.24-lb \$130.00

Full results:

<http://www.cowboychurchbassclub.org/ccpoints16NorthDiv.htm> (see the Winnsboro tab at the bottom of the spreadsheet)

Pictures:

<http://s1381.photobucket.com/user/cowboychurchbassclubnd/library/Winnsboro%202016%2006%2025>

Scatter Shooting

We had the lake to ourselves.....2nd place caught their bass on TX-rig, square bills and the keepers came on c-rig in 12ft water after 12:00 pm.....3rd caught their bass on top water and spooks.....4th caught them on motor oil senkos.....5th caught them on c-rigs and frogs.....Some of us stayed at Clear Lakes Inn Quitman. The price is right but there are rat/mouse droppings in the rooms.....No head-to-head because we only had 26 teams. If you run into some of the old faces, let them know we miss them.....This is one of the best lakes on the trail. No one zeroed and except for 2 teams, we all caught a limit. When the teams say they caught a lot of bass, they really did.....**Al** and **Jon** had a 5.63 pound kicker in a 9.50 pound sack and they were still 3 places away from getting a check.....**James Fabby** and **Jonah Segovia** would have had 4th, but a dead fish pushed them back to 5th.....12 sacks were over 9 pounds.....**Bill Platt** is 82 years old and he took first place fishing with his partner **Heath Taylor**. What are you going to be doing when you turn 82?.....Next tournament will be on Fork. It will be a short one due to the summer heat.

Lakeside Devo

Matt Love brought us a message on idols. He was inspired by Matt Chandler, the pastor of The Village Church in Flower Mound. The full sermon can be found on-line at (skip to 5:35 min):

<http://www.thevillagechurch.net/resources/sermons/detail/source-and-surface-idols/>

Matt started out by reading:

EXODUS 20:1-6

And God spoke all these words:

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

"You shall have no other gods before me.

"You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

What is an idolatry? It is when you value something more than you value God.

Who has idols? We all do. We are all guilty. Listen to the sermon and you will find this true.

What do idols do? They suppress the truth of God and question the character of God.

There are two types of idols.

1) **Surface idols** - What you see. Say the phrase "Life only has meaning, I only have worth if....."

- I have a particular body or look
- I am in a certain position at work
- I achieve _____
- I have this car, boat, house, money, or retirement
- A particular person loves me
- I make a particular person happy
- The list could go on forever. Your surface idol _____

All of these are surface idols, but they are not really the problem. They all stem from source idols.

2) **Source idols** - There are 4 types

A) **Comfort Idolatry** - Life only has meaning, I only have worth if....." I have this kind of pleasure experience or a particular quality of life. The problem with this idol is it never delivers what it promises. Comfort makes a terrible god.

B) **Approval Idolatry** - Life only has meaning, I only have worth if....." I am loved and respected by _____. The problem with this idol is people with this idol are ultimately not satisfied with God's love for them.

C) **Control Idolatry** - Life only has meaning, I only have worth if....." I am able to get mastery over my life in the area of _____. The problem with this idol is worry.

D) **Power Idolatry** - Life only has meaning, I only have worth if....." I have power and influence over others. The problem with this idol is anger.

Why is knowing all this important? Because if we are worshiping one of these source idols, then we are suppressing the truth of God and questioning his character. The good news is when it comes to idols, God would simply have us repent.

How do we repent? First you have to understand the 2 pillars of the gospel. 1) I am completely sinful 2) I am fully accepted.

When we are talking about idolatry, we are talking about seeing our sin. You can't repent unless you can see your sin. Now that you see it, it's time to own it....the gateway to joy.

- * Name your idol
- * See how it is grievous to Jesus
- * Repent - Lay it down and ask for forgiveness
- * Rejoice

Matt read

Ephesians 2:1-6

Made Alive with Christ (New Living Translation)

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else.

But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus.

To wrap it up, God put Matt Love in our club for a reason and I believe it's because God wanted us to hear this message. God wants us to fully understand what an idol is and he even gave us this link <http://www.thevillagechurch.net/resources/sermons/detail/source-and-surface-idols/> to help us understand and relate.

