



Belt Line Road Church of Christ

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

March 7, 2023

Volume 15 Number 9

1202 N. Belt Line Road
Irving, TX 75061
972-790-8606

Web site:

www.beltlinechurch.com

Schedule of Services

Sunday:

Bible Class 9:00 a.m.
AM Worship 10:00 a.m.
PM Worship 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday:

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

MINISTER

Doug Post

Email:

doug.post@beltlinechurch.com

ELDERS

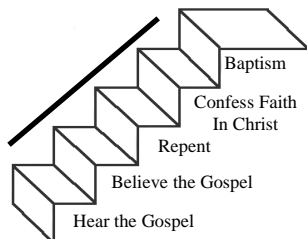
Darrell Allen
Richard Renfro
Dean Webb

SECRETARIES

Janice Daniel & Jerry Grantham
beltlinechurch@sbcglobal.net

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)



Calvinism (Part Fifteen) – Perseverance of the Saints

Doug Post

Human beings function naturally. Our bodies and all their intricate functions, from cell to organ, operate naturally – independent of outside interference. Our brain functions naturally, having natural cognitive processes. God designed us to function naturally while living in the natural realm. Our natural cognitive (mental) functions: *thinking, reasoning, and understanding*, operate through natural processes.

For instance, when information passes through my mind and is processed, I may be forced into having to make a choice about something. My *inward man* (spirit), along with my *conscience* (the two are not identical but are related), will perceive a course of action based upon how my mind processed the information.

I am (*the “ego” – the “I am,” “the me,” “the mind” of my inward man or spirit*) conscious of the information, as I perceive it through my senses. I’m cognizant of both the information and the potential choice, even the course of action I may take. But whatever choice I make it will involve either *right-doing* (righteousness) or *wrongdoing* (unrighteousness). Now let’s say I have chosen an unrighteous action (sin). Enter Calvinism’s influence.

Having been influenced by Calvinism and the idea of *Perseverance of the Saints* some folks will tell us the Holy Spirit’s “work” is to **DIRECTLY** aid me – interfering and manipulating my natural cognitive processes, so I’ll make the right choice and not sin. But that eradicates my free will and the natural cognitive processes that led to my choice. Rather than it being my choice, it was Deity’s choice. That which was to be natural, became supernatural. Therefore, Deity **made me do right**, which is the opposite of Flip Wilson’s, “the devil made me do it.” But, brethren, the Holy Spirit teaches a natural process is involved with free will:

“Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death” (James 1:12-15) ... “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it” (1 Corinthians 10:13).

In the final analysis of the above scenario, I really did not work righteousness (Acts 10:34-35), God did! My intentions were set on sin, not on minding spiritual things (Rom.8:5-7). I was made to do something I had not intended. Therefore, in such a scenario, could it really be said I obeyed from the heart if God had to alter my thinking (Rom.6:17)? Could it be said I offered myself as a living sacrifice (Rom. 12:1-2)? Could it be said I truly loved God with all of my heart, soul, mind, and strength if God had to **DIRECTLY** interfere in my decision-making process? But such is the insidious nature of Calvinism’s concepts, including its *Perseverance of the Saints* doctrine. This alleged direct operation of the Holy Spirit has, unfortunately, influenced some in the Lord’s church. Brethren, such an idea of a **DIRECT** “working” of the Spirit eliminates our natural human functions and cognitive operations that are part of our free-will system.

FAMILY NEWS:

News at Belt Line Road Church of Christ

Call in your information to the office at:

972-790-8606 by Sunday evening



Ongoing Health Concerns: Grady Fowler, Polly Roses, Nancy Pond, Jerry Baker, Anne Herriage, Katherine Cox, Marinell Zaun, Nelda Bell Newton, Donna Davis, Doris Selby, Carol Partridge, Mike Haynes, Jan Smithson, Jerry Grantham, Karen Rathbun, Terry Henson, Dean Webb, Keden Shrum, Chuck Murrell, Jeanene Heilman, Billy Whitfield

Home Bound Members: Gearldean Jones

Rehab: Anne Herriage (room #204-A)
Elma Lawrence (room #516) and Fernando Ybarra (room #510) – **Villages on MacArthur**
Polly Roses (room #206) and Donna Davis (room #312) – **West Fork Village**
Glen Kelly – **Christian Care** – (room #118) - (Mesquite, Tx.)

Military: Curtis Vaughan (Navy)

Major Chris & Abby Mathews (Air Force)

UPDATES:

Mike Haynes is scheduled for another cancer surgery on March 29th.

Blake, the 4 month old friend of **Sandy Hall** is headed to Boston with his parents for medical treatment.

Patrick Pauli's grandfather **James** had heart surgery on Monday.

