

Belt Line Road Church of Christ

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

March 14, 2011
Volume 3 Number 11

1202 N. Belt Line Road
Irving, TX 75061
972/790-8606
972/790-3897 (fax)

Web site:
<http://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..Sep.-Apr.
*See page 4 for current meeting time.

Evangelist

Don Hatch

Email:

don-hatch@sbcglobal.net

ELDERS

Jerry McKey
Richard Renfro
Dean Webb

DEACONS

Darrell Allen
Glen Kelly
Garl Latham
John Mayer

SECRETARIES

Janice Daniel & Jerry Grantham
beltlinechurch@sbcglobal.net

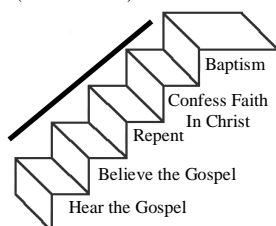
CUSTODIANS

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)



“To Grace How Great A Debtor”

Don Hatch

Grace is God's unmerited, free, unprompted love for sinful man, revealed and made effectual by the death of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary. Grace in the Bible context is something that is God-given, made possible only by Jesus Christ and none other. It is God's gift of salvation granted to sinners for their redemption, salvation and sanctification (1 Cor 1:18-31). The biblical teaching of grace is unmerited favor that God gives to all of mankind. He seeks them while they are “yet in their sins” (Rom 5:1-11). Grace grants eternal life (1 Jn 5:13). Grace is a state of kindness or favor toward another with the focus on being beneficial. Grace is precious and a blessing. The Bible teaches that this spontaneous gift of divine favor, manifested to mankind, is an uncaused free gift stemming from God's overflowing love and mercy, totally undeserved by mankind. Each person has the option to accept it or reject it and a responsibility for continuance in the relationship it affords. Grace is not irresistible. One can fall from grace after being redeemed (Gal 5:4; 2 Tim 4:10; 1 Jn 5:13-17; Heb 6:1-5). Grace is God's gift. Man cannot earn it nor induce God to grant it. It is God's desire and initiative. ***It is in no sense something earned by works*** (Eph 2:8-10; Rom 4).

Mankind is in a position to accept or reject God's grace, but is not in a position to return the favor to God or pay Him back for His grace. Man is only a recipient of favor which is undeserved. God is not in debt to mankind for anything. The favorable removing of the stain of sin from mankind is based upon the atonement of Christ, not by any attainment of mankind, or achievement only, but faithful obedience (Rom 1:1-5). God gives grace to mankind because of His love (1 Jn 3:1-5). It is granted because of the atonement of Jesus Christ on His cross (Rom 3:21-30). An awareness of this sacrifice makes mankind realize that the tremendous price and plan of God is the most valuable blessing bestowed upon a lost and sinful individual. In principle grace transcends all notions of “rule keeping”, thus demanding of God salvation (Mat 19:16-23). No man can do enough to earn salvation. This does not remove the responsibility to be God's “workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God afore prepared that we should walk in them” (Eph 2:9, 10).

Grace is based upon divine forgiveness and spiritual blessings previously unheard of until Christ Jesus came (Jn 1:1-17). This idea of

divine merit is contrasted with human accomplishments. God paid the redemptive price for man. Christianity's redemption is foreign to all other religions in the world. None have invented a religion whose god suffered and died as the basis of salvation for the creatures created by that god. Salvation was made possible for mankind by Immanuel, God with us (Mat 1:18-20; Phil 2:1-11). The idea that God freely gives an unmerited favor to His creation, making forgiveness from sin a reality is magnificent. God's plan was carefully crafted through the ages wherein He made covenants with men and in the last dispensation made a covenant with mankind by the blood of Christ Jesus. Christianity is a “grace religion”. All former dispensations introduce how God planned and perfected this redemption (2 Cor 5:18-20).

