

Belt Line Road Church of Christ

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

June 26, 2017
Volume 9 Number 25

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

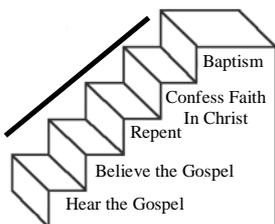
Janice Daniel & Jerry Grantham
beltlinechurch@sbcglobal.net

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)



Why Did Jesus Come?

Don Hatch

Jesus Christ claimed to be God saying, “I and the Father are one. (John 10:30-33 ASV). Jesus used the Greek word “one” to indicate He was “one in essence or nature” with the Father. Crisply Jesus established His claim concerning His relationship between Himself and the Father. It stirred anger and it is evident that the Jews understood His claim. In fury they sought to supplant the law and go directly to execution. Repeatedly Jesus used terms which identified Him as “one” with deity (Jn 5:17, 18). Jesus claimed to be ageless and before Abraham was (Jn5:58). With the strongest of oaths, “Verily, Verily” the Lord claimed the name of a divine being. These Jews recognized Jesus claims to an eternal existence. The eternal formula of “I am that I am” gave an absolute timelessness to Jesus (Ex 3:14; Deut 32:29; Isa 43:10). The Jews were familiar with the idea of Jehovah being the great “I am” as an eternally existing one. Their insight into the statement of Jesus prompted them to call it blasphemy. Calling Himself “I am” fully declared His deity. Hence Jesus did not seek to explain. He did not try to convince the Jews that they had misunderstood, rather He repeated the statement several more times in various ways (Jn 3:34; 5:23,24; 8:19; 14:1,9; Matt 5:20-28; Mk 13:31).

Jesus asked for and accepted worship reserved only for God (Jn 4:20-23; Acts 8:27). The leper and man born blind worshiped Him (Matt 8:3; Jn 9:35-39). His disciples worshiped Him (Matt 14:33). Thomas, the doubter, said, “My Lord and my God” (Jn 20:27-29). Yet His apostles would not allow worship of themselves (Act 10:25, 26). Angels would not allow themselves to be worshipped (Rev 19:10). Some called Jesus “good.” If he was not “God with us” He was a deceiver, and if He was not God He was not good. If when Jesus made claims and He knew He was not God, then He was lying. If He was a liar, then He was a hypocrite because He claimed honesty. If He was not God He lived and taught a colossal lie. If He was not God He was evil beyond description for He taught mankind to trust in Him for their eternal destiny. If He believed His own lies He was foolish. Being crucified because of self-deceit is beyond reason. No rational person would accept this.

Jesus came to earth to become God with man (Phil 2:1-13). Jesus was God and became man (Matt 1:18-20). Why? Jesus had a work to perform. He was sent into the world. Some have accepted Him as a great moral teacher; if He was not God, but a mere mortal and said such things He could not be called moral. Either He was a lunatic calling Himself God, a devil from Hell, a sinner or He taught the truth.

Was He a liar? It is Christianity which presents to the world the ideal character which has molded history for over 2000 years. It has the highest of virtues, temperament, love and strongest incentives to practice what Jesus said. His preaching did more to change the world by regeneration of purity than all moralists, philosophers or teachers the world could boast. To claim Jesus was a liar is so momentous that it cannot stand in the light of His moral purity and dignity revealed in His word and work, which are universally acknowledged. Jesus’ character was so innovative, faultless, uniformly consistent; human and beyond human in greatness that He could not have been a fraud, liar or fraudster. He neither lost his moral balance, or equilibrium of character, nor was he troubled by persecution, nor did he fail to wisely answer all tempting questions, nor fail to calmly and deliberately predict the events of His life, death, burial, resurrection and ascension back to the right hand of His Father. By foretelling of the Holy Spirit and seeing what the Holy Spirit taught makes any claim of Jesus as a liar revolting, opposed to common sense and so shallow that the mere statement is self condemning.

How could He, in view of reason, common sense or experience be an imposter, swindler, selfish or depraved man inventing and consistently maintain from birth to crucifixion His moral purity, character and noble nature which has not been equaled? Jesus carried out unparalleled ethics, beneficence, love unequalled and a sacrifice of His own life in a time and place of the strongest prejudice. Someone who lived as Jesus, taught such morals and died as He died could not have been a liar. **What alternative do men have? Jesus came to save them!**

A cardinal truth of our Christian faith is redemption which demands more consideration than any other. It is chief among the doctrines along with grace, mercy and peace. Redemption permeates all aspects of our salvation. Like a spring of pure water redemption is the fountainhead for justification, reconciliation, adoption, sanctification and all associated teachings which lead us to eternal life and the change from corruptible to incorruption and mortal to immortal (1 Cor 15:5-59). Jesus came to deliver us from sin (Rom 3:23; 6:23).