After the message we discussed prayer request and praise reports.

Joe Lee closed us in prayer and we were dismissed.

Cedar Creek – May 21, 2016

First Place - Mike Thurman / Joe Lee 11.33 pounds / \$376.00 They had their 3 best by 10:00 am pitching grubs around the rocks in 3-6 ft.

Big Bass 5.58-lb - Brian Hopkins. Brian scored big bass of the tournament and with his partner Joey, they took 2nd and take home \$342 (\$125 BB + \$218 2nd place). The big bass was caught on Texas rigged Senko and the other were caught on shaky heads.

Air temp: 64-84 **Water temp:** 74-77 **Wind:** 6-11 mph **Wind direction:** East **Moon:** full. **Water clarity:** muddy **Lake level:** Full **Skies:** clear and sunny **Grass:** Good reports and flooded willows **Barometric pressure:** 30.05 to 30.10 at noon, then falling to 30.04. **Ramp:** Great.

25 teams fished
17 limits were caught (3 fish)
4 teams zeroed
57 fish were weighed in with a weight of 143.51 pounds
2.51 pounds was the average fish weight

1st: Mike Thurman / Joe Lee.....	11.33-lb	\$376.00
2nd: Brian Hopkins / Joey Hanna.....	10.75-lb	\$218.00
3rd: Bryan Barfield / Kyle Barfield.....	8.95-lb	\$131.00
4th: Mike Aman / Mike Smith.....	8.67-lb	\$87.00
5th: Gene Collins / Shane Wheat.....	8.34-lb	\$61.00

Big bass: Brian Hopkins..... 5.58-lb \$124.00

Full results:

<http://www.cowboychurchbassclub.org/ccpoints16NorthDiv.htm> (see the Cedar Creek tab at the bottom of the spreadsheet)

Pictures:

<http://s1381.photobucket.com/user/cowboychurchbassclubnd/library/Cedar%20Creek%202016%2005%2021>

Also see the pictures on our facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/CowboyChurchBassClub>

Scatter Shooting

We shared the lake & ramp with ABA. They had 59 teams and there were no issues with parking. The City Log Cabin had parking attendants and the field that once was grass is now blacktopped3rd: **Bryan Barfield / Kyle Barfield** caught their's flipping willows and on frogs.....4th: Mike Aman / Mike Smith caught their's on drop shots and watermelon blue senkos.....5th: **Gene Collins / Shane Wheat** caught their's on top water, senkos junk fishing.....**Joe and Tina Crouch** filled in for **Charley and Donna**.....**Joe Lee** ran into the ABA winner at some taco place after the tournament. He said he caught the ABA winning sack cranking deep diving bait.....Most of the fish caught were sick. They had open wounds and bloody lesions all over their body. Many had a fungus. They did not look good.....We got a jump on ABA and left about 10 minutes before they did. They had 59 boats launching out of the same ramp. The moon was full and bright so there was no problem seeing the lay of the lake out on the water even though we left before the sun came up.....Weigh-in was in the shade!.....Next tournament is Winnsboro.

Lakeside Devotional

Kevin Davis brought us a message about stewardship and tithing.

A little background on Kevin.....he lives on the West side of Ft. Worth in the Saginaw area near his buddies **Byron McFarland, Ben Griffin, and Steve Reynolds**. Bryon is Kevin's lifelong friend and tournament partner and Ben and Steve fish together. Did you know Ben and Steve are brothers? Kevin is in the tire business (Cowser Tire & Service) and he is married to Michele and has 3 children. He grew up Baptist and was saved when he was only 6 years old after he heard a sermon about hell.

As we listened we were all situated on a hill away from the crowds of people and noise at the ramp. It was a peaceful place overlooking the lake in the cool shade. Everyone seemed to be in a very relaxed mood as we listen to what Kevin had to say. I'll try and recap some of it.....

One of the hardest things to remember is, **NOTHING is ours**. The house we have, the boat we fish in, the car we drive and the air that we breathe is God's, and we are stewards of all his stuff. All God asks is that we managed it to the best of our abilities and give back 10%.

