

Belt Line Road Church of Christ

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

December 1, 2014
Volume 6 Number 45

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.... 7:30 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

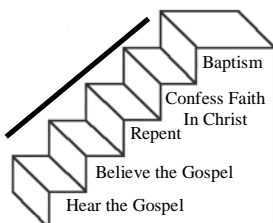
Janice Daniel & Jerry Grantham
beltlinechurch@sbcglobal.net

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 Antichrist

Don Hatch

Jesus was the Messiah. He fulfilled the responsibilities of the **Logos** of Bible's teachings (Jn 1:1-17) and his actions prophesied in the Old Testament gave a partial presentation of how, where, when and why. His place, time and being born of a virgin were of supreme importance. The teachings of an **antichrist** generally were not a fully developed doctrine in the Old Testament. They were only hinted at by the prophets. Jesus Christ of Nazareth's role as God with us was contested by Jews and Gentiles. Most of the implications were that the antichrist was an enemy of God and later the anointed Christ. Belial is used to portray the opponent of God (Jg 19:22; 20:13; 1 Sam 1:16). Belial was scandalously wicked and a base personality (Dan 7:7-10). This could be used to describe a nation. Belial made war against the saints speaking wrongfully concerning them. Antiochus Epiphanes is an illustration of opposition to God (Dan 8:1-25).

The New Testament records the actions of Satan against Christ as antichrist. Satan tempted Jesus in various ways claiming certain rights and privileges. He claimed he could give the kingdoms of the world to Christ if He would worship him (Mat 4:1-10; Lk 4:1-14). The struggle between Christ and Satan, the arch fiend, demonstrated the extent to which Satan would go to destroy Jesus. Jesus demonstrated Satan's audacity in the parable of the **tares** (Mk 13:35-39). Individuals often attributed Jesus' miracles to **Beelzebub** (Mat 12:21-34). Satan is looked upon in an evil manner and called "Prince of the World" in whom Christ has nothing (Jn 14:30).

The New Testament presents Satan and his henchmen as being against Christ. Satan is identified as Belial (2 Cor 6:15). Christians are warned to have no "concord" with him. Paul wrote to the Thessalonians about the "man of sin" who would be a part of the overall practices of the antichrist (2 Thes 2:1-9). The "man of sin" manifests an ongoing period of vehemence against Christ and the church of Christ (2 Thes 2:1-10). This antichristian period would mislead the saints and bring destruction. When the Antichrist came there was to be a falling away. Such an apostasy would be withstood only by full surrender to Christ applying His directives to daily living. Perdition denotes a final state of ruin and

punishment which is the opposite of salvation (Jn 17:12; Phil 1:28; 1 Tim 6:9; Heb 10:39; 2 Pet 3:7; Rev 17:1-18). Loss and destruction signifies eternal damnation (Mat 26:8; Mk 14:4). To be lost is to follow Satan and his followers. Ruin is attached to lost sinners in the parables of Jesus (Mat 10:6; 15:24; 18:11; Lk 15:1-32; 19:10). To be lost is to be estranged from God (Eph 2:13-18) and is equivalent to spiritual death (Eph 2:1-10). The concept of "lost" is descriptive of the end of time when the sinner is assigned to **Gehenna** (Mat 5:22-30; 10:28; 18:19; 23:15-33; Mk 9:15, 43-47; Lk 12:5; Jas 3:6). In New Testament passages such as these it is designated as a place of eternal punishment for the wicked and associated with fire and torment (Phil 1:28; Heb 10:39; Rev 17:1-11). The judgment of God will destroy power and persons. The lawless one will exalt himself above all that is called God, holy worship and establish himself as an object of worship.(2 Thes 2:1-4). The mystery of lawlessness will manifest itself and be destroyed. Comparing Christ to all unrighteousness gives the saints hope that Jesus will slay (consume) them with the breath of His mouth and bring to naught His enemies at His coming (2 Thes 2:8; Isa 11:4).

Being exposed to tremendous assaults and overcoming the first century saint fortifies the church through the centuries (Rom 8:31-39). Rome had been ruled by Caligula, a demented and tyrannical mad man, who made the people praise and worship him as a god, erecting a temple in Rome, demanding his statute to be set up in the temple of Jerusalem to be worshiped. Similar causes arose from time to time with the same insatiable desire to supplant God. Divine honor can only be granted to God, not man! The fury of such people has always been directed against Christians. Features of the "man of sin", "antichrist" and Satan are incomplete without marking the human.

