

Belt Line Road Church of Christ

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

December 11, 2017
Volume 9 Number 44

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.... 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

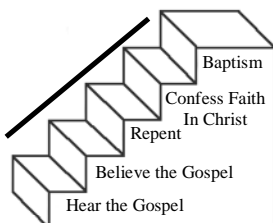
Janice Daniel & Jerry Grantham
beltlinechurch@sbcglobal.net

CUSTODIANS

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)



Heaven Is Real

Don Hatch

Historically no one seriously doubts Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Today Christians are called upon to make a defense for the hope they hold (1 Pet 3:15). This verbal defense is done with speech and truth. Frequently the New Testament uses the word apologetics (Greek *απολογία*) equating it with defending what is believed and allowing others to examine what is called truth (1 Cor 9:3; 2 Tim 4:16; Phil 1:7; 2 Cor 7:11). The formal question often asked is “why are you a Christian?” Christianity is purported to be everything to mankind or nothing. It is either the highest assurance or greatest figment of the imagination. It is important that Christians be able to give an accounting for their hope. The proof of an all powerful, infinitely wise, loving God is supported by His creation, natural laws, man’s nature and history of Israel and Christianity. Christianity appeals to history with the most patented accessible information and indisputable facts. These facts are more than religious. The Bible uses history, law, geography, and culture with countless noteworthy people, places and things as proof. Even those who question Christianity cannot dispute the facts. God demonstrated His love by sending Jesus. Jesus died to prove there was a God (Eph 1:3-13; Jn 3:16; 10:10). Man was created to have fellowship with God. Jesus came to restore this fellowship (2 Cor 5:18-20; 6:14-18). An attitude of rebellion is characterized by stubbornness, self-will and choosing one’s own way independent of God. Jesus Christ is the only provision made for the removal of man’s sin.

Faith in Christ is not a blind faith. One does not have to commit intellectual suicide to believe in Christ. There is no joy or rejoicing in what the heart cannot believe (Rom 10:1-17; Phil 4:4-7). Christians know whom they have believed (2 Tim 1:12). One believes in Christ because it is more rational than unbelief. Belief in Christianity is based upon evidence and is assured of by adequate information to back up belief. Faith must have an object. Christianity’s is salvation based upon a relationship with Jesus Christ of Nazareth and is diametrically opposed to philosophical presuppositions. It matters what one believes, not that one believes. The entire value system of Christianity is based upon certain beliefs. It is not just the one trusting, but also the one who is trusted. There must be an object of one’s faith (Jesus Christ of Nazareth). We must trust the eyewitnesses not mythology.

Christianity is attached to a person who the writers of the New Testament saw, touched and heard (1 Jn 1:1-5; Lk 1:1-4; 1 Cor 15:1-8; Jn 20:30,31; Acts 10:37-48; 1 Pet 5:1). The Apostles were eyewitnesses to Jesus life, death, burial, resurrection and ascension. Christians leap into the light not the dark. Rejection of Christ is not so much of the mind as it is of the will. When one wills to do His will, the human will be changed. Ignorance, pride or human problems are no excuse for unbelief. Jesus can resolve all things.

God is real. Creation of the universe and man are overwhelming proofs of God (Gen 1; Rom 1-18-20). The Bible has been disputed but never proven wrong. It claims there is a God, in whom we live, move and have our being (Acts 17:16-31). The proof of God is the determination of the nations, their appointed habitations and the judgment of the nations by his righteous servant Jesus Christ. God created heaven; Jesus longed to return to glory (Jn 17:1-26). Heaven is real because God created it and promised us a dwelling place there (Jn 14:1-5). We believe are in a world that was created by the word of God (Heb 11:1-3). Therefore, there is a heaven.

