

Belt Line Road Church of Christ

“...churches of Christ salute you” (Rom 16:16)
Established 33 AD

March 28, 2016
Volume 8 Number 12

1202 N. Belt Line Road
Irving, TX 75061
972/790-8606
972/790-3897 (fax)

Web site:
www.beltlinechurch.com

Schedule of Services

Sunday:

Bible Class.....9:00 a.m.
AM Worship...10:00 a.m.
PM Worship.... 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday:

Bible Study.... 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday:

Ladies' Bible Class(Sept.–Apr.)
Class meets at 10 a.m.

Evangelist

Don Hatch
Email:
don-hatch@sbcglobal.net

ELDERS

Jerry McKey
Richard Renfro
Dean Webb

DEACONS

Darrell Allen
Glen Kelly
John Mayer

SECRETARIES

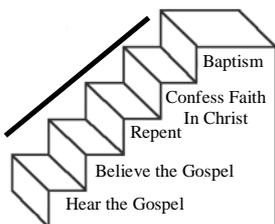
Janice Daniel & Jerry Grantham
beltlinechurch@sbcglobal.net

CUSTODIANS

Mike & Elizabeth Garrison

**THE GOSPEL PLAN
OF SALVATION**

Hear-Romans 10:17
Believe-John 8:24
Repent-Acts 17:30
Confess-Romans 10:10
Be Baptized-Acts 22:16
Saved - in Christ (Galatians 3:27)



Confidence in God

Don Hatch

Christians must know in whom they believe and be persuaded that He is able to keep them (2 Tim 1:12). The foundation of such belief is the ways and means God cared for those of obedient faith. Courage and conviction mounts with the knowledge that God is the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb 13:5-8; Matt 28:20). God uses occasions to teach us to trust in Him. The song by C. B. McAfee “There is a place of quiet rest near to the throne of God, a place where sin cannot molest, near to the throne of God...” helps us to believe God.

Worry is a dungeon in which all the energies of life are stripped away. Matters which are beyond our control shackle us with care and place us in bondage to hopelessness. Those who have not learned to trust in God and His providence are to be counted as unfortunate. Such people are destitute of guidance from the Almighty and serenity of a life found in Christianity is missed.

Psalm 97 is a vivid contrast between trusting in God and being inundated with worry. No chapter in the Bible gives a more grandiose emphasis to the sovereignty of God’s grace, righteousness and justice. The overpowering thought that God is over all and aids the faithful by directing their faltering feet through difficulties of earth’s temporal affairs is a compass which all should use for directions along life’s way. The words of Brother L. O. Sanderson speak volumes of God’s providence, “The mighty God, Omniscient One! His ways we cannot trace. He reckons every good begun and crowns it with His grace. Lo! I can see Him in His word I will not doubt or fear. My steps are ordered of the Lord, His guiding hand is near. No trial can my spirit break, for God will not forsake. He will with each temptation make a way for my escape. The future beckons and I bow- My God removes the care! Behold, He goes before me now, and will my way prepare. He’s here, and there and everywhere in all the ways I’ve trod. I’ve never passed beyond the sphere of the providence of God”.

God’s providence and man’s surrender are inseparable. One cannot expect to receive benevolent grace and mercy from the Father with whom one is warring. He is able to guide

us to ultimate victory if we do not cancel out His wonderful blessings by rebellion and disobedience. Relying on the gracious Creator and Sustainer ought to dissolve all the weight of worry which we mere mortals carry each day. Trust in the Lord and lean upon His wisdom (Jas 4:1-10; Prov 3:5). “Now unto him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all generations forever and ever, Amen” (Eph 3:20, 21).

Why do the wicked prosper? It might seem as if the wicked have the best. But do they? Sinful men actually do not have real prosperity. Nothing they do is worthwhile. Even when engaging in altruistic endeavors the wicked have ulterior motives. The duration of their prosperity is earthbound. He that serves God for earthly gain will serve the devil for greater earthly wealth. A saintly theme song could be: “Don’t think me poor or deserted or lonely, I’m not discouraged, I’m heaven bound; I’m just a pilgrim in search of a city, I want a mansion, a robe and a crown” (Mansions over the Hilltop by Ira Stanphill)