FAMILY CARE
A Message from Our Shepherds

It is clear that a sense of **mission** must be the driving force of our lives as God's children. The account of the life and times of Queen Esther points that out very well. We have all heard that story since we were children. But, if you are like me, you have often overlooked the sense of **mission** that filled every step of that woman's life.

In Esther 1 we see the Persian king, Ahasuerus, throwing a party for the dignitaries of his government. Secular history tells us that this must have been king Xerxes (the 5th king of the Medo-Persian Empire). As the feast continued over a period of 180 days, the king decided that his queen, Vashti, should show off her beauty in front of his drunk friends. When she refused to participate in that spectacle, the king quietly deposed her from her queenship.

In Chapter 2 the search for a new queen begins. After gathering the virgins from around the kingdom, the king decided that Esther would be his queen. He knew nothing about her nationality, religion or anything else. She was simply the most beautiful of all of the women and he wanted her for his queen. Since her parents died early in her life, Esther was raised from early childhood by her 1st cousin, Mordecai.

When chapter 3 begins, we are introduced to another character in the story. This man's name was Haman. Haman was one of the king's favorite princes. Because of that, the king raised him to a high position of authority in the kingdom. Wherever Haman went, the people would bow to him. Being the vain man that he was, Haman thoroughly enjoyed the reverence that the people showed him. That is what made him so mad when Mordecai refused to bow. In spite of the pleadings that some of the king's servants did, Mordecai refused to bow to a human being. When Haman found out that Mordecai was a Jew, he arranged an interview with king Xerxes. In that discussion, Haman convinced the king that the Jews were a danger to his kingdom. By the end of the conversation, the king had granted permission for Haman to oversee the extermination of the entire Jewish race.

As we compare our world today with the condition of the Jews in Esther's day, we see some striking similarities. Next week we will talk about what those similarities are. Take the time to read the book of Ester this week and see what you come up with.

Jerry McKey

a propitiation for sin (Rom 3:25; Heb 7:26; Rom 8:33). Jesus could not be a High Priest while upon the earth because there was no law that one from the tribe of Judah could serve in this capacity. Christ is now King and head of the church. He could not assume these roles unless He was divine.

Thus, Christ in His role as Mediator offered salvation and reconciliation to man. He is the Mediator between a justly offended God and sinful man (1 Tim 2:5). This is the only way man can arrive at eternal well-being (Acts 4:12; Jn 14:6). Man in his state of innocence had fellowship with God but by sinning, exposed himself to God's just displeasure. Man had no power to redeem himself and he had no way to return to God without making satisfaction to His justice. Jesus Christ was appointed the Mediator to bring reconciliation (Col 1:21; 2 Cor 5:18, 19). In the fullness of time He came into the world, obeyed the law, lived as a man, satisfied God's justice and brought grace to Adam's race.

Continued from left column

Don Hatch

Mediator

A mediator is one who intervenes in order to reconcile two parties at variance with one another. The Greek word *mesites* [μεσιτες] is a compound word that defines one who is willing to take the middle position between two parties with a view to removing difficulties. There is an accommodation toward intervening like an ambassador, one who stands as a channel of communication between two contrasting parties. The mediator seeks to convey a will or determination from one party to the other.

Peace needed and desired between God and man required a mediator. Christ is called a Mediator (1 Tim 2:5; Heb 8:6; 9:15; 12:24) by virtue of reconciling a justly offended God and his rebellious creature man. In this sense Christ is the esteemed Mediator because He accomplished this by assuming our nature to stand between God and us. Jesus was raised up to be our Prophet. Moses said, "The Lord thy god will raise up a prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him shall ye hearken" (Deut 18:15). Christ is set forth as a gracious and sympathetic one who took the mediatorial office and thus worked out reconciliation by redemption of the world through His death on the cross. It belongs to the Prophet to expound the law, declare the will of the offended God and foretell the things to come. Jesus is the one to whom man must listen in all things (Acts 3:22-26). Jesus was the distinctive way of God declaring His divine will. Jesus sent his Apostles to publish abroad the law of God and the kind of knowledge mankind must live by and absorb to develop soberness, righteousness and godliness to help them escape future judgment of God. He confirmed the truth of this moral and spiritual nature with the evidence of God's pronouncement that we should hear him (Matt 17:1-5). He revealed distinctly the manner in which God would be worshiped, the efficacy of repentance and the reward or punishment of the future life. Thus, He was a prophet in a sense no other was. If Christ had come in His divine nature, we could not have approached Him as our mediator. The Son of God, in assuming a form of a humble man, became accessible to all. This obedience enabled Him to sympathize with the second party who was in need of being reconciled to God (Heb 2:17, 18; 4:14,15). Hence, we see the connection of the Prophet's office, His being God and the salvation of mankind. A mediator, unless He had a communion [fellowship] with both parties for whom He mediates does not possess the needed essential qualities of a mediator. When Christ became the mediator between God and man it was indispensable that He be both man and God. This Redeemer came to explain and enforce the law of God with practical proof of obedience being tempted in all points as we (Heb 4:14-16). If He had not been man, He could not have been subject to the law. Hence, in the fullness of time He came made of woman, made under the law (Gal 4:4).