A lot of people think that they can't afford 10% because they are barely making ends meet. Kevin it's really the opposite.....you cannot afford not to give, because the more you give, the more God gives you to manage. Kevin read...

Matthew 6:21

[For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.](#)

Kevin said one of his favorite men in the bible is King David and he mentioned Psalm 51. It's an apology to God after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba. That scripture gets us in a good frame of mind and reminds us that no matter what we have done, God forgives us.

Kevin gave us some more scripture references on giving....

Psalm 37:4

Take delight in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

2 Corinthians 9:7

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

1 Corinthians 16:

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

Some important bullet points about giving:

- We are all growing.
- No one needs to know how much you are giving.
- We should not worry what the church does with our money. We need to trust the church.
- Do not give in a way that everyone sees you giving.
- Giving your time does not factor in the 10% tithe, but it's very important. We should be good stewards of our time and use it to help each other.
- Google stewardship. There is a lot of info and some very good studies on the internet.

Kevin's devo and testimony was great and I only recapped a fraction of what he said. Some say that money/possession is the #1 topic in the Bible. If you were not there you missed a good one.

Joe Crouch wrapped it up with....

Matthew 19:26

But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, with men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

Jon Griffin then reminded us to pray for those on the prayer list, the Loves and Byron's mom, and then closed us in with a pray and we were dismissed.

Richland Chambers – April 23, 2016

Randy and Joel Jenkins of Palestine, TX catch 2 bass and win 1st place + Big Bass.

Randy's big bass weighed 10.40 pounds and will most likely end up being the big bass of the year. She was caught on the Long Arm Branch side of the lake. Not necessarily in that creek but in a secondary cove near there. They spotted the bass at noon and worked the bed for the next 3 hours. She was hooked at 3 pm using a watermelon Senko. They also caught a 2.73 pound male from the same bed. After the bass was weighed, they were both returned to the bed. Randy said it was the first bed that he has ever seen on Richland.

The 2 fish weighed 13.13 pounds and was good for \$604.00 (\$481.00 1st & \$123.00 big bass).

1 st Randy Jenkins / Joel Jenkins.....	13.13-lb	\$481.00
2 nd Sam Watson / Jaramiah Mikel.....	12.44-lb	\$288.00
3 rd Ben Griffin / Steve Reynolds.....	8.50-lb	\$168.00
4 th Al Kohutec / Jon Griffin.....	8.49-lb	\$112.00
5 th Doug Powell / Charles Conine.....	7.34-lb	\$78.00

Big Bass 1 Randy Jenkin.....10.40-lb \$123.00

Big Bass 2 Sam Watson.....5.30-lb \$41.00

32 teams fished
07 limits were caught (3 fish)
06 teams zeroed
46 fish were weighed in with a weight of 137.38 pounds
2.98 pounds was the average fish weight

Air temp: 58-81
Water temp: 71-73
Wind: 0-9 mph
Wind direction: South, SSW, SSE
Moon: full.
Water clarity: muddy
Lake level: 0.68-ft high
Skies: clear and sunny
Grass: flooded grass
Barometric pressure: flat at 30.08 -30.12.
Ramp: Great.

Full results:

<http://www.cowboychurchbassclub.org/ccpoints16NorthDiv.htm> (see the Bob Sandlin 2 tab at the bottom of the spreadsheet)

Pictures:

<http://s1381.photobucket.com/user/cowboychurchbassclubnd/library/Richland%202016%2004%2023>

Also see the pictures on our **facebook page**.

<https://www.facebook.com/CowboyChurchBassClub>

Scatter Shooting

2nd place team **Sam Watson / Jaramiah Mikel** caught their big bass on the 3rd cast of the morning on a frog and the rest on watermelon red flukes.....3rd place team **Ben Griffin / Steve Reynolds** caught their bass on watermelon red rattlesnakes.....4th place team **Al Kohutec / Jon Griffin** caught their first bass on a senko in a creek near where the tournament big bass was caught at 12pm. The other 2 bass came from a cove past fisherman point marina toward the dam. They were caught on a brush hog and twin tail jig at 2:00 pm. Both on beds.....5th place **Doug Powell / Charles Conine** caught their bass on chatter baits, spinner baits, and shaky heads.....7th place team **Randal Collins / Kel Collins** would have gotten a check if it were not for a dead bass.....**Darren and Bud**

