



Belt Line Road Church of Christ

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

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

Web site:
<http://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..Sep.–Apr.

*See page 4 for current meeting time.

Evangelist

Don Hatch

Email:

don-hatch@sbcglobal.net

ELDERS

Jerry McKey
Richard Renfro
Dean Webb

DEACONS

Darrell Allen
Glen Kelly
John Mayer

SECRETARIES

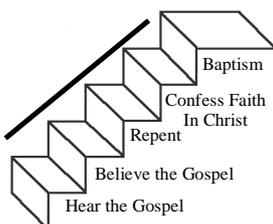
Janice Daniel & Jerry Grantham
beltlinechurch@sbcglobal.net

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)



God Makes The Moral Difference

Don Hatch

The hottest topic in all of philosophy concerns the existence of God. Our answer to this question affects how we behave ourselves, view the world and what the future holds.

Because God exists, we are accountable to Him. The universe has meaning and purpose. Our existence does not cease at physical death. We are here for a purpose and not by chance. We are answerable to an awe-inspiring Being. This life is not all we have, so we live to please a Creator and are fitted to enjoy fellowship with Him by reason of His divine purpose (Eph 1:3-15).

Traditionally, there are three major arguments for the existence of God: (1) cosmological argument; (2) teleological argument; (3) moral law argument.

Cosmological Argument: “cosmological” comes from the Greek word “kosmos” which means “world.” The cosmological argument for God’s existence is: “The world could not come into existence on its own, nor could it exist on its own, so there must have been a first cause which brought it into being. Putting it another way, the universe could not just exist on its own—someone or something must have made it. The first cause of the universe is God”.

Matter is not eternal and needed to be created by a “first cause.” Others claim a god of their choosing to be the creator. The authority to claim the God of the Bible as first cause is the Bible itself. It has never been disproved. All other accounts have fallen short of verbal, plenary inspiration like the Bible. It is the Christian’s God who has been proven to be the Creator. He is a powerful Being that spoke the universe into being. He is the Creator of the Bible.

Teleological Argument is also known as “the argument from design” (The Greek word “telos” means “purpose” or “design.”). This argument is that the universe is full of evidences demonstrating great complexities and design. Thus, it must have been designed by a great Designer or God.

The argument from design can be likened to a watch. A watch is obviously made by a watchmaker. The world, which is much more complex than a watch, must also have been designed by a great Designer or “Divine Watchmaker” (God). In summary, the teleological argument asserts that the universe is evidence of complexities which could not be the product of random chance. We know that the

celestial bodies move with perfect accuracy in their orbits. According to the teleological argument, there is no way such complexities could “just happen”. God must have created it all. The teleological argument is not guilty of “weak analogies” when it sees significant resemblance between natural objects like minerals, vegetation and objects man has designed such as cars and space ships. Thus, comparing natural objects with manmade objects is like comparing apples and apples. The teleological argument is true and proves the Christian’s God.

Moral Law Argument is an argument for the existence of God. Without God morality would be impossible. There must be a Lawgiver (God) who originates standards of a moral law. A universal moral law cannot exist accidentally. There must be a basis for it—God. According to this view, every person is born with an inherent understanding of right and wrong. Everyone, for instance, understands that killing an innocent person is murder and therefore wrong. All understand saving a drowning person is right. Where did this understanding of right and wrong come from? According to adherents of the moral law argument, this understanding comes from God. He put it into the hearts of every human. There have been two responses to the moral law argument. The moral law is an undisputed and universal truth. Only when the moral urge is crushed in the human will there be no moral action. Truth has been shown to be more than subjective and relative. Societies and individuals vacillate on what is truth but God’s truth is invariable. Evil in the world strengthens the argument for a Moral Lawgiver. If God is all-powerful and all-good He had to give mankind a free moral agency. Man is able to make moral choices and endure the consequences of their choices (2 Cor 5:10).