The major idea for the antichrist is that he is evident in his actions, which mimics Satan. The antichrist forces which worked among the believers was the most pressing problem which the New Testament announced (1 Jn 2:22; 4:3; 1 Jn 1:7). Teaching errant views of Christ and His kingdom was a flagrant violation and Christians knew, "...for we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph 6:12).

Evil powers are opposing believers today. They are subjects to the devil, the prince of the power of the air. They include principalities and authorities mentioned. Christ rules them. Satan has lost. Christians must live in this present world (John 17:15). These powers are still a threat. They signify evil clout. Jesus is greater than all (Rom 8:31-39). Saints can be overcome.

FAMILY CARE

A Message from Our Shepherds

Can a Christian feel secure about his or her salvation? Have you ever asked that question or ever thought it? It is told of a preacher who was visiting a Christian lady of ninety plus years who was ill and the preacher was alarmed to hear her say that she doubted she would “make it to heaven.” “Alarmed” because he knew she had been faithful in attendance for all of her life and had been an excellent helper to her husband (who served as an elder for forty some years) and an excellent and self-sacrificing mother for her numerous children (all of whom attend services and two of which are gospel preachers). Unfortunately, such is not an isolated incident in a preachers’ experiences. On numerous occasions he had heard Christians who were apparently very sincere and dedicated express doubts about where they will spend eternity. In some cases it could be that those expressing doubts are guilty of some “secret sin” which is not apparent to fellow Christians, but it seems very unlikely that this is always the explanation for such unexpected doubts.

Such doubts bring us to ask some questions. How should the mature Christian feel about his or her salvation? According to the Scripture, what is the proper attitude? In the next three weeks we will discuss three attitudes about our salvation. They are undeserved security, unjustified doubts and blessed assurance.

What about undeserved security. In contrast with the lady mentioned in the above story, another conversation was made with a 45 year old man who had been baptized into the Lord’s body as a teenager and had remained faithful for about 7 or 8 years and then, had followed the woman he married off into a denominational church. More recently, in the last ten years or so, as a result of having his own business, he had decided he had to work seven days a week because he was “too busy for church.” Yet when he was asked if he would go to heaven if he died, he said he had absolutely “no doubt” that he would. Hasn’t he forgotten that God’s word says “*not forsaking our own assembling together?*” **Heb. 10:25.** Hasn’t he forgotten that the inspired apostle said Christians are to “*be ready unto every good work*” **Titus 3:1.** Hasn’t he forgotten that the Christian is commanded to “*...lay by him in store*” as he “*may prosper*” on the “*first day of the week*” **1 Cor. 16:2.** Shouldn’t he remember that “*God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap*” **Gal. 6:7.** Surely his feelings of certainty about his salvation are undeserved.

Probably some people who have such undeserved feelings of security about their salvation are influenced by the Protestant doctrine of “once in grace, always in grace.” This doctrine is held and taught by many in America today. For example, there are ones who teach that if one has been truly converted and has therefore become a child of God, he cannot be lost. They might use Jesus’ words found in **John 10:27-29** to “**prove**” their doctrine—“*My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand.*” However, this same Jesus (quoted by the same John) says if any man does not remain (“abide”) in a right relationship with Christ he will lose his saved status and be destroyed

Continued on page 3

Image of God

Image (Greek *eikōnis*) is a word which embraces the twin ideas of **representation** and **manifestation**. Adam’s race bears his image in flesh and blood (1 Corinthians 15:49). Such a representation is derived from a prototype. The prototype was man, not monkey. There is a flesh of beast, birds and fish which are not represented in mankind’s flesh. Evolution is a false doctrine. Man has within himself a representation of God which is spiritual. Mankind became a visible image of God’s spiritual essence (1 Cor 11:7). This is a fundamental truth of the Bible (Psm 139).

In the Mosaic account of creation and subsequent teachings in the New Testament, man was made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26; 1 Cor 15:35-49). The general likeness of God is the excellency of spiritual purity. A child is born sinless and bears an inner image of God. When sin intervenes the image is damaged and a restoration is needed. It has been offered by God (Eph 4:17-24). Restoration implies the image lost in sin can be revived (Ac 3:18-26).

