

Belt Line Road Church of Christ

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

December 4, 2017
Volume 9 Number 43

1202 N. Belt Line Road
Irving, TX 75061
972/790-8606

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

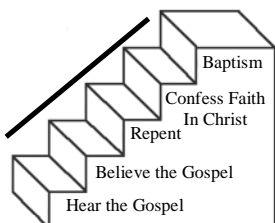
Janice Daniel & Jerry Grantham
beltlinechurch@sbcglobal.net

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)



The Key To Truth

Don Hatch

The Key to truth is to know truth. To walk in truth is to walk in God's light (1 Jn 1:1-5). To know the truth is to find freedom (Jn 8:32). To keep God's commandments is to be in the truth (2 Jn 6). The scriptures retain their freshness and application to all current problems in every generation. This is due to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the nature of God's revelation. God's word is not a "penal code" but rather an application of truth by which we live in all situations of life. These applications reoccur frequently in history.

Modernism is a broad lax, ill-defined, loose attitude toward the scriptures and God. These deny the verbal plenary inspired scriptures, God's authority and the fact that there are certain patterns that must be maintained in the New Testament worship and Christian life. Many congregations have been infiltrated by insidious influences that present themselves as "progressive thinkers" who are always one step ahead of the times. They know what the church should do in order to be effective. Yet all we see of their works are a "migration of stolen sheep" from some other congregation where the new has worn off a tensile trash presented. Many move because of fading cheap thrills, worship without a "wallop", gimmicks becoming hackneyed and desiring to follow a "preacher with a new philosophy" (2 Tim 4:1-5). These picture themselves as beyond the antiquated people in "stale" churches. They claim all of those who hold to first century principles and patterns are "out of step with reality, answering questions no one is asking". These constantly downgrade the church by ridiculing her manner of worship and lack of progressiveness in leadership. They assume a tone of sophistication and superiority looking down on "poor family" members who just never measure up. To them the church is a descendent of Alexander Campbell or "Campbellites." They view the church not as children of God through Christ but just another "big sick denomination". Is there truthfulness in preaching the first principles of the oracles of God as He commanded or is it true that it is a waste of time (1 Cor 1:18-25; Heb 5:11-14; 6:1-8)? Is the church a hopeless obstructionist? Is there a real church of Christ or just a phantom? Does the Bible really teach how to keep the commandments of God? The key to knowing the truth is the Bible, studying it in its context and not seeking to pervert it into a subterfuge for denying God's commandments.

False teachers of the first century were progressives who took the lead by not abiding in the teachings of God and Christ (2 Jn 8). Thayer defines this teaching as to "go further than what is right or proper". They were advanced thinkers, even greater than God. They went beyond the thinking of the Bible. They had the ability to instruct God (1 Cor 2:15). There is an advance, which eventually desert the principles and oracles of God and such advances ends in apostasy (Heb 6:1-5). The uniqueness of this is that the progressives style themselves as the only ones who know what is needed to advance the church in a current culture. They seem to believe that the civilization they hope to develop will depend on them to reason and recognize how to win the world for Christ. It often means compromising and embracing of worldly standards. To them Christianity must advance out of the "mold", "out of the box", "outside the lines" of the first century "time warp" to a new and better day with Christ's principles are subservient to the culture of the day. Christianity to them does not create a culture but is submissive to culture. "Unity in diversity" is the cry of these progressives. Apologies are made to those who left the truth because of the church's "rigidity and an uncompromising spirit." What is wrong with the "old paths" and the "ancient order"? Should one know the truth and walk in it? Is there a wisdom that comes down from above which man has no permission to alter? Is there wisdom of this world that is sensual, devilish, full of variance, strife and hypocrisy (Jas 3:13-18)? The church must rise to the occasion and preach the truth and never be supplanted by confusion and vile deeds.