Practical lessons of permanent value: A reviewing of biblical victories such as Christ over Satan reaffirms that faithful obedience is not exaggerated (Matt 4:1-11). Unreservedly maintaining high standards allows God to do exceeding abundantly above what we ask or think (Dan 1& 3). Goals made and accomplished begin with the end (eternity) in mind (Phil 4:13). Sharing one’s blessings with others does not weaken steadfastness but rather strengthens (Rom 1:16, 17). Surround one’s life with good companions for “...iron sharpeneth iron, so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friends” (Prov 27:17). Being strong and of unconquerable courage begins when one audaciously observes the statutes and ordinances of God (1 Chron 22:6-16). Human wisdom has its place but never at the core of one’s resources for faithful living (Jas 3:13-18; Col 2:8). Fellowship with God to the end of life’s road is being faithful even unto death (Rev 2:10). Loving God, man and righteousness is never out of season (1 Pet 2:17). Confidence in God comes when we have the ingredients for spiritual victories in Christ!

God’s wise and benevolent care of His creatures is good and full of mercy. He will supply all spiritual and perfect gifts to mankind (Eph 1:3; Jas 1:17, 18). Because God is sovereign He is well able to exercise an all-inclusive providence, involving the care and control of His creatures. The vastness of His sway in providence is beyond comprehension. Praise ye the Lord.

FAMILY CARE
A Message from Our Shepherds

This will conclude our study on the question “What must I do to be saved?” We have discovered what was not mentioned and what was mentioned in our study of **Acts 16:30-33**. Today I would like to go over some objections that we frequently hear about such a strict interpretation.

One of them is that God can save a man any way that He chooses. There was a time in the mind of God that this was true. When God specified how a man could come to Him through Christ and set it as His standard then it became the standard. Jesus made it clear that we would be judged by the word that He spoke - **John 12:48**. To allow for God to go back on his word would be inconsistent with His nature and with the standard He has given to man. God has specified how He will save a man according to the blood of Christ. Does this nullify His grace? To the contrary, it establishes His grace. Man no longer is in spiritual limbo having to guess what God seeks in terms of faith and practice. His grace declares His purpose and plan. Go and read **Titus 2:11-13**. We can know and we can have confidence that if we live by His teaching, He will be true to His promises.

Some say that this is being narrow minded, too literal, too exacting - **Is It?** I am not interested in spiritual roulette or eternal quandary. Jesus said that His way is well defined as found in **Matt. 7:13-14** “*Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.*”¹⁴ *Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.*” I personally take great comfort in the fact that I can know what His will is. Paul took comfort in it also as found in **2 Tim. 1:12**.

There are those who say it is just a matter of interpretation. Your interpretation is as good as mine and vice versa—“We are all on different roads seeking to go to the same place” they say. You see, that thinking might be valid if there were several roads to the destination, but Jesus declared that there is one road. Only through Him can we reach the Father - **John 14:6** “*Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”*” Need we be reminded of Peter’s inspired insight in **2 Peter 1:20-21**. You see, it is not a matter of interpretation, it is a matter of reading, understanding, believing and responding. These are all in the parameter of our relationship as the created to the Creator. The pot does not give direction to the potter. Man should not be so bold as to presumptuously dictate to God what is and is not His will.

Of all biblical subjects, we should be able to see clearly the answer to our question “What must I do to be saved?” Many want to question and even deny what the Scripture teaches on this subject. Be very careful for this is to question divine authority and to play dangerously with one’s eternal destiny. Doctrines based on popular opinion or cultural thinking are at best suspect. They do not give God and Christ the place that holy Scripture gives to them.

Pray about this question and look intently to the answer God has given us in His Word. Jerry McKey

The Promised Rest of God- Heb 3:1-4:16

Jesus Christ is superior to Moses. The house Moses built was blessed but how much greater the blessings of the house Jesus built (Hebrews 3: 1-16)! Remaining a part of the New Covenant house depends on maintaining faithfulness. A solemn warning of the book of Hebrews is that of the Israelites failing the test of faithfulness. Hence Christians are to beware of an evil heart (Hebrews 3:12, Psalms 95: 7-11). God is the Creator and as a result sustains the faithful. The Hebrews letter reminds one that neglecting God’s words and ordinances cost an entire generation of Israelites the promised land (Hebrews 3: 8-11).

Neglecting to hear God’s word has a profound effect on the heart, mind and soul making them insensible (1 Peter: 2:1-2; 1 Corinthians 3: 1-9; Hebrews 5: 11-14; 2 Corinthians 4: 16-18). God’s commands must be respected without delay. The law of spiritual things is that one becomes better or worse as currents of life flow onward. If one does not soften and purify the heart it will harden. The writer of Hebrews strongly recommended prompt obedience.