The Moral Law is based on the premise that there is such a thing as right and wrong, and there are some things that you “ought” to do, and some things that you “ought not” to do. Everyone believes in a moral law. Disclaimers might say they do not feel upset when their house is burgled. Feelings are not a measuring stick. A serial killer might feel he did nothing wrong. Can society really convict him? What if two different societies disagree? By simple logic it is obvious that they cannot both be right.

Once it can be established that there is a moral law, it follows that there must be a moral law-giver. Without this standard when two people disagree about a moral judgment, all you can have are two conflicting opinions, with is no way to decide the issue. Two contradicting things cannot both be right. It seems the only way to resolve the dilemma is for there to be a real, objective standard, which the Christian calls “God”. When you take away this standard what you get is a relativism [view that there is no absolute truth] or morally subjective society, which is what we are moving toward now. It is obvious that our society is becoming more violent, dishonest, crude, selfish and superficial. There must be a moral standard. The world needs God.

FAMILY CARE
A Message from Our Shepherds

We had the pleasure this past Sunday of visiting a congregation in Fulton, Ms. that had a Pew Packers session with nineteen of their youth (4-12) before evening services. This congregation is the same one I attended as a child. The congregation is a little smaller in number (about 5-10 less) than Belt Line's present good Sunday AM attendance. One of their elders announced that he had just completed an age survey of the congregation, and about 40% are 55 and over. This is a very good mixture of ages insuring the future of the congregation for many years to come. They are training their youth at an early age to be future leaders of the Lord's Church. Our Teachers are always willing and able?

We are very concerned that many of our children today are not being taught in the ways of the LORD. We need to teach our children how they should live when they become older. Children see and often emulate their parents, and one of the many obligations that parents have is to set good examples for their children. Families that are caring, and that show respect, honesty, and most of all love are helping perpetuate God's virtues. Our children of today will be leaders of the future both in the Church and Society as well. The values they obtain during childhood will be with them throughout their lives. Providing food, shelter, and clothing to our children is not where a parent's obligation ends. Moral Standards should be taught in the home, and not left entirely to the church which has very limited contact time. Good virtues are as important as the necessities of life. Being a parent is a blessing and a responsibility from God, and is one of the most important tasks that anyone can receive in this world. Parents who teach their children the ways of the Lord are forever blessed.

Prov 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it". 2 Tim 3:15 "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus".

When we ask God to help us in whatever job we have to do, if we do our part, God will always do His. We have only to ask and we will receive. John 14:14 "If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it".

It is hard for us to keep embedded in our minds that God has an all Seeing Eye watching us. If we "rat out" on attendance our record is being kept. Someday we will see it, whether pleasing or displeasing to our heavenly father. I hope to hear our Heavenly Father say "Well done thou good and faithful servant", how about you? Think about it!

Let's keep our sick and shut-ins in our prayers. Have a great week serving God!
Dean Webb

"Except Jehovah build the house, they labor in vain that build it: Except Jehovah keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. It is vain for you to rise up early, to take rest late, to eat the bread of toil; For so he giveth unto his beloved sleep. Lo, children are a heritage of Jehovah; and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows in the hand of a mighty man, so are the children of youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: They shall not be put to shame, when they speak with their enemies in the gate" (Psm 127:1-5).

Faithfulness

"What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, hath found according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not toward God. For what saith the scripture? And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh, the reward is not reckoned as of grace, but as of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is reckoned for righteousness. Even as David also pronounceth blessing upon the man, unto whom God reckoneth righteousness apart from works, saying, blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom, the Lord will not reckon sin" (Rom 4:1-8).

Faith is the main element of a relationship with God. It is distinctively a firm conviction and product of full acknowledgement of God's revelation. God's truth is essentially the foundation of faith (2 Thes 2:11, 12). It is the surrender of all of life's needs and issues to God who will in all matters great and small have providential oversight. God answers all circumstances with His will. The history of those who were martyred and others who saw few problems is intertwined within God's supervision and oversight. If He knows when a sparrow falls or can number the hair of our heads it stands to reason that He is constantly concerned for His children (Mat 10:29). Faith is prominently displayed as an element of fellowship with God because it is purely exercised upon evidence unseen (Heb 11:1:1, 2). Not knowing how God spoke the worlds into existence does not make the heart of the faithful to quake. Abraham did not need for God to fulfill His promise because he believed that God was and would ever be upon His throne (Rom 4:17-21; Heb 11:13-16). He had assurance and was faithful to God's plans.