Many distortions seek to manipulate the doctrine of grace. Grace without responsibility destroys moral and spiritual integrities without which the doctrine of grace cannot stand. Mankind has a responsibility to be obedient to God. Ceremonies and religious practices do not merit grace. Grace does not depend upon man's effort alone. Many hold that it is largely man's own merit which saves. The emphasis in this teaching is “law keeping”. Laws of God must be kept, but law keeping does not supersede grace. Mankind keeps the law of God because God demands it. Not keeping God's law is “antinomianism” [a doctrine or belief that the gospel frees Christians from required obedience to any law, whether scriptural, civil or moral and that salvation is attained solely through faith and the gift of divine grace]. Such teachings are fallacious and vile. Denying that there are binding obligations that must be obeyed makes grace cheap with no need for obedience. Extremes contradict grace. Grace and obedience are interlaced and impossible to escape, therefore both are demanded. The New Testament sets forth the salvation which comes through Christ, as “by grace have you been saved through faith” (Eph 2:8).

We are debtors to grace. Daily we should be constrained to feel a responsibility to bind our hearts to God through Christ Jesus, never wandering from the fold of God. Jesus sought us while going astray. He rescued us from danger and interposed His own blood to bring us into God's favor. Grace is like a fount with streams of mercy, never ceasing, which call for our fervent praise. Let us pray that it fixes our sight on the goal of the high calling in Christ (Phil 3:13-16). It is not the labor of our hands which can fulfill the law's demand. Christ's love for us should prompt zeal which knows no respite from the labor in the vineyard of the Lord. All our labors for sin cannot atone, only Christ and Him alone. **Nothing we possess is greater than the cross of Jesus.** It is to that we must cling and His shed blood cleanses us from our sin. The old hymn “**Come Thou Fount Of Blessings**” still resonates a message of saving grace.

FAMILY CARE
A Message from Our Shepherds

I would like to share with you an article written by Mark W. White. It is entitled "The Lord Will Provide." It is certainly something we need to understand as we journey through this life.

"Young Isaac was perplexed. Doubtless, he had seen his faithful father sacrifice burnt offerings to Jehovah before, but this time was different. *"My Father! Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"* said Isaac (Genesis 22:7). Abraham said, *"My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering."* For a little while, at least, this must have set the boys mind at ease. Little did he know that **he** was God's provision.

God provides. He always has, and always will. As a prime example of fatherhood, He is providing for His children. This is what is meant by God's **providence**.

We are in deep water when we discuss such a magnificent subject. It is doubtful that any man can fully understand or comprehend the ways in which God makes His provisions for us. But our inability to fully see how God's providence works does not make an anachronism of such providence. I may not fully understand electricity. Yet my failure to understand it completely does not prevent me from using its power. Neither do I deny it exists. Just because I cannot explain its workings in detail does not mean it is of no benefit to me. And so it is with God's provisions for both my body and spirit. The English word **providence** appears only once in the King James Bible. Tertullus, the orator commended Governor Felix for his providence toward the Jewish nation. The New King James uses the word **foresight** which really gets to the heart of the meaning of the Greek word.

God's foresight for His creatures is taught throughout Scripture. God asked Job, *"Who provides food for the raven?"* (38:41). In His mountain sermon, Jesus expands these provisions beyond the natural world for men and women who see God's kingdom (Matthew 6:25-34). Rather than make the sum of our lives a frantic search for food, clothing, and shelter, Jesus teaches we should remember that our Heavenly Father knows we have these needs! All these things (food, clothing, shelter) which God provides for the birds of the air, and the lilies of the field will also be provided for us if we serve God first. Why is this so? Man is more valuable to God than birds and flowers! (v. 26). Jesus is not endorsing laziness, slothfulness, or a "welfare" mentality. But he is trying to get us to see the necessity of faith in God - faith that He will provide if we serve Him faithfully and expectantly. It is faithless to expect anything less from our Father. Could we dare think our Father would abandon His children and leave us to fend for ourselves? How unthinkable! ~Jerry McKey

Book of Books

The Book of books contains the mind of God. God formally presented His will for man in the dispensations. Each dispensation progressively presents to mankind an understanding of God's plan of salvation. God has blessed us with redemption, even as He chose from the foundation of the world (Eph 1:3-15). It was God's good pleasure to freely bestow upon us forgiveness through the blood of Christ according to the riches of His grace in the fullness of time and sum up all things in Christ. The Christian has become the heir of salvation and has the earnest of redemption being the possession of God. Jesus Christ was born in the fullness of time, born under the law that He might become the Redeemer (Gal 4:1-7). We each are pilgrims and sojourners. Stained with sin we need to have salvation and must war against the enemy of our souls.