practiced 3 times. I think they did better during practice.....There was a huge shad spawn all over the lake (see the pictures). 1,000 shad committed suicide during the spawn.....**Jon** stepped in dog poop, not once, but twice with both feet.....9 new members fished this tournament. Welcome!Lots of drum and sandbass catch reports..... Several good teams zeroed.....Poorman's club shared the ramp with us, they have not posted the results yet. It was all good!.....The weather again was perfect! Big thanks to **James** and **Eric Cook** for manning the scales and weighing all the bass.....Oak Cove is the best place on the lake to launch out of for a tournament. Plenty of shade, gas, lodging, restaurant, and store all in one place.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Albert Love beat **Bryan Barfield / David Lewis**. Albert was fishing solo in the same boat as David and Bryan. Albert gets free entry into the Cedar Creek tournament next month.

Lakeside Devotional

Jon Griffin led the devotional and the topic was relationship building scriptures. Below are the 10 scriptures that John told us about.

1. Draw closer to God.

Come near to God and he will come near to you. ~ **James 4:8**

2. Make our marriage/relationships be a testimony of our faith.

Set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. ~ **1 Timothy 4:12**

3. Fulfill the responsibilities/blessings given to each of us

From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked. ~ **Luke 12:48**

4. Be content with little or with much.

For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ~ **1 Timothy 6:7-8**

5. Run to God in times of trouble.

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." ~ **Psalms 91:1&2**

6. For good health.

Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones. ~ **Proverbs 16:24**

7. Stand strong against the pull of this world and the spiritual warfare that threatens our faith, our marriages, our careers, our relationships

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ~ **Ephesians 6:10-12**

8. Encourage each other with our words.

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ~ **Ephesians 4:29**

9. Be patient with each other.

I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ~ **Ephesians 4:1-3**

10. So, how do we REALLY do all these things...like patience, encouragement, standing strong, handle difficulties, & contentment? Simple...we should place God in the CENTER of our lives.

-The shortest chapter in the Bible is **Psalm 117**

-The longest chapter in the Bible is **Psalm 119**

-The chapter in the CENTER of the Bible is **Psalm 118**

FACT: There are 594 chapters before **Psalm 118**

FACT: There are 594 chapters after **Psalm 118**

Add 594 + 594 and the answer is 1188

*The CENTER verse of the Bible is **Psalm 118:8**

Does this verse say something significant about God's perfect will for our lives? Don't we all wish we could strive to be in the CENTER of God's will? The perfect & most beautifully simplistic answer is @ **Psalm 118-8**, the dead CENTER of God's word:

"It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man"

Now isn't that odd how this worked out? Or was God in the CENTER of it the whole time...?!"

Jon closed us in Prayer.

Bob Sandlin - March 26, 2016

Congratulations Brian and Kyle Barfield!

1st place 16.70 pounds / \$421.00

Kyle said they started at the State Park cove but didn't do very well there so they moved to Jake's Creek. Kyle ran into Cody Pratka in the creek and Cody shared one of his winning chatter baits with the Barfields.....they boated 2 keepers in that creek by 8:30 am. Their biggest bass was caught around 1:30 pm in the same place that Kyle had won a TEXO tournament 2 years ago. They caught fish all day. Most of them were real shallow in the grass.

Big Bass - James Fabby She weighed 7.50 pounds and was worth \$145.00. James and Jonah Segovia placed 2nd and won a total of \$385.00

First: Kyle and Bryan Barfield.....16.70-lb \$421.00

Second: James Fabby / Jonah Segovia.....13.58-lb \$254.00

Third: Cody Pratka.....12.37-lb \$147.00
Fourth: Pierce Johnston / Jon Griffin.....11.17-lb \$98.00
Fifth: Bryan Hopkins.....10.92-lb \$68.00

Big bass: James Fabby.....7.50 pounds \$145.00

29 teams fished
20 limits were caught (3 fish)
3 teams zeroed
71 fish were weighed in with a weight of 191.01 pounds
2.69 pounds was the average fish weight

Air temp: 45-73

Water temp: 62-70

Wind: 0-9 mph

Wind direction: East/South

Moon: Almost full.

