

Belt Line Road Church of Christ

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

March 14, 2016
Volume 8 Number 11

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

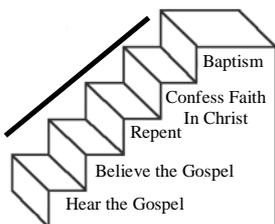
Janice Daniel & Jerry Grantham
beltlinechurch@sbcglobal.net

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)



The Loss Of Biblical Authority Changes Everything

Gregory Alan Tidwell (*Gospel Advocate* used by permission)

If then the light in you is darkness. how great is the darkness!" Jesus warns in Matthew 6:23 (Esv). When that which is supposed to provide light becomes darkness. the darkness is overwhelming. Spiritual light comes from God. When those who claim to be spiritual abandon the Word of God. they become the source of devastating darkness. As David Lipscomb warned his readers:

"There is one great danger in seeking union among men — that is. in uniting with men we may separate from God. Often when we seek to get closer to one body we move away from another. We must be careful not to separate from God, because a union without God is a union in falsehood, a union with death. In any union of Christians. God must be the center and the head. We come into union with God by doing his commandments, by following his directions, and by walking in the light, as he is in the light" (*Gospel Advocate*, 1909. pp.1486-87).

The church of Christ is dividing into two irreconcilable camps. On one side are those who have kept the same faith. On the other side are those who are experimenting with a broad range of differing faiths. And there is a vast gulf between these two sides, separating the light from the darkness.

You can see the division throughout the radical changes in the work and worship of congregations. The division shows itself in changed definitions about what it means to be a Christian and, at the core, in differing ideas about the inspiration and authority of Scripture. Congregations, schools and other institutions previously following one religion have embraced a different religion. Their light has become darkness.

What the church is going through today mirrors the crisis faced by the church in the mid-19th century. In those days, secular academic theories were applied to religious studies, especially by German theologians. Their approach adapted religious thought to fit secular intellectual fads.

After the Civil War, this new approach to religion came to the United States, popularized by the universities of the Northeast and Midwest. Every major religious group was affected, but none as much nor as quickly as the Disciples of Christ.

David Lipscomb described this situation writing in the *Gospel Advocate*: "Nothing indicates the wide departure from the landmarks of truth more clearly, that is taking place among those who started out to restore the ancient order, than the loose views put forth by some of the accredited teachers among them in reference to the authority of God. These show that the old standards have been set aside and new ones adopted" (Jan. 23, 1884, p. 49).

What happened in academia in the 1800s is happening in colleges affiliated with churches of Christ today. This change is a crisis because once you change your view of Scripture, you change the very essence of Christian faith.

What has been taught in colleges has entered congregations. Many church leaders, sadly, have changed their convictions about the truthfulness of Scripture, the authority of Scripture, and the significance of the Bible for the church.

The Truth of Scripture

The doctrine of inerrancy is easy to state. If the Bible is the Word of God, it is free from error because God does not lie; neither does God make mistakes. It is just that simple.

What you believe about the integrity of Scripture speaks volumes about your faith in God's honesty and in God's ability. Christians who continue to uphold the complete truthfulness of Scripture have kept their faith in God who has spoken through Scripture. Those who have abandoned their faith in Scripture have abandoned their faith in the God of Scripture.

The Authority of Scripture

Your belief in the divine origin of the Bible leads you to accept the Bible as your authority in religion. If God has spoken, it makes all the difference in the world. The authority of Scripture is the practical application of the lordship of Christ. Jesus frames the question directly, "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?" (Luke 6:46).

Those holding fast to their faith will submit to the authority of Scripture. Those who are embracing a different religion will introduce other sources of authority to justify the changes they put forward in the church.

Without a common view of the inspiration and authority of Scripture, there can be no unity in the Lord's church. For 100 years, from the late 19th through the late 20th centuries, our congregations were remarkably united in faith and practice because of a shared view of Scripture. When church leaders changed their view of the Bible, they were changing their religion.

