

Belt Line Road Church of Christ

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

September 2, 2014
Volume 6 Number 32

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.... 7:30 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

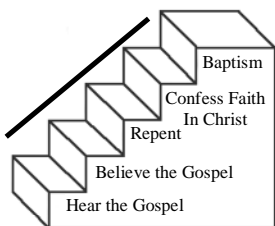
Janice Daniel & Jerry Grantham
beltlinechurch@sbcglobal.net

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)



Encompassed By A Cloud Of Witnesses

Don Hatch

Removing God from public conscience should cause believers alarm. If the public holds no value system other than “might makes right” the world will become intolerably bitter and hateful. If an individual is going to act meaningfully he must have a rational ability to count the cost before he acts.

Oppression and tyranny are not right judgments and leave no lasting values upon which to build a society. Right judgments and proper actions always comingle. Deciding and thinking clearly require proper forethought and evaluating choices carefully. What will be our moral compass? Morality is the habits and customs valued because they have been found to favorably benefit society.

Ethics display discipline in dealing with moral principles and values. Mankind cannot survive a purposeless and materialistic process. If there is a God, then not all is permitted. There are checks and balances, moral and immoral, right and wrong which are greater than man. Any attempt to establish morality apart from the **Judeo-Christian** principles is like planting a rootless apple tree in the ground expecting it to produce fruit. History is replete with results of false religions and their practices which compel others to capitulate to their principles due to force. No sane person will argue that “anything goes”. Forgetting personal obligations, becoming insensitive so as to abandon good ethics may take the upper hand until others ignore them and surrender. At some point inequity is fully noted and disavowed. What is being seen across the world cannot long be tolerated. Tyrants are never a means to hope and order. There can be no meaningful ethics without God. We can know God (Psm 139). We can know that the Bible is His word and a standard worthy of practicing. Christian ethics involve a search for convictions which are logical and moral.

A stage of societal disintegration is profanity. Profane swearing and taking the name of God in vain is a vice practiced by all sections of mankind. It is a towering and offensive sin when using God as the poisonous venom to attack ethical balance in a society. God’s name must stand for Him and His purity. It should demand respect and honor. Both Old and New Testaments manifest that using God’s name in

vain is a symptom of a black sludge surging upon society. Taking the name of the Lord in vain, false swearing and profaning God’s name is reproached by God (Ex 20:7; Lev 19:12; Zech 5:1). Idle words, communications which are evil and cursing are among the items New Testament writers tell mankind to shun (Jas 3:10; Col 3:8; Mat 5:24; 12:36, 37).

Bywords and slang are irreverent and blasphemous dialogues which defame God. Flippant, frivolous and off-colored remarks are deadly. When contemptuous remarks are the core of conversation the body of society is being destroyed. It is a serious matter when individuals glibly use God’s name in a rude manner. Phraseology and words designed to be sinister and vile eventually dare to take the holy name of God in a vain way. Interjections [*form of speech*, usually thrown about as short pungent “barbs”] often use the names of holy things like Jesus, Christ, heaven and God as exclamations. Throwing out words for emphasis and substituting other words or phrases from holy things is a loathsome and disgusting way to emphasize a conversation. Many common by-words are dropped without serious regard to their meaning. Avoiding the appearance of evil should be significant.

Let us all remind ourselves that we should not acquiesce to temptation, for such is sin. Victories in Jesus help us to win others. The fight is on and we must press dutifully onward subduing passions which are marked as sins of the flesh (Gal 5:16-21). Looking to the Lord, who is holy, leaning on His everlasting arms, assures us that He will see us through to the end. The great comfort which comes is a strength to press on to the goal of the high calling in Christ (Phil 3:14). We must abstain from all appearance of evil, evil companions and removing bad language so that it does not stain the lips and betray us. Thoughtful and kind hearted individuals conquer self (1 Tim 4:6-16).

Doubtlessly many who curse and use euphemistic substitutes do not take note that the use of sacred things in a profane manner is costly. Crude vocabularies are a weakness of intelligence. Putting away false speaking, not giving way to the devil and not letting corrupt speech proceed from our mouths means we seek to have words which edify, bring grace and kindness (Eph 4:25-31). Those who walked worthily in the past are like a “**cloud of witnesses**”, demonstrating that righteous lives filled with reverence can be lived because sin was laid aside and the race was run with persistence (Heb 12:1-4; 2 Tim 4:1-10). Any person who knows what is truly right will strive to do it. A self-aware person will act within his capabilities, and potential, while an ignorant person will flounder and encounter difficulties.

FAMILY CARE
A Message from Our Shepherds

This month in my articles I would like to talk about the influence we have in our lives, so let's get started.

