

Belt Line Road Church of Christ

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

December 8, 2014
Volume 6 Number 46

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

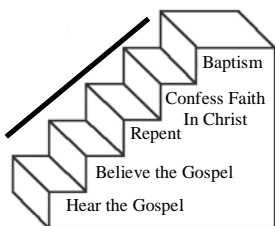
Janice Daniel & Jerry Grantham
beltlinechurch@sbcglobal.net

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)



Partakers Of The Divine Nature

Don Hatch

Christian character is an imperative. It is commonly called “virtue” or “grace”. The study of them pertains to a manner of living (2 Pet 1:3-11). The Christian personality is necessary. Due attention and consideration to the spiritual nature of the Christian is formulated around a desire to represent Christ upon the earth.

Planning to achieve the emphatic and divine way of living is accomplished in small increments of growth in daily living. Godly characteristics are affirmed by a foundation of divine qualities resident in the mind, heart and soul of a believer. God magnifies the items necessary pertaining to godly living in the pages of His Holy Writ. His exceedingly great promises never fail.

Escape from the clutches of Satan is in harmony with God’s divine will (Eph 1:3-15). Lust is a strong craving or desire of a sinful nature. Such desires and longings are defined as negative and forbidden. Many unconverted are governed and controlled by deceitfulness of such desires (Eph 2:3; Col 3:5; Tit 2:12). It describes idolatry and insidious designs to accomplish worldly ambitions (Prov 6:25). God warns of impending punishment for those of such inordinate affections (Isa 57:5; Jer 13:27). Immorality and idolatry form the background for the New Testament’s use of lust. When the mind yields to this thought the action will follow if not checked. Warnings are given to stop it before it moves into the realm of reality (Mat 5:27-30). Clearly the writings of Paul stress moral purity (Rom 1:26, 27; Col 3:5; 1 Thes 4:3-5). Peter and John place emphasis on the mismanagement of life which leads to immoral practices (1 Pet 4:3; 2 Pet 2:18; 1 Jn 2:15-18). Lusters are a powerful influence on our actions if they are not caught and corrected immediately (2 Cor 10:5).

Corruption that is in the world is due to the practice of lust. Those who escape the world of sin free themselves from moral and spiritual corruption and become partakers of the divine nature. They are souls who have been delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the kingdom of God’s Son whom He loves (Col 1:13). Such individuals are elevated in position of regaining what had been lost by sin. They now enjoy the life of godliness and

fellowship with Jesus Christ, their spiritual Savior and Redeemer. Their submission to Christ and reliant obedient faith in Him allows them to be the children of God (2 Cor 6:17, 18). Peter exhorts the Christian to supply their faith with graceful living and establishes the groundwork for growth.

Christian personality follows the pardon from sin in Christ. Deliverance is faithful, obedient response to the gospel. Being saved from sin is rescue out of the hands of the enemy and serving God with integrity. A divine nature is grown with deliberation. Preparing to serve follows the delivery from iniquity. Purity is the urgent and forthright practices of a Christian. Being free from condemnation first must be rectified before a moral position can be attained (Rom 8:1, 2; Gal 3:27; Eph 1:3). The divine order is first pardon, then holiness and homage to God by a life of seeking purity and righteousness. When one is converted and reconciled to God the power of Christ’s pardon leads inextricably to the development of a personality molded and made after the divine will. Christians are given all things which pertain unto life and godliness. Those called by such pristine holiness make every effort to live a life of virtue.

Upon being granted all things that pertain to life and godliness the Christian enjoys a blessed communion with God. Darkness will be shunned by the Christian. Confirming the Christian life is when the correct venue and avenue is taken (Mat 7:13, 14). The Christian becomes a temple having come out from among those who practice evil. They no longer touching any unclean thing and do not practice lusts of the flesh which is contrary to the Spirit’s demand that we have nothing which is the works of the flesh in our lives God (1 Cor 3:15-17; 6:16-18; Gal 5:16-24). Having God’s great promises we cleanse ourselves from the defilement of the flesh and perfect holiness with great reverence towards God.

The natural man cannot fully understand the implications of a spiritual nature. Mankind has a body similar to the animals. At that point all similarities end. Mankind has an inner being (Gen 1:26; Jn 4:24). The spiritual nature of mankind must be like God. A conflict between the two is apparent and vexing. The natural side would leave us in evil, while the spiritual side seeks redemption and salvation. The evil nature of mankind must not be allowed to prevail. Carnal inclinations are supplanted and surrendered to Christ as Lord and Savior (Gal 5:24, 25; Mat 26:41; Rom 6:6; 8:1-7; Gal 6:7, 8). Life in Christ and with Christ is a core of divine fellowship (1 Cor 1:9; 1 Jn 1:1-10). When we have been crucified with Christ we live by faith in Him and the flesh will not win (Gal 2:20).

