

Belt Line Road Church of Christ

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

January 11, 2016
Volume 8 Number 2

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

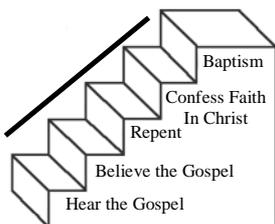
Janice Daniel & Jerry Grantham
beltlinechurch@sbcglobal.net

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)



Eternal Hell – Objections Considered

Don Hatch

Many object to an eternal punishment. Taking up all of the objections would be a hopeless task. The fertile minds of the objectors have devised endless reasons not to believe in a God who condemns sin and the sinner.

God is love, some would say, therefore He cannot condemn sinners to a devil’s hell (Matthew 25:41). There is an age when mankind becomes accountable for their actions. At that point any sin, “missing of the mark”, places their souls in jeopardy. Some have falsely concluded that God will never cast His creatures into hell and its endless woes. The Bible says God is light and between “light and darkness” there is no fellowship. God’s love is not a sentimental passion which overrides His moral singularity. God’s love is a holy love and He hates evil (Psalm 5:5). The Scriptures speak more of God’s anger and wrath than of His love and compassion. To argue that God is love and because of this He will not condemn anyone by inflicting eternal torment is to ignore other factors of God’s personality such as light and holiness. God is not measured by human wisdom!

God is just! Often the classic statement made is that God is just and it would be unjust to damn anyone to hell. “To place any of His erring creatures in an eternal perdition just seems unjust of God!” These detractors have passed judgment on the justice of God (these are the ones who say “judge not”). They say it is inconsistent with God’s righteousness to condemn anyone. They have determined what the best way to vindicate God’s equity is to remove judgment. Sin saps the mind of its power to reason what is righteous or sinful. Sin makes the conscience innocuous, perverts discipline, degenerates the heart and makes mankind inadequate for making just decisions of right and wrong (Romans 1:24,25; Heb 5:11-14). These detractors of God are infected with sin and affected by it to the point that they are incapable of making a true estimate of the due merit of sin. A company of sinners (criminals) cannot pass judgment on the impartiality or virtue of a law which condemns them. God is not measured by human ideals. To deny justice is to deny grace. If endless misery is unjust, then exemption from it must be the **sinner’s right**. If so his salvation could

never be attributed to the divine unmerited favor brought by the cross of Calvary. It also must mean that the “core doctrine” of Christianity, all has sinned and the wages of sin is death, is fallacious. If sinners will not reject eternal bliss, is there any reason why they should complain against justice casting them into an eternal hell? If there is never-ending evil in sin, there is a perpetual punishment owed as a reward. God is not measured by human symposiums!

God is holy! Because of His holiness He regards sin with disgust and abhorrence. Some have said that God will ultimately triumph over sin and evil by banishing it from the universe or His character will be nullified. But against this **sophistry** is the reply that God did not prevent sin from entering into the world and He has permitted it to remain over thousands of years. God is holy and can allow sin to exist. God allowed mankind to be free moral agents. God’s holiness will triumph by the incarceration of its every foe in a place where they will not damage, nor torment His holy ones any more. His holy hatred of sin is witnessed by a lake of fire where He will demonstrate the final and utter defeat of Satan (Rev 20:7-14). God is not measured by human standards.

God is merciful! Mankind sins! Some require that divine mercy will intervene, punishment be revoked or the sentence modified and the term shortened because God is merciful. These say eternal punishment does not harmonize with mercy. This is manifestly erroneous. Facts deny it. By looking at the world and its untold misery we see God’s creatures do suffer. Too, by reading the Old Testament we find countless accounts of God’s judgment on evil and they were not prevented by God’s mercy. To reason that God will not be merciful by casting into a lake of fire every soul who is not written in the book of life, is to fly in the face of all of God’s judgments in the past. God is not measured by human criterion! God will triumph over evil! Heaven is too wonderful to miss and hell too terrible to hazard.

The final picture of the wicked’s judgment and punishment is seen in the word *gehenna*. It is the valley of the sons Hinnom notoriously connected with sinfulness. It is a place where children were sacrificed to the pagan god Molech (2 Chron 28:3; 33:6; Jer 7:31; 19:2-6). This was used as a visual in the first century of an eternal fire where the worm died not. Originally this deep narrow valley was a place of worship and later became a place of refuse. Here dead bodies of animals and criminals and all kinds of filth was cast and consumed by fire kept continually burning, Thus in the process of time it was an example everlasting destruction (Mat 5:22, 29, 30; 10:28; Jas 3:6).

