

The Oak Grove Oracle

(Family News & Views of the Oak Grove Church of Christ)

Meeting Weekly At Our Building Located At:

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596 or 601 - Your Appointment With Death

Early Friday morning, Janice and I took the east loop around town and got on I-30 at the FM 1001 on-ramp, headed to Arkansas for my sister-in-law's funeral. Looking back toward the west we could see the eastbound lanes were completely blocked with emergency vehicles and a long line of stalled traffic as far as the eye could see. We knew it must have been a bad wreck, because we didn't see a single 18-wheeler on the eastbound side all the way to New Boston.

Just this side of Texarkana, there was a scrolling electronic sign on the side of the road, warning against texting while driving. The sign also contained the rather ambiguous statement, "there have been **596 deaths** thus far this year." Being a curious guy, I wondered if this meant: (1) just in Texas or nationwide, (2) only as a result of texting while driving, and/or (3) in just the 2.5 months of 2018, or was it talking about all of 2017? Also, being a warped thinker, I wondered if the distraction of reading the sign might not be as dangerous as texting while driving? I guess when I'm elected governor, I can take that up with the officials at *TXDOT*. Thankfully, Janice was driving and she focuses on the road and is generally oblivious to distractions. The warning was clear, though, "**Don't Text While Driving!**"

Since my mind was on my sister-in-law's passing, I began to think about that number, 596. When there is an airplane crash, the airline industry and the *NTSB* refer to the deceased as "souls." 596 souls. Here one minute and in eternity the next. Do you reckon on the day of their death they woke up thinking, "today is my last day on earth?"

While traveling back to Texas late Friday afternoon, I did some calling to check on the sick for updated notes in this edition of the *Oracle*. That's when I learned that the emergency lights we had seen early that morning, resulted from a terrible crash of several large trucks and a mini-van, with the sad news of 5 more traffic fatalities on Texas highways, right here in our own hometown. I don't know if texting had anything to do with it, or not? I do know this; five more souls crossed the chilly Jordan of death and are now in either Paradise or Torment (Lk. 23:42 & 16:28), awaiting the final Judgment of the Lord. The moral to this short story is, remember the warning: "...It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:" (Heb. 9:27). Are you ready for the Judgment Day?

David A. McCain