

Belt Line Road Church of Christ

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

Established 33 AD

May 15, 2023

Volume 15 Number 17

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

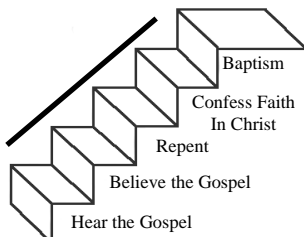
Believe - John 8:24

Repent - Acts 17:30

Confess - Romans 10:10

Be Baptized - Acts 22:16

Saved - in Christ (Galatians 3:27)



FAITH AND BAPTISM

Doug Post

In Acts 8 we find Philip the evangelist instructing the Ethiopian Eunuch about Christ from out of Isaiah 53. At some point during the teaching, the Eunuch said, “**See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?**” (Acts 8:36). Philip said he could be baptized if he would but, first, confess Christ as the Son of God. The Eunuch confessed Christ, then they immediately went down into the water where Philip baptized him for the forgiveness of sins (8:38).

Baptism is an act of faith at which point our sins are forgiven (washed away). Forgiveness of sins come, not before baptism, but after. Hear the words of Jesus on the matter: “**He that believes AND is baptized shall be saved**” (Mark 16:16). Christ placed salvation (forgiveness of sins) after both faith and baptism. This passage is so very plain yet so many in the religious world reject the necessity of baptism. What is it about immersion in water, which our Lord commands, that so many people find so objectionable, even to despise the mere mention of it?

Perhaps it’s because God requires us to do something before receiving the forgiveness of sins. Some argue that that that salvation is a free gift of grace, not of works of obedience. But God’s word simply requires baptism as a condition of salvation, not a work of obedience that merits it. The truth of the matter is Jesus, Himself, requires it. He provided those very words after His death, burial, and resurrection, wherein the grace of God was manifested to the world. Yet, there are conditions to receive salvation, and the first condition if faith. Faith is foundational for other conditions, such as repentance, confession and baptism, and fort continuing to live faithfully.

God stipulated His gracious gift of salvation will only be given to those who, in the obedience of faith (Romans 1:5; 16:26), are willing to obey the gospel (1 Peter 4:17; 2 Thess.1:7-9). Baptism by faith is the point wherein our sins are remitted (Acts. 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21). In the New Testament, baptism was always the point at which a person moved from being dead in sin to being alive in Christ (Acts. 22:16). Even the Ethiopian Eunuch went away rejoicing after coming up out of the waters of baptism (Acts 8:39).

We need to reflect on the importance of baptism as an act of faith in obedience to the gospel. Yes, we are justified by faith (Rom.5:1), but we are equally justified by works. James writes: “**What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead**” (James 2:14-17).

In fact, it is impossible to be justified by faith only. Hear again what the Holy Spirit says through James: “**You see then that a man is justified by works, and NOT BY FAITH ONLY**” (James 2:24, Emphasis DP). God chose to set whatever conditions He chose to separate the saved from the lost. The proper response on our part is to humbly and thankfully accept the terms, or conditions, God has provided for salvation.

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, Nelda Bell Newton, Doris Selby, Michelle Reed, Richard Renfro, Jeanene Heilman, Jerry Grantham, Billy Whitfield, Charlotte Burrows, Carol Partridge, Keden Shrum

Home Bound Members: Gearldean Jones

Rehab: Anne Herriage (room #204-A) – **Avante**
Elma Lawrence (room #516) and Fernando Ybarra (room #510) – **Villages on MacArthur**
Polly Roses (room #206) – **West Fork Village**
Glen Kelly – **Christian Care** – (room #118) - (Mesquite, Tx.)
Virginia Stull – **Morada** – (room #118B) – (Grand Prairie, Tx.)

Military: Curtis Vaughan (Navy)

Major Chris & Abby Mathews (Air Force)

UPDATES:

Mary Elaina Vaughan will have her arm surgery this week.

Elma Lawrence had successful Laser surgery on her right eye. She will be having her other eye done next week. She has also requested prayers for her sister's health.

Carol Partridge has been released from the hospital. She will be staying with her daughter for a while and needs our continued prayers on her behalf.

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 missionaries, military, first responders and tornado victims.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Carolyn Renfro and family on the passing of her brother-in-law Joe Sherro last Friday. Services are pending at this time.

Who: Village Creek Church Of Christ
What: 2023 Wednesday Night Summer Series
Theme: "Death, Judgment And The End Of The World"
Speakers: Gary Workman, Eli Schnell, John Haffner and Dan Flournoy
Further information on the bulletin board

The Annual DFW Summer Youth information is on the bulletin board.

Greeters scheduled for Sunday Morning – May 21, 2023

Front Foyer: Terry & Clarine Henson

Back Foyer: Jackye Jewitt & Alice Worthy

CALENDAR OF EVENTS**THOSE TO SERVE ON: May 21, 2023****MAY BIRTHDAYS**

Vicki Catlin 5/1
 Kati Mimms 5/13
 Jerry McKey 5/14
 Janice Daniel 5/16
 Nancy Watts 5/20
 Myrtle Wade 5/21
 Margaret Lewis 5/27
 Susan Krueger 5/27
 Polly Roses 5/30

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Don & Anne Herriage 5/18
 Dean & Joy Webb 5/23

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

Prayers – a.m. Darrell Allen
 George Tripp
 p.m. Richard Renfro
 Darrell Allen

Scripture Reading – a.m. Dean Webb
 1 Corinthians 10:13
 p.m. Doug Post
 Various

Lord's Table – (Both Services) Jerry McKey & Dean Webb

ATTENDANCE & BUDGET NUMBERS

	<u>5/14/23</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sunday Class	35	33	100
A.M. Worship	79	64	150
P.M. Worship	31	38	80
Wed. Class	31	28	85
Contribution	\$4,194	\$4,836	\$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*

Christians have the joy of celebrating enduring and lasting love every single day because of God's great love for us. God knew us before we took our first breath in this life, and He gives us an almost indescribable love, "that we should be called children of God!" (1 John 3:1). 1 John 4:16 tells us, "... God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him." "We love Him because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19). And there is nothing that has the power to "separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39).

Love is more than mere words. It is action-driven. In 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 we are told, "Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails." 1 John 3:18 says, "... let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth."

When we love God more than anything else, we strive to serve Him in everything we do; and we strive to imitate the great love that He has given to us. As we treat others with love, we become more gracious and attentive to their needs, we become more generous and kinder, and we become more forgiving. As we go about our week, let's do so with a sincere gratitude for the great love that we have been given and show others that love by our actions and interactions with them. "Let all that you do be done with love" (1 Cor 16:14).

Please remember to pray for those who are sick, our shut-ins and those who have lost loved ones.

Dean Webb

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