FAMILY CARE
A Message from Our Shepherds

About 18 months ago I was sitting with Bro. Vincent in a Cameroon prison. He was a young preacher student wondering why he was in prison unjustly. I could tell that he was very concerned about his predicament. Even though he had baptized a dozen prisoners, he needed help in answering many of their questions. I went to the car and brought him back a small book entitled "Ready Reference for Growing Christians" by Paul Sain. Vincent was very excited as he browsed through the book full of answers and scriptures for 100 Biblical subjects. He saw that God had answered his prayers of helping those whom he had baptized. After three months of false imprisonment, Vincent was released and became the Prison Minister with the blessings of the authorities. He preaches every Sunday and Wednesday night in the prison congregation of 75 members. The guards allow him to baptize in the small creek that runs through the prison yard. I will always remember that visit and how God helped us both in seeing how to help others in desperation. Below is a recent email from Vincent:

I apologize strongly for this report not getting to you as usual. I promise to make adjustment. Please do accept my plea. I am happy for you and for all those who are helping the churches of Christ in Cameroon. I give many thanks to Mission Printing for their vision of distributing tracts all over the world. My joy for you is more than what words can express. May our good Lord bless all that you are doing. Please greet your family for me and tell them that my family is ok.

The Buea central prison rejoices over their "end of year celebration" which took place on Wednesday 30th of December 2015. We were able to invite some of the inmates who came massively to fellowship with the church. During this celebration, five prospects accepted to be baptized. But we were able to baptize three of the five on Sunday the 3rd of January 2016. This baptism took place on Sunday because water was not flowing on that Wednesday. The prison ministry is moving very well and all the inmates are sound in health. May the almighty God bless you and your wife for your love towards the prison ministry. Tomorrow, Thursday the 1/7/16, Alumni shall go to Tole village for a massive evangelism program which will last for four days. Please kindly pray for God's will to be done. I thank you so much for you helping me to attend such programs. May God bless you abundantly. Please greet the church for me.

Thanks. The prison minister Vincent

--Richard Renfro

"You shall not **muzzle** an **ox** while it treads out **the** grain," and, "**The** laborer *is* worthy of his wages." I Timothy 5:18 NKJ

"Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfected; be comforted; be of the same mind; live in peace: and the God of love and peace shall be with you. Salute one another with a holy kiss. All the saints salute you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all" (2 Cor 13:11-14).

Condition Of Salvation

Jesus gave himself to save sinful mankind (1 Jn 2:1-5). The Bible was inspired by the Holy Spirit to insure that the **gospel** be preserved and not perverted in any manner by man or angel, (Gal 1:6-10; 2 Tim 3:16, 17).

Conditions Of The Spirit's Coming

The Holy Spirit was committed to the role of "Comforter" (Jn 16:1-25). Comforter means **Helper** or **Advocate** and suggests giving aid. Advocate is a legal assistance for the defense of one pleading a case in a court of law. In Romans 8:1 the saved are considered free from condemnation while in Christ. Jn 16:31-39 demonstrate that those justified are accounted as being free from any charges against them in the presence of God. In a wider sense this word signifies the succoring of Christ's disciples and by implication, the Holy Spirit comforts through the consoling words of "the truth of the gospel" (Eph 1:11-15). Hence, when Jesus went away the "Comforter" was sent. The coming of the Holy Spirit proved Jesus completed all assigned tasks to free mankind from sin (Heb 9; Acts 1 & 2).

Mission of the Holy Spirit

Jesus said that He would send the Holy Spirit (John 16:7, 8) with the mission of **convicting the world of sin, righteousness and judgment to come**. The Spirit inspired the writers of the New Testament to teach about the **sin** of unbelief which would undermine the way to salvation (John 14:1-5). If one does not believe that Jesus is the Son of God and correspondingly obey, being baptized into Christ for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38) he/she remains separated from God (Mark 16:15, 16; Eph 2:11-23).

Medium of the Holy Spirit

The New Testament is the medium of the Holy Spirit for conviction, presenting Christ as the way of salvation (2 Corinthians 5:11-21; Acts 4:12). **Righteousness** was accomplished because of the vicarious death of Jesus upon the cross. In Christ one is reconciled to God and becomes righteous (Galatians 3:27; Ephesians 1:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21). This does not mean an imputed righteousness, but rather a state of righteousness because of being in Christ. **Judgment** to come is because Satan has been overcome. Mankind must have an obedient faith to win the victory in Christ (Romans 1:1-5; 16:26; 1 John 5:1-10). If judgment starts with the house of God and they are scarcely saved, how shall they be saved who obey not the gospel (1 Peter 17, 18; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-11)? It is appointed unto man once to die and then the judgment (Hebrews 9:27).