Hebrews gives a "Hall of Fame of Faith" reciting their faith and the resulting actions manifested by the Old Testament faithful (Heb 11:1-40). It gives rich history of their faithfulness in all aspects of daily living. A Christian's hope is that the evidence of those who have gone before demonstrated their trust was not misplaced when it was in God (Rom 5:1-11). The promise of a better world was not seen by those faithful, nor have we seen it, but God who has promised will not let a word of His promises fail. The faithful lived as if the fruition of God's promises were a reality. Having confidence in God brings steadfastness and fulfillment. There is proof and hope that is logically implied because God's inspired word has never failed to be fulfilled according to His will. "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not vain in the Lord" (1 Cor 15:58). "Therefore let us also, seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising shame, and hath sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that hath endured such gainsaying of sinners against himself, that ye wax not weary..." (Heb 12:1-6).

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 4, 2011

Front foyer: Bill & Linda Matthews

Back foyer: J.C. & Dessie Ross

December 11, 2011

Front foyer: Doris Selby & Ilene Ashworth

Back foyer: Robert & Cathy Taylor

Sermon Titles

December 4, 2011

a.m: "The Good Shepherd"

Scripture: John 10:1-6

p.m: "The Beatitude Of The Giver"

Scripture: Acts 20:32-35

December 11, 2011

a.m: "Not Disobedient To The Vision"

Scripture: Acts 26:19-23

p.m: "My Lord And My God"

Scripture: John 20:24-29

Contribution Counters

Glen Kelly and Thomas Rathbun

MISSION PRINTING

Mission Printing will meet *Sunday* at 4:00 p.m. in the Jr. Auditorium.

SINGING SESSION

The singing class will meet *Sunday* in Rm #116 at 5:15 p.m.

MENS' DEVOTIONAL

The **Monday morning** devotional will be at 6:00 a.m. in the annex. All men are invited to this period of time for thought, scripture and prayer. The fellowship is edifying.

NEWS OF THE SICK

Please keep **Hank & Becky Henry** in your prayers as Hank is still having some health issues.

Bill & Linda Matthews grandson, Camden Connor was released from Children's Hospital Sunday afternoon and is feeling much better.

Dana Hodgkin's father-in-law **Gordon Hodgkins** is very ill and needs our prayers.

Bill Matthews is ill at home.

Ira Wolfe is still suffering with health issues. Please keep him in your prayers.

LADIES

Ladies Bible Class will meet on Tuesday, December 6th at 11:00 a.m. The Lesson will be "**Period of the Judges**" taught by Bill Matthews.

LADIES

Ladies, please pick up an order form for the Ladies ½ Day T-Shirts. The forms are on the table in the front foyer & also in the back. They need to be turned in no later than December 18th.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Erma Lee Baker, Bobby Bowen, Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Frances LaFerney, Tom Prince, Jan Smithson, Debra Alonzo, Maxine Prude, Serena Hatch Jacob, Letitia Beverly, Hank Henry, Elsie Nanney, Virginia Stull.

BIBLE SCHOOL TEACHERS

The **Winter Quarter** starts on Sunday, **December 4th** and Wednesday night, **December 7th**. Please contact the office if you need any supplies.

CONGRATULATIONS

Ira & Nola Wolfe are the proud Great Grandparents of a new baby boy. His name is Luke and weighed in at 9 lbs. 2 oz.

RESPONSE

Don & Anne Herriage came forward yesterday desiring to place membership with our congregation.

BEAR MINISTRY

Ladies, stuffing is now available in the bear room. Please pick up what you need.

SYMPATHY

Sister Ivy Paul passed away on Friday, November 25th. Services are pending at this time. Please keep this family in your prayers.

