

Belt Line Road Church of Christ

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

April 17, 2017
Volume 9 Number 16

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

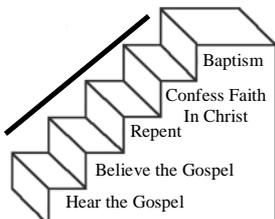
Janice Daniel & Jerry Grantham
beltlinechurch@sbcglobal.net

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 Bible Is Its Own Best Witness

Don Hatch

The Bible is examined and compared to all other books because of its character and content. This “Book of books” claims to be inspired by the **Most High God**. Divine character and credentials reinforce the claim of divine inspiration giving us the basis for inspiration.

Some do not like support of biblical claims that are based on evidence. However, even in a court of law, self-claims are admissible and the defense may bring forth its own supportive material. Logically the Bible would be the first source for verification of self-truth; however, there are many other sources that can be reviewed as correlative materials in support of the Bible’s claim of inspiration.

First, the Bible claims “**verbal**” inspiration. A classic text is 2 Timothy 3:16, 17 affirming that there was “**writing**”. The **words** are scripture. Moses wrote “**all**” the words of the Lord (Ex 24:4) and Isaiah said that he wrote his in a book under the direction of God (Isa 8:1; 30:8). God claimed to be the **causality or first cause** of inspiration, “Knowing this first that no prophecy of scripture is of private interpretation. For no prophecy ever came by the will of man: but men spake from God, being moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Pet 1:20, 21). The distinctive claim of the Bible is that God is its fountainhead.

Verbal inspiration has a formula [i.e. confirmed and error free] that is repeated countless numbers of times in the Bible. The evidence is overwhelming. Every word in the Bible can be **confirmed**. Some detractors have asserted or allege errors, yet when such “errors” are considered in light of text, context and correct hermeneutics, there are no **errors**, but only unfounded allegations.

A brief summary of the evidence
“**Every scripture inspired of God** is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness: that the man of God may be complete, furnished thoroughly unto every good work” (2 Tim 3:16, 17). This type of statement is found repeatedly in the Bible and asserts inspiration of God. The recipient of inspiration wrote with an illumination beyond himself. Inspiration was a divine and miraculous illumination that directed the

subject of the writers from a background of knowledge, vocabulary and personality to convey the proper word and express correctly the message of God to humanity. The Bible presents a single theme and grand system of religion. This theme opens with creation of man and will end when the Lord calls for time to be no more. It is concerned with life, salvation and the destiny of the soul. It is dependent on the free will of mankind to accept the offer of righteousness, mercy, grace and salvation.

“...**Which thing also we speak**, not in words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Spirit teacheth; combining spiritual things with spiritual words” (2 Cor 2:13). Part of the formula is spiritual words with spiritual things given by the Spirit. The Old Testament claims that its writers wrote God’s words (Ex 24:4). Moreover, they claim that the Spirit spoke to them (2 Sam 23:2). They were not to diminish one word (Jer 26:2). Moses was declared to be a prophet but there was one who was coming who would also be **the prophet** (Deut 18:17-18). That prophet was Jesus Christ (Acts 3:22-25), fulfilling prophecies millenniums after the first pronouncement.

Jesus frequently said, “It is written”, referring to the Old Testament as it spoke of Him (Lk 24:27, 44; Jn 5:39). Referring to the Old Testament Hebrews states that “it was written in the scroll” about Jesus, (Heb 10:2). These words were not written subjectively retreating in fear when tested but have stood the test of time. **Subjectivism** invades intelligence, persuades sensibilities, influences the will and eventually controls one’s life. It removes faithful monitors of evidence which are spiritual words combined with spiritual things. The Scriptures once given stand throughout the ages from dispensation unto dispensation.

The New Testament is called the Word of God, Scripture (2 Pet 3:16; Matt 21:42; Rom 15:4). Jesus said that not the smallest word would be broken (Matt 5:18). The New Testament calls scripture the written record or “oracle of God” (Rom 15:3:2; Heb 5:12). Words of cursing are pronounced upon anyone who either diminish or pervert the Word of God (Gal 1:6-10; Rev 22:18, 19). The Scriptures are unbreakable, irrevocable and final as an authority. Inspired of God they are their own best witness!

Evidence is substantial to prove from external sources and the Bible that it is a historically correct document. The events, people, places and archaeological artifacts corroborate the biblical text. The sacred volume is self-authenticating and cannot be explained away. Fair minded students acknowledge that a supreme mind oversaw and guided the writing of the Bible's inspired text. The Bible is undeniably inspired.

FAMILY CARE
A Message from Our Shepherds

Each month we receive articles from our missionaries. These give us highlights of the work in their locations. They also tell about their family life. Much of what they send is inspiring to read. To see families growing in the Lord is wonderful. Husbands and wives teaching, training and helping a local congregation grow takes time and energy. Sometimes they send us pictures to enable us to see the colorful clothing and activities they engage in from time to time. Belt Line's participation is seen around the world.