Doris Selby was able to be back at services on Sunday.

Karen Rathbun's mother has been admitted to the hospital. **Karen** is on her way to be with her.

We have many of our number who are experiencing various health issues. Please keep them in your daily prayers. Daily prayers are also needed for our military, first responders and Hurricane victims.

Reminder: Sunday, March 12, 2023 – Is our Potluck Luncheon after Sunday Morning Worship.

Reminder: Time Change – Turn your clocks **forward** one hour before going to bed on **Saturday night**.

Sunday Morning Sermon Series for the Month of **March** will be “**How To Encourage**”

Sunday Evenings we will continue having our Question & Answers every two weeks and also a Sermon Series on “**New Testament Church**”. Please let me **encourage** you to come and learn. You will benefit greatly.

– Doug Post –

We are planning on restarting our Mission Printing collating of booklets in the Junior Auditorium on Sunday afternoons starting at 3:30 p.m. If you are interested in helping in this important mission work, please let Richard Renfro know.

If you want to make a donation to Mission Printing – please make your check out to “**Mission Printing**” not to the church.

A Special **Thank You** to Nora, Dee and Tammy for coming to the first Bear Ministry Fellowship on February 5. The next Bear Fellowship will be on Sunday, April 2. Please plan on coming and enjoy the fellowship.

There were 13 ladies who attended the Quarterly Ladies Bible Class last Friday.

Greeters scheduled for Sunday Morning – March 12, 2023

Front Foyer: Robert & Cathy Taylor

Back Foyer: Sandy Hall & George Tripp

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

3/11/23 Time Change – Spring
Forward One Hour

3/12/23 – Pot Luck Luncheon

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|---------------|------|
| Joseph Paul | 3/5 |
| Xavier Kaiser | 3/6 |
| Don Overturf* | 3/7 |
| Jerry Baker | 3/18 |
| George Tripp | 3/18 |
| Kay Overturf | 3/19 |
| David Cofer | 3/21 |

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| Don* & Kay Overturf | 3/12 |
| Gary & Nadya Workman | 3/29 |

THOSE TO SERVE ON: **March 12, 2023**

Song Leaders – a.m. Jerry McKey
p.m. Nathan Allen

Prayers – a.m. Richard Renfro
Joseph Paul
p.m. David Cofer
Darrell Allen

Scripture Reading – a.m. Richard Renfro
2 Timothy 1:15-17
p.m. Ray Simpson
Ephesians 4:1-6

Lord's Table – (Both Services) Darrell Allen & Walt LaHaye

ATTENDANCE & BUDGET NUMBERS

| | <u>3/5/23</u> | <u>YTD Avg.</u> | <u>Goal</u> |
|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Sunday Class | 38 | 31 | 100 |
| A.M. Worship | 72 | 62 | 150 |
| P.M. Worship | 42 | 38 | 80 |
| Wed. Class | 33 | 28 | 85 |
| Contribution | \$6,664 | \$4,999 | \$4,871 |

MISSIONARIES SUPPORTED

Willie & Del Gley – Ghana/Togo, Africa
David & Paula Tarbet – New Milford, CT
Matthew & Emma Idowu Fola – Lagos, Nigeria
Rohan & Sandra Jones – Cape Town, South Africa
Elangwe & Magdaline Gregory – Wotutu, Cameroon

OTHERS SUPPORTED

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 – Jose Mata, Michael Oliver

*“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”
Matt. 5:16*

“Do all things without ^[d]complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,” Phil. 2:14,15

Recently we laid to rest our beloved Bobby Allen. He was a kind, gentle, joyful, thoughtful, and sincere servant of the Lord. He always had a smile on his face and a positive word to whom he was speaking. He set a good example in so many ways. Bobby’s favorite scripture, which he surely showed in his life, was:

“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.” Gal. 6:9,10

As kids, we all probably played the game of follow the leader. A very simple game entailing that those who were following do what the leader did in exact detail. In all aspects of our lives, we should all strive to be a living representation of our Lord Jesus Christ, for he told us *“Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.” Luke 9:23*

We have the Word of God to teach and guide us in living like Christ. In addition, God blesses and aids us in the sacred quest by placing in our life folks who, are in one, some or many aspects, the living example of Jesus. To see someone who embodies and exudes a virtue that you struggle to attain, O what a gift! Mentally, it proves to you it is possible. Spiritually, it decreases doubt and increases hope. Physically, you have a live pattern and a source of counsel.

In your prayers, please thank the Lord for those, who are now gone, who led by example and aided you in your walk of Faith. Thank God, also, for those about you who do the same. Let them know of your appreciation, for we are to be grateful and encouraging.

Darrell Allen

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