Working out the scheme of redemption the Mediator had to be a priest. He had to be appointed and accepted in this role by God and man (Heb 5:10). Being qualified by His incarnation He was solemnly appointed by God (Heb 10:6,7) and accomplished through His death all that was needed to be a sacrificial lamb of God. His deity and humanity are seen. According to the prophecies that led up to Christ He had to destroy the power of death that was sin (1 Cor 15:50-58; Heb 2:9). Had He not been God He could not have been invited to come to the right hand of the Father after death where He is our Mediator (Acts 2:34). Jesus as man laid down His life in a voluntary manner surrendering Himself to die for man.

His death allowed Him to be an intercessor on behalf of all those who come to God (Heb 7:25; Rom 8:34). Jesus as our High Priest offered His blood as... **Continued in right column...**

News at Belt Line

FAMILY NEWS:

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

JULY ASSIGMENTS

GREETERS:

July 2 – Front Foyer – Robert & Cathy Taylor
Back Foyer – Bill & Linda Matthews

July 9 – Front Foyer – Bobby Allen & Jerry Grantham
Back Foyer – Bobby & Brenda England

Communion Preparation: Donna Davis & Mary Martini

Contribution Counters: Bobby England & Mike Garrison

SERMONS

July 2 – a.m. “The Lord’s Legacy of Peace”
John 14:25-31
p.m. “The Wisdom of God”
1 Corinthians 3:18-23

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

Ongoing Health Concerns: Bobby Bowen, Jane Easter, Dessie Ross, Don & Margaret Lewis, Carol Swinney, David & Faye West, Laquita Baker, Mike Garrison, Nellie Melvin, Grady Fowler, Daryl Gerardo David Hawkins, Beverly McKey, Jerry Catlin, Judy King, Barbara Reagan

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

Nursing Homes: **Max Melton, Jane Easter** – 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.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Debra Alonzo is presently at home after a stay in the hospital last week. She will enter H.E.B. hospital today for additional treatment. Please keep her in your prayers.

Carolyn Renfro is not feeling well.

Don and Anne Herriage’s friend, **Elaine Cervantes** has been diagnosed with colon cancer. She will be having additional testing done and has requested our prayers on her behalf.

There are many of our number who are struggling with health issues. Please keep them in your daily prayers so that they may once again be back at services with us.

SUMMER SERIES

June 28th – **Kevin Langford** (Lewisville, Texas) will be our Guest Speaker at 7:00 p.m. His topic will be “**Lovest Thou Me**” – John 21:15-23

TEENS

On **June 27th** the teens will be going to Keller. The topic will be “**Salvation Is From God.**”

THANK YOU NOTE

There is a Thank You note from **Christ’s Haven** on the front bulletin board.

David and Faye West want to thank you for the cards, calls and concerns on their behalf.

Jane Easter sends her love and is appreciative of your prayers for her.

Reminder: There will be **no bulletin** published the first three weeks in July. Any updates will be put in the Sunday program handouts.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

6/28/17 – Kevin Langford – Speaker

7/5/17 – Gary Fallis - Speaker

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Mike Garrison – 7/3
 Billie Prince – 7/4
 Jerry Catlin – 7/6
 John Mayer – 7/9
 Sharon Haynes – 7/13
 Jenny Reed – 7/16
 Marcus Jackson – 7/17
 Betty Ruckman – 7/18
 Linda Hogan – 7/25
 Melissa Allen – 7/25
 Don Herriage – 7/28
 Robert Taylor – 7/28
 Vera Gleghorn – 7/30
 Purman Cofer – 7/30

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Mike & Sandy Hall – 7/31

*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>		7/2/17	<u>SUNDAY PRAYERS</u>
<u>Front Table</u>	<u>Rear Table</u>		A.M. – Richard Renfro Henry Seidmeyer John Mayer
Kenny Mayer	Alex Mayer		P.M. – Jerry McKey Don Herriage
Don Herriage	Bobby England		
Scot Allen	Robert Taylor		
Glen Kelly	Nathan Allen		
Walt LaHaye			
Curtis Vaughan			
<u>LORD'S TABLE (EVENING)</u>			<u>SCRIPTURE READING</u>
Thomas Rathbun			A.M. – Nathan Allen John 14:25-31
Nathan Allen			P.M. – Scot Allen 1 Cor. 3:18-23
<u>SONG LEADERS</u>			<u>COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS</u>
A.M. – Darrell Allen			Robert Taylor
P.M. – 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	57	58	58	100
A.M. Worship	96	90	90	150
P.M. Worship	79	70	63	80
Wed. Class	62	67	59	85
Contribution	\$5825	\$5296	\$5189	\$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 – Issac Umana

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