FAMILY CARE
A Message from Our Shepherds

Last week we asked the question, "Can a Christian feel secure about his or her salvation?" We said there were three attitudes about salvation and they were undeserved security, unjustified doubts and blessed assurance. We talked about underserved security and so today let us visit unjustified doubts.

Unjustified Doubts, but what of the apparently faithful and dedicated lady in her nineties who was described in last week's article? Are her doubts and those of other apparently faithful Christians who are **really trying** to "seek first His kingdom" justified? As already indicated there may be some who are harboring secret sins who should have doubts about their salvation because they aren't seeking first the kingdom, but this discussion is not about them. It is about those whose past sins (for which they have asked forgiveness) still weigh on their conscience, and those who still feel the pull of temptation, and those who are weighed down by the trials of life or other similar problems.

To those Christians whose past sins (of which they have repented) weight on them the Scriptures speak a clear word. Notice what Isaiah was told when he confessed "*Your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged.*" **Isaiah 6:7**. The Lord likewise said in **Isaiah 1:18** "*Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool*". Likewise in the New Testament, even to those who were responsible for the murder of Christ, Peter promised "*remission*" of sins for those willing to "*repent*" and "*be baptized*" Acts **2:38**. "*Remission*" means a complete cancellation of those sins. It means He will "*remember*" them "*no more*" **Heb. 8:12**. Christians who still have doubts about their forgiveness need to study God's word more and learn to take God at His word. He has forgiven them and such doubts are not justified.

For those who worry about their salvation because they still feel the pull of temptation from time to time, a word of scriptural explanation is needed. Even Jesus was "*tempted*" "*...in all points*" "*...like as we are*" **Heb. 4:15**. Temptation is not sin, and therefore does not separate us from God. Frequent temptation may mean immaturity, but it does not destroy our relationship with God. In fact, even when we fall to temptation and sin, our relationship with God is preserved unless we defend our sin and refuse to repent of it. That is John's message in **1 John 1:7** "*But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*"

And what do the Scriptures say to those Christians who tend to doubt their salvation because they are suffering so many trials and tribulations? What do they say to the person who says "My relationship with God must not be right or He wouldn't have permitted me to lose my loving mate to cancer?" The inspired James says that when we encounter difficulties in our Christian life we should look for the silver lining: "*My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.*" **James 1:2-4**. Combined with what Paul promises us about God not allowing us "*to be tempted above*" what we "*are able*" **1 Cor. 10:13**, **Continued on page 3,**

The Great I Am

Jesus Christ was declared to be "God with us" (Mat 1:18-20; Rom 1:1-5). Jesus spoke to the scribes and Pharisees concerning His amazing role while upon the earth (Jn 8:56-58). He said that He was before Abraham was. He used the term "**I am**" which was indicative of the term used when Moses approached the burning bush and asked God in what name would he tell the Israelite he had come (Ex 3:24-18). This was such a bold statement that the scribes and Pharisees prepared to stone Him to death for blasphemy, calling Himself God. Jesus said He had told them the truth and they did not believe it. They accused Him of being in league with the devil which they could not prove. He said those who kept His words would never see death. His accusers said Abraham and the prophets had died and that Jesus could not keep an individual from dying. Jesus was not glorifying Himself, but He spoke of the Father. Even though His accusers were religious men their religion was not valid. Abraham had rejoiced to see the days of Jesus (Mat 22:31-33). Jesus made the startling statement that before Abraham He was (**I am**). Remarkably Jesus escaped their stoning by being hidden from them and walked out of the temple (a miracle).

If He had not been God with us He had blasphemed. The Law of Moses demanded that He be stoned (Lev 24:16). He was the God of eternity who had come to the earth (Phil 2:1-14). Jesus was actually claiming to be the voice which spoke from the burning bush to Moses when the name of God was pronounced "I am that I am" (Ex3:14). He was the God of eternal self-existence, transcendent to time as well as space and matter. Abraham had been promised that the God who spoke to him would be his shield, and exceeding great reward (Gen 15:1). Thus, Jesus was now declaring that the promises of God were being fulfilled. God would be the protector and provider of Abraham and his offspring. It is fascinating how many times the words "I am" are used in the Bible.

The words I am became a part of the scriptural teachings. In the book of Psalms, in passages which are known to be Messianic referring to Christ the words "I am" are used (Psm 22:6; 40:17; 69:8, 20, 28; 102:7, 11). These speak prophetically and sadly of the suffering of the incarnate Christ. The prophetic books abound in the statement "I am". In the last book of the prophets Malachi said, "I am the Lord, I change not" (Mal 3:6).

The final claims of the great I am are made by Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Jesus said, "I am the bread of life, the light of the world, the door of the sheep, the good shepherd, the resurrection and the life, the way, the truth, the true vine (Jn 6:35, 48, 51; 8:12; 10:7-9; 10:11-14, 25; 14:6; 15:1-5). We must remember that Jesus Christ, our Savior claimed to be the "I am".