"Talking points" are unities at any price, peace with those under the tent of "Christianity", as long as they accept us, we can accept them. "Unacceptable" to them are those who hold to the first century principles, non-progressives and those who will not accept the removal of ancient landmarks. This is the new tolerance (intolerance). Under new guidelines, these non-progressives are inexcusably wicked. A "new Christian" is needed. He must kneel at an altar of progressiveness. The mantra is "principles must be vague and updateable". Their argument is "not teaching the doctrine of Christ, but Christ". It is teaching about Him, but not what He taught. Their conclusion is that "doctrine" is a crippling standard making it impossible to reach the world. A counterfeit teaching is seeking to remove the Apostles doctrine where one is directed by an inspired message with a means to convert the world. Such teaching does not have God's endorsement, Christ's approval and is in disagreement with the Holy Spirit's "once, for all times message". This is progressive and goes onward; it neither has God nor Christ (2 Jn 9). Going further than what is right or proper goes beyond truth and cannot be called Christianity. Only adhering to the Bible and correct hermeneutic is safe. Cast a wary eye to the progressives of our day. Love the truth!

FAMILY CARE
A Message from Our Shepherds

It is coming to the close of the year and I would like to let everyone know that I will be actively putting together a pictorial directory for our congregation. It will require a lot of help from everyone, especially the ones who need new pictures made. We have many people who have lost loved ones and we need to update your picture, not only for the new pictorial directory but for our picture board. We also have many outdated pictures on the picture board that need to be updated. Also, we have new members who have placed membership with us that need their pictures made. You might say, "Why do I need my picture made?" It is a tremendous help to our new members who do not know who you are. I will be available for picture taking after each service on Sunday morning and night in our library. Please help us out.

As this year ends let us always remember that we as God's children have a wonderful opportunity to share the gospel with others. Many in the world are thinking about Christ and so let us take the opportunity to share what He means with you. In **Gal. 6:6** it says, "*Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.*" As the Psalmist said in **Psalm 25:4-5** "*Show me Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths. ⁵Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You I wait all the day.*" This thought should be on our lips also. Have a great week and see you Sunday. **Jerry McKey**

Continued from right column...When one fails the test of honor and integrity, can good standing be regained? Jesus dealt with Zacchaeus, the tax collector, in a spectacular way (Lk 19). He was not beyond recovery. Jesus went to his house. Zacchaeus immediately sought to correct his life being forthright and honorable. The Bible is explicit about false business practices (Deut 15:1-15). Job is legendary for his life of honor before, during and after his trials. Even when accosted by wife and friends he never acted the fool or lost his integrity (Job 2:10; 27:2-5). Nehemiah and Ezra were men of honor who did what was best for king Artaxerxes and Israel (Neh 5:14-18). The prophets maintained their moral high ground. When others lost their way, the prophets illuminated the darkness with truth. Lying and false prophets were dishonorable and were denounced by men like Jeremiah, Isaiah, and Ezekiel. Jeremiah looked for one honest man in Jerusalem and found none (Jer 5:12). God said, "Go up and down the streets of Jerusalem, look around and consider, search her squares. If you can find but one person who deals honorably and seeks the truth, I will forgive this city. Although they say, "as surely as the Lord lives, still they are swearing falsely" (Jer 5:1, 2). Isaiah lived in an era where honesty and integrity were not the foundations of Israel. The Greek philosopher Diogenes looked for an honest man. Some of today's corporations developed a person called "ombudsman" who, like the prophets, question the wisdom and integrity of decisions made. Righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a reproach to all.

Individuals tend to practice honor, righteousness and purity when others support them. It takes a committed person to be what God wants when alone. David prayed for Solomon as he took the throne (1 Chron 29). Like David, believers would do well to pray for others as they assume responsibility. **Don Hatch**

Integrity

The church is called upon to be a light leading mankind to God (Matt 5:13-16). To accomplish this divine mission and time honored goals the character of the church must be considered. The Bible is widely read and respected for its moral, religious and ethical principles. Wisdom from above is fascinating (Jas 3:13-18) and its collection of principles, precepts and promises are useful in all instances of life. With Kings, Queens, Princes, prophets and visionaries to choose from one can find hundreds of illustrations on how to "be the light". Those who were true, or false, good or bad, saved or lost have lessons to be gleaned which can influence the way one is to live. Will one live carnally, spiritually, forthright or hidden, good or bad? The Bible's wisdom challenges one to review traits and skills. Successful luminaries for Christ are like a team where all will receive the same accolade—"well done thou good and faithful servant" (Matt 25:23).