Water clarity: muddy

Lake level: 0.37-ft high

Skies: clear and sunny

Grass: Good reports

Barometric pressure: 29.97 to 30.02 at noon, then falling back to 29.92.

Ramp: Good.

Full results:

<http://www.cowboychurchbassclub.org/ccpoints16NorthDiv.htm> (see the Bob Sandlin 2 tab at the bottom of the spreadsheet)

Pictures:

<http://s1381.photobucket.com/user/cowboychurchbassclubnd/library/Bob%20Sandlin%202016%2003%2026>

Also see the pictures on our **facebook page**.

<https://www.facebook.com/CowboyChurchBassClub>

Scatter Shooting

Darren Coslin said: "About 15 miles from the lake we came over a hill and saw about 20 deer. They were in the middle of the road. I hit the brakes as they started scattering. The biggest doe in the group and a small yearling ran directly in front of me. They both ducked down as I hit them dead center of the truck. Todd Stewart was behind me. He said they came out of opposite sides of the truck. He said he did see the small 1 limp off. We stopped and got out to look for damage and saw lots of deer hair around the license plate and it cracked the lower bumper. We were very lucky".....**Matt & Albert Love** regretted going "right" instead of "left" at the takeoff, ultimately resulting in a single fish weighed in @ 4 lbs+.....**Brian Barfield** caught a pig on a frog right in front of another team from CCBC.....**Jon Griffin** hung a monster, ultimately to discover he had hung a trashed trot line with a 15+ lb buffalo on one of the hooks.....Multiple reports of big catfish catches, crappie catches, sandbass catches & **Steve Reynolds** snagged a big turtle.....5th place **Brian Hopkins** said "I caught all 3 of the bass I weighed in between 2 - 2:30 pm. All three on Senkos. I had the boat in an expansive grass bed. I was flipping into open spaces and catching bass. My three best came off of bushes I skipped under. The 5.07 broke water and I

saw it. It then took me under a lot of vegetation. I thought it would break me off. I was fishing alone so I did my version of Gumby and held my left hand as high as I could to keep tension. Balancing on my left foot, I reached for the net. The cooler was in the way so I kicked it twice with my right foot and got the net in my right hand. I used it to take vegetation out of the way. Finally, I could see a little bit of white. I punched the net into vegetation and scooped up a huge blob! My fish included! It was very exciting! I did catch several bass on spinnerbaits and square bills earlier in the day.

"Father & son team **Kyle & Brian Barfield** spanked the field, and word is Kyle even let his dad catch a few fish, although they all were culled by Kyle.....Lots of gar & carp in the backs of creeks.....Some members fished Monticello Friday afternoon and it was TOUGH, TOUGH, TOUGH.....Some fished Cypress Springs on Friday & reported much better fishing.....Water is being released at the dam and has been for several weeks, upper end continues to be very stained, towards the dam still stained but slowly clearing.....Jon & Pierce headed to their 1st spot only to be barely beaten by an angler fishing Media, pulled in right in front of Jon & Pierce & caught a good keeper on his 1st cast.....Chatterbaits accounted for several catches.....**Team Crouch** failed to find any keepers as bucks were APLENTY.....Doyle Ray camped overnight at the State Park with his family and was raided by Raccoons.....ABSOLUTELY PERFECT WEATHER!!.....Big thanks to **Jon Griffin** for writing the scatter shooting and lakeside devo.

Lakeside Devotional

Jamey Burchett gave his testimony

I was blessed with Christian parents. My dad a deacon in the church, therefore, I was raised in a Baptist church and came to know the Lord as a young boy. It was a very real and meaningful experience for me where Jesus began to speak to me one Sunday morning. It scared me at first, but each Sunday Jesus kept calling to me and it kept getting stronger and stronger until I finally broke down and talked to my dad about it. He explained it was Jesus calling me, wanting me to give my life to Him. One of the first bible verses taught to me as a kid was:

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son so that whosoever believeth in him might not perish, but have eternal life”.