The Bible is true from beginning to end (Ps 119:160). There is no other book like the Bible. Its unique teachings are beyond the realm of human reasoning. Holy men were guided by the Holy Spirit to write it (2 Pet 1:20, 21). God approved of the Apostles through signs, wonders and manifold works of the Holy Spirit (Heb 2:1-5). We trust in the Bible, a production that took over a 1400-years to write, by individuals who lived on different continents, and had diverse backgrounds from kings to cupbearers. There is a unity of the whole. It is the greatest book of the Western World. It teaches of heaven and Paradise lost is Paradise regained in Christ. The Bible promises us that God will eternally save the faithfully obedient. One improves his good judgment by spending time with the one book that has proved to make a difference and is different from all others.

Death is real, the grave is for mortal man’s remains but such was never spoken so of the soul. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob are alive in God (Matt 22:32). The Bible testifies that Heaven is the final abode of the redeemed (Matt 25:31-46). Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead and wept because he would suffer and die again (Jn 11). Jesus told the sisters of Lazarus that He was the resurrection. Death will come but there is a promise of an afterlife.

The Bible makes it clear that if there is a heaven there is also a Hell. Hell was not the appointed place for man (Matt 25:41). Jesus taught that a beggar went to the Abraham’s bosom and a rich man ended in torment (Lk 16: 19-31). If there is a devil’s hell, there is a glorious heaven. The same Bible that proves one also proves the other. If the Bible stresses the fearfulness of hell then heaven is viewed as a reward and a Paradise.

FAMILY CARE
A Message from Our Shepherds

As we close out the year let us realize that courage is the heart and soul of encouragement. Like Peter, modern Christians will find that some days they behave with more courage than others. When courage is activated, it enables ordinary people to uphold their convictions and accomplish their dreams. By overcoming bad attitudes, mistaken beliefs, and negative expectations, you can begin living courageously.

Courage is a divine resource needed by all people. It is not reserved for prophets or police officers. The lives of ordinary people may not be as glamorous as those in high risk or high profile occupations, but their need for strength to deal with day-to-day struggles is no less real. It takes courage to discipline children in a permissive society. It takes determination to decline lucrative job opportunities that infringe on family life. It takes nerve to seek fulfillment as a homemaker in a liberated world. Courageous men and women endure, bear up, tough it out, and keep on keeping on. Courage is what it takes to follow through on goals despite hardships or difficulties. It enables students to study when they would prefer to play. It empowers athletes to work out when they would like to sleep in. It inspires dieters to eat sensibly when they would rather indulge. Impressive displays of courage are exhibited every day in the lives of regular people. More than anyone else, Christians should recognize that courage is needed on a daily basis. What should a person do when asked by the boss to falsify information on insurance forms? How does a Christian respond to group pressure to participate in immoral or unethical behavior? It takes backbone to walk down an aisle and request baptism or the prayers of the congregation. It requires boldness for a Christian to share his or her faith with friends and co-workers. It takes guts to contend for the faith against false teaching. Yes, courage makes it possible for an individual to stand up for what he or she believes even when it is unpopular. So, as we come to the close of 2017 let us be courageous in our lives and realize that it is God who we are to please and not man.

May everyone have a great 2018 and God bless!

Jerry McKey

How God Speaks

Any discussion about how God speaks to mankind today must first rest upon the foundation of **Verbal Plenary Inspiration**. If inerrancy is not accepted and inspiration of the Bible is denied little ground can be found for discussing the chain of authority of God to speak to modern mankind.

Anything short of saying, the items that establish Christianity are truth and accuracy falling short of the basis of Christian belief. Cunning fables cannot coexist with truth. God bore witness to Jesus Christ as His beloved Son (Matt 3:17; 17:1-5; Jn 12:28; 2 Pet 1:17). God made prophecies sure and He bore witness to Jesus and His apostles with signs, wonders, manifold powers and gifts of the Holy Spirit (Heb 2:1-5). No prophecy of Scripture is of private interpretation because true prophecy came by God and holy men spoke being moved by the Holy Spirit (1 Pet 1:20,21). In the past God chose to use various ways and means to speak with the prophets who in turn faithfully relayed the messages word for word to the people (Heb 1:1,2). Today the scriptures make one wise unto salvation when they are not wrested (2 Tim 3:15; 2 Pet 3:14-18).