On the **mission board** we try to post articles and new for you to read. The congregations where we send Mission Printing materials are blessed to have such a resource. These booklets cover many topics which help in teaching the Gospel of Salvation and many other timely subjects. Brother Richard Renfro receives many questions which take some serious thought. He tries to answer them with sound and faithful answers. It is evident that many are longing to know the Lord better. Each Sunday afternoon the **Junior Auditorium** is filled with the rustle of pages being collated and staples being put in the spine to hold them together. They are transported to Mission Printing headquarters for trimming and boxing for shipment. Millions of these booklets are placed in containers for shipping around the world. Those who receive them send us pictures of boxes being unloaded and distributed. There is a special kind of joy felt by all concerned when the booklets are picked up and read.

The missionaries send us pictures of individuals being baptized into the Lord. We know that there were hours of teaching which took place in order that the individuals be baptized. Brother Guy Caskey wrote most of the tracts and what was said years ago never goes out of style. The Old Jerusalem Gospel is still sound and has the power to convert the lost.

We have a rack in the back of the Auditorium which John Mayer maintains. We hope visitors will take as many as wanted to read and study. You may find one that will help a friend to understand the Bible more clearly. Please take as many as you can use. Place them in hospitals, restaurants or other public places for individuals to pick up and read.

Brethren who receive the Mission Printing tracts tell of visitors who read the titles often taking several. Often they may never know what took place or if the individual was baptized. You are like Paul who planted and Apollos who watered but God gave the increase (1 Cor 3:1-11).

Missionaries call your "Beloved family" for whom they are grateful for your partnership in spreading the Gospel in the world. They pray that God will richly bless you through the years. They are always grateful for email and letters. Many tell of brethren while on trips stopping to worship with them.

They have health problems which we need to include in daily prayers. They also have joys which we can share and rejoice in. Our brotherhood is worldwide, alive and well. You are a vital link in the golden chain which binds us in Christian fellowship. Each day we do golden deeds by helping those in need to find the way.

God has richly blessed us to have such opportunities to serve with time, talents and money. God be with you in your Christian walk.

Don Hatch

Guard Your Thoughts In Joy

Joy comes because of good from the hand of God (Jas 1:17, 18). In the Bible, joy covers a wide range of human experiences like marriage (Pro 5:18), birth of children (Psm 113:9), gathering a harvest and military victories (Isa 9:3). On a spiritual level, it refers to that joy with which a believer contemplated salvation and the bliss of after life with God (Jn 14:1-5; 1 Thes 4:13-18). Benefits from God brought expressions of jubilation. Joy was for temporal blessings (Joel 2:23, 24), divine protection (Psm 5:1; 16:8, 9), victory in Christ (Jn 16:33), hope of glory and success of the gospel (Rom 5:2; Acts 15:3).

Believers rejoice because God surrounded them with His steadfast love (Heb 13:1-5) and brought them to salvation through Christ (1 Pet 1:8). Rejoicing in God is a response to God's word (Psm 119:14) and for the reward of hope and strength in the believers.

Fundamental to understanding joy are God's acts in history, the most important being His presence in time of need. Restoration was an occasion of joy (Psm 14:7; 98:4-6). Joy characterizes worship, "I rejoice with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord'" (Psm 122:1; Deut 16:13-15; Phil 3:12-17). Believers have joy in secular existence, which is distinguished from spiritual ones. Spiritual joys are expressed in metaphors of marriage, victories in all endeavors and successful final projects (Jas 4:13-17).

Christ coming is described as joy (Lk 1:14). The Magi, upon finding the infant Jesus, were "overjoyed" (Mat 2:10). Joy was associated with the nativity and birth of John as the forerunner of the Messiah (Lk 1:14). The angel's greeting to Mary was followed by "highly favored" a word of rejoicing for the Redeemer's mother (Lk 1:28). Shepherds heard the news of the birth of Jesus and it was an occasion for great joy (Lk 2:10). The circle was complete when the disciples rejoiced after Jesus' ascension (Lk 24:52; Acts 1).

Three parables give us insight into joy at redemption. The shepherd rejoices over the lost sheep found (Lk 15:3-7); the woman rejoiced over finding the lost coin (Lk 15:8-10; a prodigal son returning brought joy to the heart of a father (Lk 15:11-32). Jesus endured the cross, its suffering and shame, knowing the joy that was before him (Heb 12:2). Believers had trials and persecutions, overcoming brought joy (Jas 1:1-2-4; Rom 5:1-11). Suffering brought joy to believers united with Christ in his suffering (1 Pet 4:13-14). Peter and John spoke of "rejoicing because they had been counted worthy to suffer disgrace for the name" (Acts 5:41). Paul's joy was manifested in the midst of affliction (2 Cor 7:4-16). Joy is part of faith (Phil 1:25).