The Significance of the Bible for the Church

Two areas where the new religion shows its changed
...continued on second page

FAMILY CARE
A Message from Our Shepherds

Last week we asked the question “What must I do to be saved?” This week we want to address what is not mentioned in our passage **Acts 16:30-33**. The first thing we discover is that nothing is said about the need to repent of our sins. Yet Jesus wanted repentance to be preached in His name according to **Luke 24:46-47** “*Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”* As we turn to scripture we discover that the apostles often preached the need to repent of sins. We saw Peter make this request in his first two sermons - **Acts 2:37-38; 3:19**. We also saw Paul in his sermon in Athens - **Acts 17:30-31**. **Should we conclude that repentance is not necessary because it is not mentioned in the conversion of the Philippian jailor?**

Yes there is a great need to confess Christ. Jesus taught of the necessity of confessing Him before others found in **Matthew 10:32-33** “*Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.*”³³ *But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.”* We also saw the apostles often mentioned the importance of confessing Christ. Notice, confessing with the mouth the Lord Jesus leads to salvation - **Romans 10:9-10** “*...that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*”¹⁰ *For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”* Confessing that Jesus is the Son of God leads to abiding in God - **1 John 4:15** “*Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.”* **Again should we conclude that confession is not necessary because it is not mentioned in the conversion of the Philippian jailor?** Would we be mishandling the Scriptures to suggest that simply because **repentance** and **confession** are not mentioned in **Acts 16:31** that they are not necessary to salvation?

Next week let us look at what is mentioned in the text we are looking at.

Jerry McKey

“Beloved, I beseech you as sojourners and pilgrims, to abstain from fleshly lust, which war against the soul; having your behavior seemly among the Gentiles; that, wherein they speak against you as evil-doers, they may by your good works, which they behold, glorify God in the day of visitation” (1 Pet 2:11,12).

The Loss Of Biblical Authority Changes Everything

Continued from front page... view of the Bible is in its view of the sufficiency of Scripture and in its view of the accessibility of Scripture. Changes in both of these areas distance God's Word from God's people. Often, even before full-scale disbelief appears, the Bible will be marginalized by leaders wanting to introduce nonbiblical elements into the church.

Remaining faithful to the Lord requires that you follow the Bible as the only authority for God's people. Drawing from a broad range of secular disciplines, alien ideas continually enter the Lord's church. Rather than following the New Testament pattern for the church, these secular ideas mold the church to fit the pattern of the world. This dilution of biblical authority with secular additions often produces an apostasy of attrition, dimming the light of God's truth into a compromised twilight.

In a similar vein, church leaders who want to change the fundamental nature of our religion try to limit the accessibility of Scripture. They remove the Bible's authority in the church by undermining the confidence that most Christians can read and understand the Bible. If reading and interpreting Scripture are reserved for an academic elite, members of this elite are free to make over the church of Christ into a religion that suits their fancy.

What Is at Stake

'And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light,'” Moses wrote in Genesis 1:3-4. "And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness." The word of God separated the light from the darkness in the beginning, and it still does today.

Our existence as a religious movement rests on faith in God who speaks to us through Scripture. If we lose this conviction, we will have lost the light of His presence. Without confidence in the truth and authority of the Bible, our faith will collapse into a dark and self-serving religion of our own creation. We will no longer be God's children of light. We will be the world's children of darkness.

“Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things that were heard, lest haply we drift away from them.

²For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward;

³how shall we escape, if we neglect so great a salvation? which having at the first been spoken through the Lord, was confirmed unto us by them that heard;

⁴God also bearing witness with them, both by signs and wonders, and by manifold powers, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to his own will.

⁵For not unto angels did he subject the world to come, whereof we speak (Heb 2:1-5)

Family News:

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

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

March 20, 2016

Front foyer: Bill & Linda
Matthews

Back foyer: Glen Kelly &
Donna Davis

March 27, 2016

Front foyer: Thomas Rathbun
& Doris Selby

Back foyer: Bobby & Brenda
England

MISSION PRINTING

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

Contribution Counters For March

Bobby England & Mike Garrison

Communion Preparation For March

Dale & Katherine Cox

Military:

Chris and Abigail Mathews

39'ers

The **39'ers** will meet on **March
21st** at 6:30 p.m. in the Annex.
Please bring food and come enjoy
the wonderful fellowship.

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

PRAYER LIST

Ongoing Health Concerns:

Bobby Bowen, Jane Easter,
Dessie Ross, Don and Margaret
Lewis, Frances Tipton, Diedra
Sutton, Tom Prince, Ruben
Melendez, Tom Head, David &
Faye West, Laquita Baker, Glen
Kelly, Mike Garrison

Homebound Members:

Helen Thomas, Mary Walker,
Dessie Ross

Recovering at Home:

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

Hospital:

Iris Ramsey is at Baylor, Dallas
with congestive heart issues.