In Scripture God is identified as Creator, Sustainer, Sovereign, Ruler and Savior. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are one in purpose and nature. Mystical pagan gods are no-gods with contrasting purposes and nature. Jesus proved unity with the Father was by doing His will. Moreover, Jesus said the Holy Spirit would come to portray the same purpose and unity (Jn 15 & 16). Jesus claimed that what would be taught by those guided by the Holy Spirit would make disciples one as He was one with the Father (Jn 17:20, 21).

The Godhead has harmony of thought and action with separate functions. The Father remained upon the "white throne" as Sovereign. Jesus, who was equal with the Father, for the sake of redeeming man was made a little lower than angels and was placed in a subordinate position as man and a servant (Phil 2:5-10). Jesus had the fullness of the Godhead dwelling in Him (Col 2:9). He became God with us and gave Himself for our redemption (Matt 1:18-20; 2 Cor 5:18-20). The Holy Spirit is an active agent for both the Father and Son wherein He manifests what is sin, righteousness and judgment to come (Jn 16:7-14). The liaison between Father, Son and Holy Spirit is a wonderful part of the Godhead (divinity) seeking mankind's salvation. We are guided to know and understand this only in the Bible. Any act or utterance from the Godhead is final in authority for they all act in concert with one another.

In the Christian dispensation, the Father has given all authority to the Son in heaven and upon earth (Matt 28:18-20). With the exception being the Father (1 Cor 15:24-28). Receipt of this was announced to the apostles between the resurrection and ascension. Now as King of kings, Jesus accomplishes the purpose of His reign (1 Cor 15:24-28; Rev 19:16). Christ is now the author and finisher of our faith and salvation (Heb 12:2). As author, no angel, man or council can add, subtract or amend His covenant (Gal 1:6-10).

During His earthly ministry Jesus chose and trained men to be his witnesses (Acts 1:3-10). Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would guide them into all truth (Jn 16:13). The Holy Spirit was to guide them into all remembrance of what Jesus taught (Jn 14:26). Therefore, they were infallible witnesses (Jn 15:26, 27). Their message was confirmed by miracles (Mk 16:15-16; Heb 2:1-5). They were empowered to convey limited power to others, some of which prophesied (Acts 8:1-25; 1 Cor 12:12-31; 14:1-40). The test of all prophecy was agreement with the apostolic doctrine (Acts 2:42; 1 Cor 14:37; 1 Jn 4:5, 6; 1 Cor 3:6).

It is crucial that anyone changing doctrine be anathematized (Gal 1:6-10). Timothy was instructed to warn Ephesus that no other doctrine should be taught (1 Tim 1:3).

Don Hatch

FAMILY NEWS:

News at Belt Line

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

DECEMBER ASSIGNMENTS

GREETERS:

Dec. 17 – Front Foyer – Robert & Cathy Taylor
Back Foyer – Bobby & Brenda England

Dec. 24 – Front Foyer – Richard & Carolyn Renfro
Back Foyer – Glen Kelly & Polly Roses

Communion Preparation: Bobby & Brenda England

Contribution Counters: Glen Kelly & Kenny Mayer

SERMONS

Dec. 17 – a.m. “Know The Lord”
Exodus 6:1-9
p.m. “What Shall I Render To The
Lord” -- Psalms 116:12-19

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

Ongoing Health Concerns: Bobby Bowen, Dessie Ross, Carol Swinney, David & Faye West, Laquita Baker, Ezra Castro, Nellie Melvin, Grady Fowler, Paul Kelly, David Hawkins, Beverly McKey, Jimmy Webb, Barbara Reagan, Alice Worthy, Parker Sneed

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

Nursing Homes: **Nellie Melvin** – Avalon Memory Care

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

Ladies Bible Class on **Tuesday, December 12th** will be filling the **Goodie Bags** for Christmas. Please mark your calendar and join us at **9:45 a.m.** After this date the class will be dismissed for the Christmas Holidays. **Have a Merry Christmas!**

PRAYER CONCERNS

Bill & Linda Matthews have not been felling well. **Charlotte Burrows** has asked for prayers for her cousin **Parker Sneed**. He is 21 years old and his heart is only working at 30 percent. **Jeanene Heilman's** daughter **Mandy** was injured from a fall on the ice in Chicago. Jeanene is on her way to help out with the grand children. Please keep them in your prayers.