We talked about that verse and my Dad ask me if I believed in Jesus. I told him I did. We prayed and I committed my life to Christ. The next Sunday, during the invitation, I went to the pastor and made my public profession of faith and was baptized.

After that I found I had great peace and joy in my life. Jesus had come into my life. It was the Holy Spirit living in me. From then on and as a teenager and during high school I always knew the Lord was with me and it gave me great strength, happiness and peace of mind. However, life hasn't always been perfect or easy for me. When I went off to college the old devil began to chip away at me and I began to drift away from the Lord little by little. When I graduated 4 years later and moved to Houston to work I began living a life away from the Lord doing things I knew better than to be doing. I thought these things would make me happy. I was going to the bars every night of the week. Dating girls I knew were not right for me. But, to be honest I wasn't very happy at all. I found no satisfaction in the way I was living, no purpose in my life. In fact, I was miserable all the time.

Then late one Saturday night as I was driving home from a bar the Lord spoke to me again. He convicted me of all the things I was doing wrong and let me know that I had to repent and ask

forgiveness and come back to Him if I ever wanted to find that same strength, happiness, and peace of mind I had experienced before and was missing in my life.

That night when I got home I prayed for forgiveness and ask God to guide me from then on in my life.

I got up early the next morning, Sunday morning, got in my car, prayed and ask the Lord to give me direction and then drove off blindly looking for a church. I soon spotted a church just off the highway.

Even though I drove that highway every day, I had never noticed that church before. It somehow looked right and felt right. I turned around and made my way there and went in. As it turned out the Lord had led me to a great church that day where I began to love, honor, serve and worship Him again.

The Lord put the strength, peace, joy and happiness, back in my life too. It was also there in that same church that God introduced me to a girl who has now been my wife for over 34 years now.

God taught me a lesson through all that. That when I stray away from Him and I often did and I still sometimes do, that it's me that left. Never Him. It's then that I realize that I have to repent, confess my sins, ask for forgiveness and come back to Him to find the good life God has planned for me.

1 John 1:9

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrightness".

God can and will make a difference in your life if you trust and follow Him.

Lastly I'll leave you with this:

Romans 10:9

"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved".

There is nothing hard about it. It's just that simple.

Lake Palestine – February 27, 2016

Congratulations to Randal Collins and Royce (Kel) Collins!

Their 3 fish limit weighed 15.95 pounds and netted them \$619.00 in payouts.

Randal caught the 1st bass on the sixth cast of the morning throwing a white chatter bait. She weighed 5.5-lbs. After that Randal said he missed the next few fish because they kept running towards the boat and he was not getting a good hook set. He fixed the problem by switching to a heavier rod.

They were fishing in 3-ft of water all day in and around the islands above and below Cades Lake. Later in the day they switched to blue fleck worms and caught a grinnell and a nice 2.5 pound crappie.

During practice they broke a good fish off behind a stump. At 1 pm they decided to try that stump again and that's when they boated the 7.99 pound hawg!

Randal said they didn't have a lot of bites and were able to get the ones they needed in the boat.

Randal and Kel have been fishing with us since 2014 and attend the Triple S Cowboy Church in Palestine.

Congratulations again to a great sack!

LAKE CONDITIONS

Air temp: 37-71. **Water temp:** 52-57. **Wind speed:** 8-12 mph. **Wind direction:** South. **Moon:** 3/4 full. **Water clarity:** muddy in Kick-A-Poo. **Lake level:** 0.49-ft high. **Skies:** clear and sunny. **Grass:** not much in in kick-a-poo. **Barometric pressure:** 30.28 flat until 11 am then dropping to 30.16. **Ramp:** <http://www.thevillagesmarina.com/> The Villages Marina was great! They opened early and had breakfast and coffee for us. The best ramp on the lake!