YOU ARE INVITED !!

The **Hatches** invite the congregation to drop by their home for refreshments and fellowship. Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, December 11th, 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.**

Please remember us in your prayers as we will be traveling December 3rd – 17th. Thank you,

Mike & Elizabeth Garrison

CONGRATULATIONS

We received word from Roland & Rose Moshen, our missionaries in France, that their grandson **Emmanuel** who is 14 years old was baptized into Christ on Sunday. We rejoice with this family.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec. 6th – Ladies Class – 11:00 a.m. with Luncheon to follow

UPCOMING DEC. BIRTHDAY'S

- Grady Fowler – 12/1
- Donna Meyer – 12/2
- Mary Scott – 12/3
- Ann Bruce – 12/5
- Lotah Franklin – 12/6
- Virginia Stull – 12/6
- Max Melton – 12/7
- Grace De La Cruz – 12/7
- Becky Henry – 12/10
- Brent Howard – 12/10
- Elizabeth Garrison – 12/13
- Virgil LaFerney – 12/17
- Linda Matthews – 12/17
- Kim Mayer – 12/20
- Pam Mathews – 12/23
- Carol Lee – 12/24
- Brenda England – 12/29

UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES

- Tony & Shellie Pearce – 12/18
- James & Billie Gilliam – 12/20
- Bill & Carolyn Montgomery – 12/22
- Scott & Kassie Price – 12/30
- David & Judy Odom – 12/31
- Max & Juanita Melton – 12/31

If unable to serve on the Lord's table, Please contact Mike Batot @ (972)741-2397

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THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE THIS SUNDAY

<u>LORD'S TABLE/MORNING</u>		12/4/11	<u>SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS</u>
<u>Front Table</u>	<u>Rear Table</u>		· Jerry McKey
·James Gilliam	· Bobby England		· Richard Renfro
·Brandon Howard	·Brent Howard		· Dean Webb
·Scot Allen	·Roy Martin		
·Denzil Myers	·Darrol Allen		<u>A.M. SCRIPTURE READING</u>
·Thomas Rathbun			· Bill Paschall
·Mike Batot			John 10:1-6
			<u>SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS</u>
<u>LORD'S TABLE/EVENING</u>			· Henry Seidmeyer
·Robert Ruckman			· Bill Matthews
·Bill Paschall			
<u>COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS</u>			<u>P.M. SCRIPTURE READING</u>
·Bill Paschall			· Thomas Rathbun
<u>A.M. SONG LEADER</u>			Acts 20:32-35
·Jerry Baker			<u>P.M. SONG LEADER(S)</u>
			· Darrell Allen

FOR THE RECORD: WEEK ENDING ATTENDANCE & BUDGET

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	61	70	78	100
A.M. Worship	132	143	143	150
P.M. Worship	75	66	74	75
Wed. Class	82	69	80	75
Ladies Bible Class	13	n/c	22	25
Contribution	\$3579	\$4221	\$4933	\$5553

MISSIONS

- Willie & Del Gley – Ghana/Togo, Africa
- Charlie & Mary DiPalma - Malaysia
- Roland & Rose Mohsen – France
- Glen & Kuin Tattersall – Australia
- Gary & Nadya Workman – Ukraine
- Oleg & Natasha Yakimenko – Russia
- Wil & Telanda Sadler – Military Missions
- Hyderabad Church of Christ - Hyderabad, India
- Christ's Haven Children's Home - Keller, TX
- Foster's Home for Children – Stephenville, TX
- Wayne Jackson – Christian Courier on the Web
- Dan Keele – Bear Valley School of Preaching
- Ted Lingren - Sisophon Bible School – Cambodia
- Mission Printing Worldwide Literature Distribution
- Terry & Pam Laurence – Ft. Defiance, Arizona – Navajo Nation
- Dennis & Beth Johnson – Chennai Teacher Training School – India
- Rohan & Sandra Jones – Cape Town, South Africa
- David & Paula Tarbet – New Milford, CT

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