The state of man would be dismal if God had not intervened. God's wisdom assures us that what had not been seen with human eye, what had not been heard by human ear was revealed (1 Cor 2:6-12). Mankind needs a Saviour. The Spirit of God searches the deep things of God. The wisdom of man cannot equal the wisdom of God (1 Cor 1:18-31). God's wisdom is wiser than the disputer of this world. God made foolish the wisdom of the world. In this wisdom, which is from above, vile deeds are replaced with purity, peacefulness, mercy and good which is without variance (Jas 3:13-18).

The way of salvation is a straight and narrow way (Matt 7:13, 14). The broad way leads to destruction. Many follow the broad way, where few enter the narrow gate and find life everlasting at the end of life's solemn journey. The Scriptures describe the doom of sinners, and the hope of believers. The doctrine of holiness is a state or quality of being holy. Christ gave His life that all could become holy in the sight of God. The Scriptures uniquely join history and providence to demonstrate the immutability of God (Heb 6:13-20). God's decisions are incontrovertible filled with hope and joy.

Read the scriptures to be wise, **believe them to be secure**, and **practice them** to be consecrated unto God.

The **Book of books** contains perfect direction for life eternal. Feed upon it from a baby to eternity, let it support you and comfort you along life's way. **The Bible is a lamp** unto thy way and a map for your pilgrim's travels. Like a compass it will keep you on the true and holy paths of life. The Christian's character is advocated. Paradise lost is restored. Goodness will follow you all the days of your life. **Christianity involves** the highest responsibility and faithfulness is rewarded.

Don Hatch

Family News:

News at Belt Line.

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

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

March 20, 2011

Front foyer: Robert & Betty Ruckman

Back foyer: Robert & Cathy Taylor

March 27, 2011

Front foyer: Stan & Doris Selby

Back foyer: Thomas Rathbun & Carol Swinney

Sermon Titles

March 20, 2011

a.m.: "Assurance"

Scripture: 1 John 5:13-17

p.m.: "Elijah and Christ"

Scripture: 2 Kings 2:1-5

March 27, 2011

a.m.: "Physician"

Scripture: Mark 9:10-13

p.m.: "Rest-Refresh-Restore"

Scripture: Psalm 23:1-6

Contribution Counters

John Mayer & Bobby England

MISSION PRINTING

Mission Printing will meet
Sunday at 4:00 p.m. in the Jr.
Auditorium.

SINGING SESSION

The singing class will meet
Sunday in Rm #116 at 5:15 p.m.

MENS'

GATHERING/DEVOTIONAL

The **Monday morning** devotional
will be at 6:00 a.m. in the annex.
All men are invited to this period
of time for thought, scripture and
prayer. The fellowship is edifying.

Teens

Darrell Allen announced that
there will be a Teen Work
Day in April. Please see Darrell or

John if you have a special project
for these young people.

LADIES

The **Ladies Class** has been
suspended for Spring Break and
will resume March 22nd. Ilene
Ashworth will be teaching. Her
subject is "The Parable of
Talents".

A few ladies asked for a copy of
Richard Harvey's lesson from
March 1. Please see Beverly
McKey to pick up a copy.

NEWS OF THE SICK

•**Jean Kelly** has been moved to
Hearthstone of Irving, Room #2.
2425 Texas Dr. Irving, Tx 75062.

•**Thomas Rathbun** has been
suffering with the shingles for the
past two weeks.

•**Sister Ivy Paul's** Granddaughter
Carolyn had a miscarriage.

•**Serena Jacob** is ill with
bronchitis.

•**Garldean Latham** had a major
setback. She is stable and
responsive.

•**Gina Pearson**, Jerry & Laquita
Baker's daughter does not have
cancer, however she does have
hepatitis.