An overview of history demonstrates how compelling the lesson is within the words “harden not your heart”. At Meribah and Massah the Israelites chided God and Moses. This area became known as “temptation” and “strife” (Exodus 17: 7; Numbers 20:13; Deuteronomy 6:16; Psalms 81: 7). These Israelites did not foresee how greatly they disadvantaged themselves. The Lord was grieved (vexed) with that generation because they multiplied their transgressions. Israel wanted to return to idolatry and had forgotten God’s great deliverance (Joshua 24). Their heart did not comprehend how good it was to obey God. They abandoned God’s ways.

God swore in His wrath that the murmuring Hebrews would not enter into His rest. They dishonored God and He disavowed them (Exodus 15: 22-26; 16: 1-3; 17: 1-7; 32: 11-29; Numbers 11: 1-3, 4-34; 14: 1-4, 22-30). Their acts violated God’s law and brought wrath against them. Of an entire generation of Israelites only two were faithful and blessed, Joshua and Caleb.

The analysis of this section of Hebrews shows the superiority of Christ over Moses. In making this comparison it is obvious that the house or “church of Christ” by divine arrangement is the summation of all things (Ephesians 1: 3-14). Moses was faithful to God in his house Christ was more faithful. As Christians look over history they see the magnanimous gifts of God and then at the end of their pilgrimage an eternal rest. It is true that our blessings and privileges are now, in many respects, better than the Israelite’s. But human nature is still the same; our greatest enemies are still the same; they are trials and temptations; hence what was “...written aforetime was written for our learning, which through patience and through comfort of the scriptures we might have hope (Romans 15: 1-13).” The idea of rest is a very pleasant and consoling thought. Fidelity to the end of life is essential in order to have the final enjoyment of a great salvation in Christ and the heavenly rest. The main business of life is to labor faithfully unto the end. What folly it would be to pass rapidly on our way to eternity unprepared, at the end of our pilgrimage, to enter into the everlasting rest. This section of the scriptures conclude that all will be judged (Hebrews 9:27). Here we may often be deceived by another; and sometimes we may even deceive ourselves; but nothing escapes the eye of God and the all-penetrating power of His word. It is necessary to be most careful and constant in self-examination, lest, like the Israelites, we fall short of the promised rest.

Don Hatch

Family News:

News at Belt Line.
Call in your information to the office at:
972-790-8606 by Sunday evening.

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

April 3, 2016

Front foyer: Nancy Pond & Myrtle Wade

Back foyer: Bill & Linda Matthews

April 10, 2016

Front foyer: Robert & Cathy Taylor

Back foyer: Dale & Katherine Cox

MISSION PRINTING

Mission Printing will meet **Sunday** at 4:00 p.m. in the Jr. Auditorium to collate tracts. Please come help us and enjoy the Christian fellowship.

Contribution Counters For April

Glen Kelly & Scot Allen

Communion Preparation For April

Dorris & Janie Walker

Military:

Chris and Abigail Mathews

Sermon Titles

April 3, 2016

a.m.: "Faithful Saying"

Scripture: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

p.m.: "Practice Of Assurance"

Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:12-14

April 10, 2016

a.m.: "Saving And Instructive Grace"

Scripture: Titus 2:11-15

p.m.: "Throne Of Grace"

Scripture: Hebrews 4:14-16

PRAYER LIST

Ongoing Health Concerns:

Bobby Bowen, Jane Easter, Dessie Ross, Don and Margaret Lewis, Frances Tipton, Diedra Sutton, Tom Prince, Ruben Melendez, Tom Head, David & Faye West, Laquita Baker, Glen Kelly, Mike Garrison

Homebound Members:

Helen Thomas, Mary Walker, Dessie Ross

Recovering at Home:

Nancy Pond's brother and sister-in-law are now home from the hospital.

There are many dealing with short term health issues. Please remember them in your prayers.

Hospital:

No one at the present time.

Nursing Home:

Elsie Nanney – Avante

Frances Tipton – Marine Creek

Max Melton – Northgate Plaza

Tom Prince – Northgate Plaza

WORK DAY

There will be a special **WORK DAY** on Saturday, **April 23rd** starting at **8 a.m.** We need everyone that can come help us clean the building in preparation for our Ladies ½ Day. It will be greatly appreciated if you can come help us in this endeavor so that the Ladies will have a very successful day on the 30th as there is a lot to be done.

**HAVE YOU INVITED
SOMEONE TO WORSHIP
THIS WEEK?**

LADIES BIBLE CLASS will meet on Tuesday, **March 29th** at 10 a.m. in the Annex. The lesson will be on "**Watch Your Companion**". Please invite your friends to join us.