The image of God in man is clearly an inner being. We are called the “offspring of God” (Ac 17:28; 2 Cor 4:16-18). Man’s representation of God is a noble image. Created and given a moral goodness man can be distinguished from all other aspects of creation. Moral qualities lost in sin are renewed in mortification of things of the flesh and obedience to the principles of becoming a new creature (Col 3:5-11). Man’s fall did not fully annihilate (efface) the image of God within. There is an ability to restore the quality of goodness, love and purity within man. In sin man ceases to be a perfect vehicle and representation of God. What man lost by sin, God through Christ recovers through mercy and grace in the regeneration (Eph 2).

Faithful obedient disciples of Christ seek the glorified state of representing Christ to the world (Rom 8:29; 1 Cor 15:49). Within the perfect work of divine grace a sinner is restored to the spiritual likeness of his Creator (2 Cor 4:4-6). The invisible, but not imperceptible, image suggests that what God is man must represent. “Likeness” stresses the resemblance of an “archetype”, God. God’s moral goodness can be lived out in the life of a Christian. Character (Greek *carakhr*) means impression or stamp, bearing the image of the impression which produced it. Christ was the very image and essence of God the Father (Heb 1:3). Therefore a Christian who imitates Christ is also a manifestation of God. As a coin, statuette or other items bearing the “image” of a prototype (first form) man must also bear the image of God. The relationship of God, Christ and man is that male and female are created in the image of God (Gen 1:26, 27).

Being an image identifies the responsibility to be like God. Adam was the original human. “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world and death by sin: and so death passed upon all, for all have sinned” (Rom 5:12; 3:23). Man can be accountable and correctly demonstrate the virtue and beauty of God. The work of divine grace presents to believers a resource for a spiritual and moral character which is essential.

“...As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, be ye holy; for I am holy. And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man’s work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear: Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:...” (1 Pet 1:13-25).

Don Hatch

Family News:

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

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

December 7, 2014

Front foyer: Donna Davis & Jerry
Grantham

Back foyer: Dale & Katherine
Cox

December 14, 2014

Front foyer: Robert & Betty
Ruckman

Back foyer: Thomas Rathbun &
Henry Seidmeyer

Sermon Titles

December 7, 2014

a.m: "The Temple"

Scripture: Hebrews 8:1-5

p.m: "The Temple"

Scripture: 1 Cor. 3:16-23

December 14, 2014

a.m: "Evidence Of Christianity"

Scripture: Hebrews 1:1-5

p.m: "Evidence Of Christianity"

Scripture: Hebrews 2:5-11

Contribution Counters For December

Glen Kelly & Purman Cofer

Communion Preparation For December

Bobby & Brenda England

MISSION PRINTING

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

PRAYER LIST

Ongoing Health Concerns:

Bobby Bowen, Jane Easter, J.C.
and Dessie Ross, Charlene
Carroll, Don and Margaret Lewis,
Frances Tipton, Linda Head

Homebound Members:

Roy and Helen Thomas, Mary
Walker, Gearldean Jones

Hospital:

.Virginia Stull has been moved to
Northgate Plaza, room 108 for rehab.

.Ken and Carol Lee's son-in-law
Brent Powers is now out of ICU in
Kentucky.

.Priscilla Mayer fell and broke her
pelvis. She is at MCA Hospital in
Arlington.

.Stephanie Howard's mother Janie
Payne in the hospital in Texarkana.

.Dessie Ross's niece Loretta
Garrett is in Harris Hospital in Fort
Worth with a broken hip.

Nursing Home:

Billie Myers – Northgate Plaza
Dorothy Smith – Avalon
Elsie Nanney – Elm Croft

Military:

Chris and Abigail Mathews

LADIES CLASS

Ladies Class will meet on Tuesday,
December 2nd at 10 a.m. at the
Annex. We will be studying "Bible
Women".

Ladies please invite your friends to
attend Ladies Bible Class.

39'ers

39'ers will meet Monday December
15th at 6:30 p.m. in the Annex.
Please bring finger food and enjoy
the wonderful fellowship.

There is a Thank You Note on the
bulletin board from:

J. C. & Dessie Ross

NEW ARRIVAL

J.C. & Dessie Ross have a new
Great, Great Grandson. His name is
Casen Wayne, weighing in at 6 lbs.
11 oz. The proud parents are Jake
and Ann Lindamood and older
brother Jayden.

Jerry McKey is starting a new study—
"Mission of the Local Church".