•**Melaina Taylor**, granddaughter
of Robert & Kathy Taylor is in
Children's Hospital, Little Rock,
Arkansas following being hit by a
car.

•Due to complications with
medications, **Hank Henry** is
home after being in the ER last
week.

•**Faye West**, is at home following
treatments.

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Erma Lee Baker, Bobby Bowen,
Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Jean
Kelly, Frances LaFerney,

Garldean Latham, Tom Prince,
Jan Smithson.

Sympathy

Samantha Howard's uncle James
Coates passed away Tuesday.
Visitation is Sunday at Moore's
Funeral Home at 5:00 to 7:00.
Funeral is Tuesday at 12:00 at
Bowles Baptist Church. Interment is
at National Cemetery Tuesday at
2:00 p.m.

New Address

Perry Cotham has a new address:
2305 Corn Valley Rd. Grand
Prairie, Tx 75051. Room 107

Congratulations

Ken & Carol Lee have a new
Grandson, Jackson Thomas Lee,
born to Tommy and Melissa Lee on
February 25. He weighed 8 lbs 11
ozs and was 21 inches long.

•**New Periodical**, The Gospel
Minutes have been received. Please
pick up your copy in the front or
back foyer. After you read it share it
with someone. There are always
ample copies if you have a friend
that you want to take them one. This
is one of the best ways to create an
interest in things spiritual.

RESPONSE

Nancy Pond came forward
making this statement, "I want to
rededicate my life and be a better
Christian."

CARD RECEIVED

Thank you so much for the
birthday party. It was a great
surprise. It is so wonderful to be
blessed with such a loving church
family. In Christian Love, **Carol
Swinney**.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 3-20-11

Be sure and mark your calendar –

·Ladies' Class March 22nd –Ilene Ashworth “The Parable of the Talents”

·Ladies 10th Annual ½ day is coming soon-Sat. April 30th-pray-plan-participate
·39ers will meet Monday 21st at 6:30 pm in the annex

·Vacation Bible School in June

*If unable to serve on the Lord's table,
Please contact Mike Batot @ (972)741-2397.*

THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE THIS SUNDAY*

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

3/20/11

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

Front Table

Rear Table

·Jerry Baker
·Marvin Brown
·Mike Garrison
·Kenny Mayer
·Henry Seidmeyer
·Dorris Walker

· Bill Paschall
·Thomas Rathbun
·J.C. Ross
·Robert Taylor

· Jerry McKey
· Glen Kelley
· Garl Latham

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

· Dean Webb
1 John 5:13-17

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

· Darrell Allen
· Mike Batot

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

· Kenny Mayer
2 Kings 2:1-5

P.M. SONG LEADER(S)

· Garl Latham

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

·Bill Matthews
·John Mayer

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

·Bill Paschall

A.M. SONG LEADER

Darrell Allen

FOR THE RECORD: WEEK ENDING ATTENDANCE & BUDGET

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	84	77	81	100
A.M. Worship	144	145	145	150
P.M. Worship	71	75	74	75
Wed. Class	73	76	74	75
Ladies Bible Class	23	23	21	25
Contribution	\$7372	\$4825	\$5104	\$5553

MISSIONS

Willie & Del Gley – Ghana/Togo, Africa
Charlie & Mary DiPalma - Malaysia
Roland & Rose Mohsen – France
Glen & Kuin Tattersall – Australia
Gary & Nadya Workman – Ukraine
Oleg & Natasha Yakimenko – Russia
Wil & Telanda Sadler – Military Missions
Hyderabad Church of Christ - Hyderabad, India
Christ's Haven Children's Home - Keller, TX
Foster's Home for Children – Stephenville, TX
Wayne Jackson – Christian Courier on the Web
Dan Keele – Bear Valley School of Preaching
Ted Lingren - Sisophon Bible School – Cambodia
Mission Printing Worldwide Literature Distribution
Terry & Pam Laurence – Ft. Defiance, Arizona – Navajo Nation
Dennis & Beth Johnson - Chennai Teacher Training School – India
Rohan & Sandra Jones Capetown South Africa

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