Honest ethics ask, "is it fair, right, honorable and does it have a conduct which deserves esteem"? Those who are honest regard what made them want to be honest and what keeps them honest (Rom 12:17; 2 Cor 8:21; 13:7). We are judged by our lives- are they integrated with unbroken conditions of unimpaired wholesomeness and soundness of life. Integrity is learned and a work is implied (Tit 3:14). The early church was a place where the virtue of honor was taken into account when considering a person's spirituality (Phil 4:8, 9). The cause can be noble but if one does not earn it, by living an honorable life, the lack of trust by others will not draw them to a dim or diminishing light. Who would have believed Moses if he had not been a morally honorable man? The Ten Commandments would never have been followed if Moses had not first followed them himself. The "dirty duo" Ahab and Jezebel could never have been moral leaders. Ahab coveted the vineyard of Naboth and Jezebel killed so Ahab could have it (1 Kg 21). She was amoral and he was sullen, impulsive and evil. When one is devoid of honor or integrity the kingdom of God suffers. David wanted some land that belonged to Araunah. David offered full price for it. Araunah offered to give it to David (1 Chron 21). David could have taken it but would not. Reprehensible lives and honest lives are darkness and daylight apart. Honor and integrity may not be popular or have an instant payday but virtuous people ultimately receive a recompense of reward.

The church, when she acts responsibly and with integrity, can expect others to want to emulate her. When we walk becomingly toward those who are without we may be accused but we are more than conquerors in Christ (Rom 8:31-39). In times of trials, tribulations and testing, if our faith is found praiseworthy and honorable, it does not fail (1 Pet 1:3-11). Virtue has its own reward (2 Pet 1:1-11). The Bible's moral compass is never wrong. Act as if the next moment is to be in eternity. Always live, moved, and have our being in God (Acts 17:17).

We all struggle with safeguards and particular warnings. Individuals increase in honor and integrity when others gather around them and maintain the same traits. Others of like precious faith are attracted. The more forthright you are the more visible your integrity or lack of it is discerned. In times of trials, crisis and temptation, approvedness announces its intentions. (Rom 5:1-11). One cannot expect fellow pilgrims to follow a model of dishonesty. Jesus is the perfect model of honor and integrity. Follow Him. **Continued in left column...**

FAMILY NEWS:

News at Belt Line

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

DECEMBER ASSIGNMENTS

GREETERS:

Dec. 10 – Front Foyer – Don & Anne Herriage
Back Foyer – Thomas Rathbun & Myrtle Wade

Dec. 17 – Front Foyer – Robert & Cathy Taylor
Back Foyer – Bobby & Brenda England

Communion Preparation: Bobby & Brenda England

Contribution Counters: Glen Kelly & Kenny Mayer

SERMONS

Dec. 10 – a.m. “The Perils Of Popularity”
Jeremiah 7:1-7
p.m. “Tyre ”
Ezekiel 27:1-7

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

Ongoing Health Concerns: Bobby Bowen, Dessie Ross, Carol Swinney, David & Faye West, Laquita Baker, Ezra Castro, Nellie Melvin, Grady Fowler, Paul Kelly, David Hawkins, Beverly McKey, Jimmy Webb, Barbara Reagan, Alice Worthy

Home Bound Members: Helen Thomas, Mary Walker, Dessie Ross, Gearldean Jones

Nursing Homes: **Max Melton** – Irving Nursing & Rehabilitation
Nellie Melvin – Avalon Memory Care

Military: Chris & Abigail Mathews

EVENTS

MISSION PRINTING – Mission Printing will meet every **SUNDAY** at 4:00 p.m. in the Jr. Auditorium to collate and staple tracts to be sent all over the world. Please come help us and enjoy the wonderful Christian fellowship.