John in Revelation concludes the "I am" statements. Jesus said "I am he that liveth, and was dead: and behold I am alive for evermore, Amen" (Rev 1:18). "Believeth thou this?" Jesus said, "...if thou believeth not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins" (Jn 8:24). The final words on the Great I am are in Revelation. "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and last, the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star" (Rev 1:8, 11, 17; 21:16; 22:13, 16). Jesus Christ is our glorious Lord and Savior. He is more than a great teacher. He is the beginning and end of our salvation, our sin bearer, eternal King.

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 14, 2014

Front foyer: Robert & Betty
Ruckman

Back foyer: Thomas Rathbun &
Henry Seidmeyer

December 21, 2014

Front foyer: Don & Anne
Herriage

Back foyer: Bobby & Brenda
England

Sermon Titles

December 14, 2014

a.m: "Evidence Of Christianity"
Scripture: Hebrews 1:1-5

p.m: "Evidence Of Christianity"
Scripture: Hebrews 2:5-11

December 21, 2014

a.m: "Theistic Evolution"
Scripture: John 8:31-37

p.m: "Theistic Evolution"
Scripture: Matthew 1:18-24

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

Recovering at Home:

.**Charlene Carroll** fell last
Monday she does not have any
injuries.

.**Nancy Pond** sprained her foot
and has to wear a boot for awhile.

Hospital:

None at the present time.

Nursing Home:

Billie Myers – Northgate Plaza
Dorothy Smith – Avalon
Elsie Nanney – Elm Croft
Virginia Stull – Northgate Plaza
for rehab. She will possibly get
to go home today.

Military:

Chris and Abigail Mathews

Special Requests:

Lautricia Williams daughter,
Trisi needs our prayers on her
behalf. A lump has been found on
her body.

LADIES CLASS

Ladies Class will meet on
Tuesday, **December 9th** at 10 a.m.
at the Annex. We will be
preparing holiday "**goodie bags**".
If you would like to donate items
for the bags see **Beverly McKey**.
Please have items at church by
10:00 a.m. Tuesday morning.

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.

This is **December**. Remember to
pick up cards to send to **Mike
Batot**.

He appreciates the cards and they
are an encouragement to him.

There is a **Thank You Note** on
the bulletin board from **Ilene
Ashworth**.

Continued from pg 2... we are
forced to conclude that heavy trial
and difficulties in life are a sign of
God's confidence in our strength to
bear trials (and develop "endurance")
rather than being a sign of God's
displeasure with us. It is from this
standpoint that James says I should
count such "*all joy*" rather than
doubting my salvation. Another
familiar scripture that is comforting
to us is **2 Thess. 1:4-5**. We also
notice in **1 Thess. 3:3** and **2 Tim.
3:12** that such persecutions
(sometimes physical, sometimes
psychological) are inevitable for the
Christian. **1 Thess. 3:3** "*...that no
one should be shaken by these
afflictions; for you yourselves know
that we are appointed to this.*" **2
Tim. 3:12** "*Yes, and all who desire
to live godly in Christ Jesus will
suffer persecution.*" So, instead of
letting our trials and tribulations
cause us to doubt our salvation, they
should, in reality, cause us to feel
more certain about it.

Next week is our final bulletin for
the year 2014. We will discuss the
third attitude about Salvation, that
being blessed security (Assurance).
Have a great week. **Jerry McKey**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

12/15/14 – 39'ers – Annex – 6:30 p.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

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THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE THIS SUNDAY

<u>LORD'S TABLE (MORNING)</u>		12/14/14	<u>SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS</u>
<u>Front Table</u>	<u>Rear Table</u>		· Jerry McKey · Dale Cox · Bill Matthews
· Richard Renfro	· Ethan Howard		
· Brandon Howard	· Brent Howard		
· Purman Cofer	· Curtis Vaughn		
· Glen Kelly	· Robert Taylor		
· John Mayer			
· Henry Seidmeyer			
<u>LORD'S TABLE (EVENING)</u>			<u>A.M. SCRIPTURE READING</u>
· Nathan Allen			· Glen Kelly Hebrews 1:1-5
· Thomas Rathbun			
<u>COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS</u>			<u>SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS</u>
· Darrell Allen			· Ken Lee · Darrell Allen
<u>A.M. SONG LEADER</u>			<u>P.M. SCRIPTURE READING</u>
· Darrell Allen			· Alex Mayer Hebrews 2:5-11
			<u>P.M. SONG LEADER(S)</u>
			· Jerry Baker

FOR THE RECORD: ATTENDANCE & BUDGET NUMBERS

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	59	75	67	100
A.M. Worship	90	113	112	150
P.M. Worship	65	69	64	80
Wed. Class	45	60	69	85
Contribution	\$6781	\$6545	\$5043	\$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

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1202 N. Belt Line Road - Irving, TX 75061

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