THE RESULTS

33 teams fished
28 limit was caught (a limit is 3 bass 14 inches and over)
02 teams zeroed
88 fish were weighed in with a weight of 56.63 pounds
2.79 pounds was the average fish weight

First: Randal Collins / Kel Collins.....15.95-lb \$496.00
Second: Randy Macalik / Scott Payne.....15.66-lb \$288.00
Third: Doug Powell / Charles Conine.....14.06-lb \$173.00
Fourth: Todd Stewart / Eric Pinola.....13.74-lb \$115.00
Fifth: Mike Aman / Justin Cagle.....11.54-lb \$80.00

Big bass # 1: Kel Collins.....7.99 pounds \$123.00
Big bass # 2: Todd Stewart.....7.58 pounds \$41.00

Full results:

<http://www.cowboychurchbassclub.org/ccpoints16NorthDiv.htm> (see the Palestine tab at the bottom of the spreadsheet)

Pictures:

<http://s1381.photobucket.com/user/cowboychurchbassclubnd/library/Palestine%202016%2002%2027>

Also see the pictures on our facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/CowboyChurchBassClub>

SCATTER SHOOTING

Second: **Randy Macalik / Scott Payne** caught their bass on red chatter baits and Lake Fork flukes.....Third: **Doug Powell / Charles Conine** caught their bass on chatter baits, jigs, and sq. bills.....Fourth: **Todd Stewart / Eric Pinola** caught their bass next to a duck blind on a chartreuse

and pepper snake-o and the others in the grass.....Fifth: **Mike Aman / Justin Cagle** caught their bass fishing ladders on boat docks using wacky rigs and senkos.....Last year **Al Kohutek** and **Jon Griffin** caught the only 3 fish limit in the tournament and they caught them in Kick-a-poo, but this year Kick-a-poo was a dead zone. The 2 teams that blanked, did so fishing in Kick-a-poo.....Al, Kevin, Ben, Steve and Byron all went to the 7B Ranch Restaurant in Frankston for steaks. It was good but not great.....Thanks to Joe and Tina Crouch for the great lunch! Chili, beans, and all the fixings.....**Doyle Ray** had purchased a trolling motor off the Texas Fishing forum a couple of months ago. By the end of the tournament, he was ready to throw it in the lake.....The next tournament will be at Bob Sandlin.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Darren Coslin and Bud Benner caught 8.16-lbs beating Ben Griffin and Steve Reynolds who caught 4.75-lbs

Darren and Bud get free entry into the March tournament at Bob Sandlin.

LAKESIDE DEVOTIONAL

Charley started out by telling us the story of Paul (Saul), what a bad guy he was, and what a great apostle he became.

The point that Charley was making was we can all receive God's grace just like Paul. God takes the unbelievers, the ordinary, and even the sinful and makes them into Christian leaders. He then read...

1 Timothy 1 12-16

(Paul talking) I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.

Charley gave his personal testimony and related it to Paul. The death of his brother tore his parents apart and at the age of 15 he left home, started cow punching, breaking wild horses on a ranch, living a rough and unchristian life. He said God broke him like Paul and put a few key people in his life that put him on his path to Christ where by God's grace he was saved.

It was a great testimony with lots of details but what Charley wanted us to get out of it, was God uses sinners. God gives us grace and that grace frees us from our past. The biggest mistake that people make is they think their past will prevent them from ever getting close to Jesus. The truth is, God uses the sinners, unchurched, and ordinary because they are the best examples of his grace.....real people, real world, real time examples. It's the reason why we all should encourage and help each other, because you never know if some simple thing like, sharing your story, inviting someone to

church, telling them about the good news, or even a simply act of kindness is the trigger that leads them down the path to eternal life.

If our friends and acquaintances are not receptive, then we need to pray for them. When we pray for them, it puts them on God's radar and he will keep the stream of encouraging people and situations coming to the person that you prayed for.

Charley said if you want to be baptized, we will make that happen.....right here at the lake. All you have to do is ask and we are here for you.

Donna David reminded everyone that if they need prayers to contact her or Charley. Request can be made privately and will not be shared unless requested.

Joe Crouch then closed us with a prayer and we were dismissed.

For more information about the Bass Club email cowboychurchbassclub@hotmail.com or contact Charley David at 214-878-3354

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