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

DIRECTORY PICTURES

If you need an updated picture taken, please meet in the Library after each Sunday Service during the month of **December**.

39'ers

Our monthly 39'ers get-together will be on **Monday, December 18th** at **6:30 p.m.** in the Annex. We will be doing **finger foods** this month (sandwiches, chips, etc.) instead of a full pot luck meal as we always do. Please come and enjoy the wonderful Christian fellowship.

There are **Thank You Notes** on the bulletin board from **Linda Head, Scott & Debbie Wintle** and also from **Polly Roses**.

We extend our sympathy to **Max Melton's** family as **Max** passed away on Saturday. Services are pending. Chism-Smith Funeral Home will be handling the services.

Men who serve on the Lord's Table on Sunday mornings, please go to room #116 **five minutes** before services.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

12/18/17 – 39'ers – Annex – 6:30 pm

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Grady Fowler – 12/1
 Lotah Franklin – 12/6
 Virginia Stull – 12/6
 Max (Walter) Milton – 12/7
 Barbara Reagan – 12/12
 Elizabeth Garrison – 12/13
 Crystal Morris – 12/13
 Virgil LaFerney – 12/17
 Linda Matthews – 12/17
 Kim Mayer – 12/20
 Carol Lee – 12/24
 Kent Conner – 12/27
 Brenda England – 12/29
 Lovetta Smith – 12/31

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Bill* & Carolyn Montgomery – 12/22
 Mike & Sharon Haynes – 12/24
 David & Judy Odom – 12/31

*If unable to serve on the Lord's table,
 please contact Curtis Vaughan:
 (469) 216-7580*

BELT LINE ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

(USPS 110820) published weekly except the first 3 weeks of July and the last 2 weeks of December at 1202 N. Belt Line Rd., Irving, Texas 75061. Periodicals postage paid at Irving, Texas.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Belt Line Rd. Church of Christ, 1202 N. Belt Line Rd., Irving, Texas 75061

THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE THIS SUNDAY

<u>LORD'S TABLE (MORNING)</u>		12/17/17	<u>SUNDAY PRAYERS</u>
<u>Front Table</u>	<u>Rear Table</u>		A.M. – Jerry McKey Don Herriage Darrell Allen
Richard Renfro	Thomas Rathbun		P.M. – Jerry Baker John Mayer
Ray Simpson	Glen Kelly		
Purman Cofer	Curtis Vaughan		
Dean Webb	Bobby England		
John Mayer			
Kenny Mayer			
<u>LORD'S TABLE (EVENING)</u>			<u>SCRIPTURE READING</u>
Alex Mayer			A.M. – Bill Matthews Exodus 6:1-9
Don Herriage			P.M. – Thomas Rathbun Psalms 116:12-19
<u>SONG LEADERS</u>			<u>COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS</u>
A.M. – Randy Reagan			Robert Taylor
P.M. – Nathan Allen			

FOR THE RECORD: ATTENDANCE & BUDGET NUMBERS

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	63	65	60	100
A.M. Worship	107	102	95	150
P.M. Worship	74	68	66	80
Wed. Class	66	53	63	85
Contribution	\$6980	\$6083	\$5411	\$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 – Garrett English

BELT LINE ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST
1202 N. Belt Line Road - Irving, TX 75061

**PERIODICALS POSTAGE
 PAID
 AT IRVING, TEXAS**