Nancy Pond's friend, **Charlotte
Terry** had surgery for a broken
leg on Saturday and is in room
#355 at Baylor, Irving. Prayers
have been requested on her
behalf.

Nursing Home:

Elsie Nanney – Avante
Frances Tipton – Marine Creek
Max Melton – Northgate Plaza

Upcoming Procedures:

Mike Garrison is to have a Pet
Scan on **March 24th** and a
consultation about surgery on
March 29th.

LADIES UPCOMING EVENTS

LADIES BIBLE CLASS will
meet on **Tuesday, March 15th** at
10 a.m. in the Annex. The lesson
will be on **“The Gracious
Woman & The Virtuous
Woman”**. Please invite your
friends to join us.

Ladies,

We need small gift items for ten
bags on Ladies Half-Day. If you
would like to contribute, please
bring your items by Sunday, April
24th. For more information see
Beverly McKey.

LADIES HALF-DAY

Please check the Volunteer Lists
in the front foyer and sign up for
any task(s) you would like to help
with. We need everyone's
participation. Please pick up a few
postcards advertising **Ladies 1/2
Day**. You can mail them or hand
them out.

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Marcus Jackson – new phone #
903-556-4045

REMOVE THE FOLLOWING:

Brandon & Stephanie Howard
Brent & Samantha Howard
Walt LaHaye

SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy
to **Carolyn Thornton** whose
Aunt passed away last Tuesday.
Please keep Carolyn and family in
your prayers

Sermon Titles

March 20, 2016

a.m: “Power In Inward Man”

Scripture: Ephesians 3:14-19

p.m: “Work Out Your Own
Salvation”

Scripture: Philippians 2:12-18

March 27, 2016

a.m: “Ceaseless Prayer”

Scripture: 1 Thes. 5:12-22

p.m: “Prayer Progress”

Scripture: 2 Thes. 3:1-5

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

3/21/16 – 39'ers – Annex – 6:30 pm

3/22/16 – Ladies Bible Class – 10 a.m.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- Kenny Mayer – 3/2
- B.C. Fowler – 3/6
- Xavier Kaiser – 3/6
- Don Overturf* – 3/7
- James Gilliam – 3/7
- Vicky Askins – 3/8
- Dana Hodgkins – 3/11
- Jerry Baker – 3/18
- Kay Overturf – 3/19
- Philip Whitlock – 3/22
- Carol Swinney – 3/25
- Pansy Yankey – 3/30

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- Don* & Kay Overturf – 3/12
- Grady & B.C. Fowler – 3/17
- Jerry & Beverly McKey – 3/24
- Gary & Nadya Workman – 3/29

*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>		3/20/16	<u>SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS</u>
<u>Front Table</u>	<u>Rear Table</u>		
· Glen Kelly	· Bobby England		· Jerry McKey
· Scot Allen	· Thomas Rathbun		· Richard Renfro
· Mike Garrison	· Curtis Vaughan		· John Mayer
· Kenny Mayer	· Xavier Kaiser		
· Henry Seidmeyer			<u>A.M. SCRIPTURE READING</u>
· Don Herriage			· Henry Seidmeyer
			Ephesians 3:14-19
			<u>SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS</u>
			· Thomas Rathbun
			· Henry Seidmeyer
			<u>P.M. SCRIPTURE READING</u>
			· Dean Webb
			Phil. 2:12-18
			<u>P.M. SONG LEADER(S)</u>
			· Jerry Baker – Denzil Myers

LORD'S TABLE (EVENING)

- Nathan Allen
- John Mayer

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

Thomas Rathbun

A.M. SONG LEADER

- Darrell Allen

FOR THE RECORD: ATTENDANCE & BUDGET NUMBERS

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	64	54	64	100
A.M. Worship	113	91	103	150
P.M. Worship	64	73	71	80
Wed. Class	60	53	57	85
Contribution	\$6083	\$5005	\$5439	\$5170

MISSIONS

- 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
- Wil & Telanda Sadler – Military Missions
- 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
- Mike Batot – Southwest School of Bible Studies – Austin, TX
- Carlos Tario – Brown Trail School of Preaching – Bedford, TX
- Brayden Shelley – Brown Trail School of Preaching – Bedford, TX
- Dennis & Beth Johnson – Chennai Teacher Training School – India

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