LADIES

Ladies Bible Class will be on **Tuesday, December 5th**. Please mark your calendar and join us at 9:45 a.m. The lesson will be “**The Transfiguration**”. Ladies make plans to attend and bring a friend.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please keep **Jerry McKey's** friend **Ezra Castro** in your prayers as he is struggling with cancer.

Henry Seidmeyer is feeling much better and was able to be at services on Sunday.

Clorece Wilson is not feeling well.

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

DIRECTORY PICTURES

We are in the process of updating our member's pictures for our new pictorial directory. **Jerry McKey** will have his camera every Sunday morning and evening during the month of **December**. Please meet him in the library after services to have your picture taken.

RESPONSE

Patti Alexander placed her membership with us yesterday. Her information is:

3813 Flamingo Lane

Irving, Texas 75062

Phone: 214-735-1137

Gwen Nathan will be moving back to Arkansas this week. We wish her well and will miss her.

Foster's Home for Children wishes to **Thank You** for your generosity and support. The green cans for this year totaled \$356.00.

Men who serve on the Lord's Table on Sunday mornings, please go to room #116 **five minutes** before services.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS12/18/17 – 39^{ers} – Annex – 6:30 pm**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Grady Fowler – 12/1
 Lotah Franklin – 12/6
 Virginia Stull – 12/6
 Max (Walter) Milton – 12/7
 Barbara Reagan – 12/12
 Elizabeth Garrison – 12/13
 Crystal Morris – 12/13
 Virgil LaFerney – 12/17
 Linda Matthews – 12/17
 Kim Mayer – 12/20
 Carol Lee – 12/24
 Kent Conner – 12/27
 Brenda England – 12/29
 Lovetta Smith – 12/31

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Bill* & Carolyn Montgomery – 12/22
 Mike & Sharon Haynes – 12/24
 David & Judy Odom – 12/31

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

BELT LINE ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

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THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE THIS SUNDAY

<u>LORD'S TABLE (MORNING)</u>		12/10/17	<u>SUNDAY PRAYERS</u>
<u>Front Table</u>	<u>Rear Table</u>		A.M. – Jerry McKey Randy Reagan Bill Matthews
Richard Renfro	Thomas Rathbun		P.M. – Ken Lee Darrell Allen
Ray Simpson	Glen Kelly		
Purman Cofer	Curtis Vaughan		
Dean Webb	Bobby England		
John Mayer			
Kenny Mayer			
<u>LORD'S TABLE (EVENING)</u>			<u>SCRIPTURE READING</u>
Alex Mayer			A.M. – Mike Haynes Jeremiah 7:1-7
Don Herriage			P.M. – Jerry Baker Ezekiel 27:1-7
<u>SONG LEADERS</u>			<u>COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS</u>
A.M. – Jerry Baker			Darrell Allen
P.M. – Jerry McKey			

FOR THE RECORD: ATTENDANCE & BUDGET NUMBERS

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	58	63	60	100
A.M. Worship	93	107	95	150
P.M. Worship	67	74	66	80
Wed. Class	48	66	64	85
Contribution	\$5204	\$6980	\$5398	\$5220

MISSIONARIES SUPPORTED

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
 Ted Lingren – Sisophon Bible School – Cambodia
 Rohan & Sandra Jones – Cape Town, South Africa
 Elangwe & Magdaline Gregory – Wotutu, Cameroon
 Terry & Pam Laurence – Ft. Defiance, Arizona – Navajo
 Dennis & Beth Johnson – Chennai Teacher Training School – India

OTHERS SUPPORTED

Paper Pulpit – Hurst, Texas
 The Truth In Love – Hurst, Texas
 Wayne Jackson – Christian Courier on the Web
 Christ's Haven Children's Home – Keller, Texas
 Foster's Home for Children – Stephenville, Texas
 Mission Printing Worldwide Literature Distribution

STUDENT PREACHERS SUPPORTED

Brown Trail School of Preaching – Bedford, Texas
 Dolcey Patino, Roberto Ortiz, Joseph Harris, Nathan Boyd
 Southwest School of Bible Studies – Garrett English

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**PERIODICALS POSTAGE
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