Holy Spirit Places Responsibility

The Holy Spirit places responsibility upon an individual to know the truth that will set them free (John 8:30, 31). Mankind is not lost because of not knowing Christ. They are lost because of personal sins and need to obey Christ. It remains mankind's responsibility to search out salvation via the Bible. We are all to work out our salvation with reverence and godly fear (Philippians 2:12, 13). The Spirit points the soul to Jesus as the source of salvation. The Spirit was never self-willed, nor given to self-wisdom, but was submissive to God's plan. Mankind can win the victory of salvation by submitting to the will of God. Mankind must act responsibly, each on his/her own behalf. **Don Hatch**

Family News:

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

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

January 17, 2016

Front foyer: Mike & Elizabeth Garrison

Back foyer: Nancy Pond & Doris Selby

January 24, 2016

Front foyer: Robert & Cathy Taylor

Back foyer: Henry Seidmeyer & Walt LaHaye

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 January

John Mayer & Thomas Rathbun

Communion Preparation For January

Jerry McKey

Sermon Titles

January 17, 2016

a.m.: "First Things First"

Scripture: Matthew 6:33-34

p.m.: "Unselfishness Of True Religion"

Scripture: Job 1:6-12

January 24, 2016

a.m.: "Remember All The Way"

Scripture: Deuteronomy 8:1-2

p.m.: "Rest After Toil"

Scripture: Psalms 4:1-8

Military:

Chris and Abigail Mathews

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:

Mike Garrison will be having a biopsy soon. They also will be putting in a feeding tube and a port.

They found cancer in the lower part of **Ruben Melendez's** brain. He will start more treatment soon.

Carolyn Renfro is not feeling well.

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

Hospital:

Laquita Baker is at Medical Center of Arlington room # 217 instead of Arlington Memorial. She is doing better and hopes to go home this week.

Nursing Home:

Elsie Nanney – Avante
Frances Tipton is now in room #214-B at Arbrook Plaza.

Special Request:

Jerry Grantham & Dana Hodgkins, Aunt Dorothy Peterson is in Las Colinas Medical. Please keep her in your prayers as she has had two blood transfusions and may have to have more.

Richard Renfro has requested prayers for his friend, **Cy Stafford**. He has been in ICU for

4 weeks in serious condition with Leukemia.

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Elsie Nanney has been moved:

Avante
225 N. Sowers Road
Room #314-B
Irving, Texas 75061

Phone: 972-253-4173

Myrtle Wade: Phone Number

972-965-1920

LADIES

Ladies Class will resume on Tuesday, **January 12th** at **10 a.m.**

SYMPATHY

We express our sympathy to **Marietta Houser** family. She passed away on December 30, 2015. Graveside services were at Memorial Gardens in Arlington on Thursday January 7, 2016.

39'ers

The **39'ers** will meet on **January 18th** at 6:30 p.m. in the Annex. Please bring food and enjoy the wonderful fellowship.

THANK YOU

There are 2 cards on the bulletin board from **Faye & David West**.

There is also a card on the bulletin board from the **J. C. Ross** family.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1/18/16 – 39’ers – Annex – 6:30 p.m.

1/19/16 – Ladies Bible Class – 10 a.m.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Don Hancock – 1/1
- Ken Lee – 1/2
- Linda Head – 1/3
- Scot Allen – 1/3
- Debra Alonzo – 1/4
- Christal Fielder – 1/5
- Helen Thomas – 1/10
- Bobby Bowen – 1/11
- Dale Cox – 1/14
- Nellie Melvin – 1/24
- Carolyn Montgomery – 1/24
- Lautricia Williams – 1/25
- Don Lewis – 1/27
- Jessica Chester – 1/28
- Dorris Walker – 1/29
- Kayla Allen – 1/30
- Judy Odom – 1/31

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Bobby & Mary Bowen – 1/11

*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>		1/17/16	<u>SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS</u>
<u>Front Table</u>	<u>Rear Table</u>		· Richard Renfro
· Nathan Allen	· Bobby England		· Bill Matthews
· Don Herriage	· Thomas Rathbun		· Don Herriage
· Dorris Walker	· Curtis Vaughan		
· Walt LaHaye	· James Gilliam		<u>A.M. SCRIPTURE READING</u>
· Mike Garrison			· Dean Webb
· Henry Seidmeyer			Matthew 6:33-34
			<u>SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS</u>
			· John Mayer
			· Darrell Allen
			<u>P.M. SCRIPTURE READING</u>
			· Kenny Mayer
			Job 1:6-12
			<u>P.M. SONG LEADER(S)</u>
			· Jerry Baker – Denzil Myers

FOR THE RECORD: ATTENDANCE & BUDGET NUMBERS

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	66	70	68	100
A.M. Worship	94	111	103	150
P.M. Worship	63	74	69	80
Wed. Class	50	64	57	85
Contribution	\$5899	\$6532	\$6216	\$5098

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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**PERIODICALS POSTAGE
PAID
AT IRVING, TEXAS**