Continued from page 2 —"If anyone
does not abide in Me, he is cast out as
a branch and is withered; and they
gather them and throw them into the
fire, and they are burned." **John 15:6.**
Notice what Franklin Pack says in his
comments on **John 10:27-29**—"What
this passage teaches is that no one can
overpower God and Christ and snatch
believers out of their care, but men can
willingly turn themselves over to evil,
and not continue to follow Christ, and
perish willingly." Clearly the security
given by many and others of his
persuasion is an "undeserved security."
God does not take away our freedom of
choice when we become Christians.
We can still choose to desert God just
as Demas "*deserted*" Paul and, as is
implied, "*deserted*" God also—"for
**Demas has forsaken me, having loved
this present world, and has departed
for Thessalonica—Crescens for
Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia**" **2 Tim.**
4:10. Such "*deserters*," whether they
be persons who openly confess to
desertion, or those who still claim to be
Christians but relegate God to second
(or third, or fourth) place in their lives,
should listen to Paul's warning in **Gal.**
6:7-8 "*Do not be deceived, God is not
mocked; for whatever a man sows, that
he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to
his flesh will of the flesh reap
corruption, but he who sows to the
Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting
life.*" Again, any feeling of security on
the part of such people is clearly
undeserved.
Next week we will discuss another
attitude about our salvation. It is
unjustified doubts. Everyone have a
great week.

Jerry McKey

CALENDAR OF EVENTS**12/9/14 – Ladies Class – 10 a.m.****DECEMBER BIRTHDAY'S**

Grady Fowler – 12/1
 Ann Bruce – 12/5
 Lotah Franklin – 12/6
 Virginia Stull – 12/6
 Max Melton – 12/7
 Brent Howard – 12/10
 Crystal Morris – 12/13
 Elizabeth Garrison – 12/13
 Linda Matthews – 12/17
 Kim Mayer – 12/20
 Pam Harpster – 12/23
 Carol Lee – 12/24
 Kent Conner – 12/27
 Brenda England – 12/29
 Lovetta Smith – 12/31

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Bill* & Carolyn Montgomery – 12/22
 Scott & Kassie Price – 12/30
 David & Judy Odom – 12/31

*If unable to serve on the Lord's table,
 please contact Scot Allen:
 (214)724-6400*

BELT LINE ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

(USPS 110820) published weekly except the first 3 weeks of July and the last 2 weeks of December at 1202 N. Belt Line Rd., Irving, Texas 75061. Periodicals postage paid at Irving, Texas.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Belt Line Rd. Church of Christ, 1202 N. Belt Line Rd., Irving, Texas 75061

THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE THIS SUNDAY

<u>LORD'S TABLE (MORNING)</u>		12/7/14	<u>SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS</u>
<u>Front Table</u>	<u>Rear Table</u>		· Jerry McKey · Don Herriage · Dean Webb
· Richard Renfro · Brandon Howard · Purman Cofer · Glen Kelly · John Mayer · Henry Seidmeyer	· Ethan Howard · Brent Howard · Curtis Vaughn · Robert Taylor		
			<u>A.M. SCRIPTURE READING</u> · Nathan Allen Hebrews 8:1-5
			<u>SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS</u> · Henry Seidmeyer · Mike Garrison
			<u>P.M. SCRIPTURE READING</u> · Curtis Vaughan 1 Cor. 3:16-23
			<u>P.M. SONG LEADER(S)</u> · Darrell Allen

LORD'S TABLE (EVENING)

· Nathan Allen
· Thomas Rathbun

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

· Glen Kelly

A.M. SONG LEADER

· 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	59	67	100
A.M. Worship	81	90	112	150
P.M. Worship	61	65	64	80
Wed. Class	70	45	69	85
Contribution	\$4191	\$6781	\$5011	\$5331

MISSIONS

Haiti – Printing
 Glen Tattersall – Australia
 Roland & Rose Moshen – France
 Gary & Nadya Workman – Ukraine
 Charlie & Mary DiPalma – Australia
 Oleg & Natasha Yakimenko – Russia
 Willie & Del Gley – Ghana/Togo, Africa
 David & Paula Tarbet – New Milford, CT
 Wil & Telanda Sadler – Military Missions
 Roy Conner – Brown Trail Preaching Student
 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
 Dennis & Beth Johnson – Chennai Teacher Training School – India

BELT LINE ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST**1202 N. Belt Line Road - Irving, TX 75061**

**PERIODICALS POSTAGE
 PAID
 AT IRVING, TEXAS**