Salvation is a cause for joy as saints rejoice that their names are written in heaven (Lk 10:20; Phil 4:3). Joy is expressed in opportunities for thanksgiving (Rom 15:32; Phil 2:28). The kingdom is described as being filled with "righteousness, peace and joy" (Rom 14:17).

God gives joy (Eccl 2:26; Psm 4:7). It is the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22). The gospel is good tidings of joy (Lk 2:10, 11). God's word is promised and prepared for saints (Psm 9:11-16). Joy is found in God's presence (Psm 16:11) and experienced by believers (Lk 24:52; Acts 16:34). Peacemakers have joy (Pro 12:20) and the just are filled with joy (Pro 21:15). The wise and discreet will know joy (Pro 15:23). Parents of good children will have great joy (Pro 23:24).

Don Hatch

FAMILY NEWS:

News at Belt Line

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

APRIL ASSIGMENTS

GREETERS:

April 23 – Front Foyer – Mike & Elizabeth Garrison
Back Foyer – Thomas Rathbun & Polly Roses

April 30 – Front Foyer – Bobby & Brenda England
Back Foyer – Dale & Katherine Cox

Communion Preparation: Dorris & Janie Walker

Contribution Counters: Glen Kelly & Nathan Allen

SERMONS

April 23 – a.m. “Never Man Spake”

John 7:45-50

p.m. “They Saw Jesus”

Matthew 26:20-25

**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

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

Nursing Homes: Max Melton – Irving Nursing & Rehabilitation

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.

Ladies Bible Class will meet on **Tuesday April 18th**. Fellowship at 9:45 and lesson at 10:00. The lesson will be “**Questions & Answers**”. Ladies make plans to attend and bring a friend.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Jerry Catlin is at home now after a stay in the hospital. They did get the bleeding stopped.

Please keep **Judy King** (friend of the McKey’s) in your prayers. She had her colon removed last week.

Richard Renfro is now at home after a stay in the hospital. They will be running more tests to find out what is causing his weakness.

Laquita Baker had a procedure done at MCA Arlington on Friday. They are checking for blood clots in her lungs.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our **Teen Workday** will be on Saturday, **April 22nd**. Please let Darrell Allen know if there is anything that the teens can assist you with on that day around your home.

LADIES we are collecting items for the Ladies ½ Day gift bags. Please bring them by Wednesday, **April 26**.

Our **5th Sunday Singing** will be on **April 30th**. There is a sign-up sheet in the front foyer to list your favorite songs.

SYMPATHY

We extend our love and sympathy to **Bobby Allen** on the passing of **Sissy** on Thursday morning and also to **Virginia Stull** on the loss of her sister, **Ida Tidwell**. Please keep both of these families in your prayers.

THANK YOU

I want to thank **Pat McIntosh, Mike Batot** and **Jerry McKey** for filling in for me during my stay in the hospital. I understand they did a wonderful job in my absence.

I especially want to thank everyone for the cards, calls and visits. They were very much appreciated.

Don Hatch

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4/17/17 – 39'ers – Annex – 6:30 pm
 4/22/17 – Teen Work Day
 4/29/17 – Ladies ½ Day – 9 a.m.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Glen Kelly – 4/1
 Rebecca Andrepont – 4/1
 Mary Wise – 4/2
 Jerry Grantham – 4/2
 Vern Lundquist – 4/6
 Billy Beverly – 4/7
 Sissy Allen – 4/12
 Bobby Allen – 4/16
 Henry Seidmeyer – 4/16
 Nelda Bell Newton – 4/17
 Jeanene Heilman – 4/19
 Alice Worthy – 4/20
 Thomas Rathbun – 4/21
 Mary Walker – 4/22
 Don Hatch – 4/25
 Faye West – 4/30

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Bobby & Sissy Allen – 4/18

*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>		4/23/17	<u>SUNDAY PRAYERS</u>
<u>Front Table</u>	<u>Rear Table</u>		A.M. – Richard Renfro Bill Matthews Thomas Rathbun
John Mayer	Vern Lundquist		P.M. – Dean Webb Jerry McKey
Nathan Allen	Bobby England		
Dorris Walker	James Gilliam		
Curtis Vaughan	Robert Taylor		
Alex Mayer			
Purman Cofer			
<u>LORD'S TABLE (EVENING)</u>			<u>SCRIPTURE READING</u>
Glen Kelly			A.M. – Nathan Allen John 7:45-50
Thomas Rathbun			P.M. – Curtis Vaughan Matthew 26:20-25
<u>SONG LEADERS</u>			<u>COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS</u>
A.M. – Jerry McKey			Glen Kelly
P.M. – 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	56	100
A.M. Worship	101	101	88	150
P.M. Worship	55	57	57	80
Wed. Class	55	65	56	85
Contribution	\$4700	\$5157	\$5154	\$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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