THANK YOU

Thanks to all of the Ladies who have volunteered for tasks related to Ladies 1/2 Day. All positions are covered and we are on track for another successful event.

Beverly McKey

SPECIAL REQUEST

Please remember to **turn off your cell phones** or **put them on vibrate** before our worship services begin so that they are not a distraction during services. Thank you for your cooperation.

Three Reasons for Being a Christian

Because of our past. The Bible says, "*All have sinned and come short of the glory of God*" (Romans 3:23). But "*... the wages of sin is death*" (Romans 6:23). When we become Christians, our sins are taken away, this death abolished and the burden of past guilt removed.

Because of our Present. With the forgiveness of sins, the Christian has peace with God, peace of mind and the joy on anticipating Heaven ahead. Full happiness in this world is not possible until one becomes a Christian.

Because of our Future. Without Christ, our future would be bleak and horrible. In Him, we shall see a place where there will be no more tears, death, sorrow, or pain (Revelation 21:4) – **John Thiesen**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

3/29/16 – Ladies Bible Class – 10 a.m.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- Glen Kelly – 4/1
- Rebecca Andrepont – 4/1
- Jerry Grantham – 4/2
- Mary Wise – 4/2
- Vern Lundquist – 4/6
- Billie Beverly – 4/7
- Sissy Allen – 4/12
- Bobby Allen – 4/16
- Henry Seidmeyer – 4/16
- Nelda Bell Newton – 4/17
- Tom Head – 4/18
- Jeanene Heilman – 4/19
- Alice Worthy – 4/20
- Thomas Rathbun – 4/21
- Mary Walker – 4/22
- Don Hatch – 4/25
- Faye West – 4/30

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Bobby & Sissy Allen – 4/18

*If unable to serve on the Lord's table,
please contact Curtis Vaughan:
(469) 216-7580*

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THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE THIS SUNDAY

<u>LORD'S TABLE (MORNING)</u>		4/3/16	<u>SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS</u>
<u>Front Table</u>	<u>Rear Table</u>		
· John Mayer	· Vern Lundquist		· Richard Renfro
· Nathan Allen	· Bobby England		· Bill Matthews
· Dorris Walker	· Dale Cox		· Don Herriage
· Curtis Vaughan	· Robert Taylor		
· Alex Mayer			
· Purman Cofer			
<u>LORD'S TABLE (EVENING)</u>			
· Scot Allen			
· Thomas Rathbun			
<u>COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS</u>			
Darrell Allen			
<u>A.M. SONG LEADER</u>			
· Jerry McKey			
			<u>A.M. SCRIPTURE READING</u>
			· Kenny Mayer
			1 Timothy 1:12-17
			<u>SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS</u>
			· Jerry McKey
			· Ken Lee
			<u>P.M. SCRIPTURE READING</u>
			· Alex Mayer
			2 Timothy 1:12-14
			<u>P.M. SONG LEADER(S)</u>
			· Darrell Allen

FOR THE RECORD: ATTENDANCE & BUDGET NUMBERS

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	64	58	63	100
A.M. Worship	116	118	105	150
P.M. Worship	75	71	72	80
Wed. Class	60	56	57	85
Contribution	\$5092	\$5809	\$5441	\$5170

MISSIONS

- Glen Tattersall – Australia
- Roland & Rose Mohsen – France
- Gary & Nadya Workman – Ukraine
- Charlie & Mary DiPalma – Australia
- Willie & Del Gley – Ghana/Togo, Africa
- David & Paula Tarbet – New Milford, CT
- Wil & Telanda Sadler – Military Missions
- Wayne Jackson – Christian Courier on the Web
- Christ's Haven Children's Home – Keller, TX
- Foster's Home for Children – Stephenville, TX
- Ted Lingren – Sisophon Bible School – Cambodia
- Rohan & Sandra Jones – Cape Town, South Africa
- Elangwe & Magdaline Gregory – Wotutu, Cameroon
- Mission Printing Worldwide Literature Distribution
- Terry & Pam Laurence – Ft. Defiance, Arizona – Navajo
- Mike Batot – Southwest School of Bible Studies – Austin, TX
- Carlos Tario – Brown Trail School of Preaching – Bedford, TX
- Brayden Shelley – Brown Trail School of Preaching – Bedford, TX
- Dennis & Beth Johnson – Chennai Teacher Training School – India

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1202 N. Belt Line Road - Irving, TX 75061

**PERIODICALS POSTAGE
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