The power of influence is staggering. Astronomers, watching the peculiar behavior of the planet Uranus, deduced that it must be under the influence of another planet. Thus convinced, they pointed their great telescope in the correct direction and discovered the planet Neptune.

So what is **influence**? Influence is that moral spiritual force, power or capacity by which we have an effect upon a person, condition, or development. Jesus presents this moral force-influence under the metaphor of: **Light (Mat 5:14-16)** *"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden."*¹⁵ *"Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house."*¹⁶ *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."* Verse 14 is a further testimony to the indispensable nature of God's children (US). The comparison is between a city on a hill and a group, or church, of his disciples. Our influence cannot be ignored in the world. Verses 15-16 sets forth instructions regarding the Christian's light, or influence, in the world. Christ forbids hiding it under a bushel or basket. We do not want to obscure our influence for the truth and this applies to everything in our lives.

What then should be done with the light, or influence of the Christian's life? It should be placed upon *"a lampstand"* according to God. The stand is nothing less than the church of Jesus Christ, namely, the local congregation. **Rev 1:20** identifies the lampstands as the churches. *"The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches."* So by putting in on *"the stand"* what are we as Christians to do? The command is to glorify God through an abundance of good works. So *"Let your light shine."*

Next week we will talk about salt as it relates to our influence.

Jerry McKey

Both Old and New Testaments are based upon belief in miracles. Creation, the Exodus and numerous other miracles did occur. In the Exodus there were millions of people who witnessed the plagues, crossing the Red Sea, water from the rock, quail, manna, clothing which did not rot to name a few. The faith Israel had that one of their own would arise to be their redeemer, be born of a virgin in a certain town, children killed following His birth, His ministry, life, death, burial and resurrection were inscribed hundreds and thousands of years before He came. Without the Old Testament there could be no faith in the New Testament. In the New Testament the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is a major miracle. If Christ was not raised the preaching of the gospel was and is in vain, the apostles were false witnesses, the dead will not rise and the faith preached as well as those who believed were pitiful (1 Cor 15:12-19).

Don Hatch

Sound Doctrine

Doctrine depends upon the concept, definition and constitution of the Christian teachings clearly taught in the words of the Bible. The history of doctrine is a history of the efforts made to develop and shape the substance of Christian faith. Deviations from pure teachings of the Bible must not linger. We must be exposed to truth and love (Eph 4:11-16). Perfecting the saints is the process of making the disciples fit for the Master's use. It stresses the actual accomplishments to bring the saint to completeness and assurance found in the wisdom from above (Jas 3:13-18). Doctrine does not depend on the doctrine of the church. Denominational doctrine has changed countless times to suite the demands of those within. The church must conform to the Bible, not the Bible conforming to the church. It is the object of doctrine to give the fullest possible answer and unfold for the church that which is pleasing to God.

Doctrine must be traced from the first century and distinguish itself as the presentation of divine will on all matters. Differences in **circumstance** and **culture** have historical backgrounds which can be understood. It is not the parts of the Bible we can understand that give us trouble. It is the parts of the Bible that can be understood, which are not practiced, that give us the greatest problems. Often individuals read the Bible but find it hard to understand and therefore abandon it out of sheer frustration, discouragement or puzzlement. Losing contact with the Bible and its doctrine becomes a closed issue and it is treated as an artifact of our primitive past. Nothing is further from the truth. The Church of Christ must be fascinated with the teachings and message which is relevant to the entire last dispensation. (Heb 3).

Following New Testament teachings we should take up the Bible with confidence that not one passage will pass away until all things are fulfilled and breaking the commandments has a guarantee of great risk (Mat 5:17-20). The Lord warned that breaking the commandments was deadly and so too was the teachings of false doctrine in the name of the Lord (Mat 7:15-23; 23:1-36). Admittedly the Bible is a book which takes consideration and study. Wrestling with the scriptures sharpens our skills to the details of the Lord's word. The more intensely and patiently we examine the text the more will be gained in personal growth.

Intentionally the Bible establishes its teachings through a consecrated study in order that a lasting impression would be established and not just a superficial overview. The Bible keeps the **true student** from an unfair mind and from deceitfully hiding the evidence as it must be seen and understood. For those who seek to quibble at difficulties the opportunities are lessened and the intent to confuse or be frivolous becomes obvious. The strong medicine is meant to tame disagreements with objectors in that the careful study of the easy passages make the harder more straightforwardly understandable.

The profound influence of doctrine is in accord with God's desire that "hard of interpretation" be overcome by a hearer who does not forget (Heb 5:11-14; Jas 1:24). Those who will not heed the word of the Lord do not learn the reasoning needed to exercise a discernment of good and evil. Not enduring sound doctrine must be rebuked, exhorted and improved (2 Tim 4:1-8).

Don Hatch

Family News:

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

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

September 7, 2014

Front foyer: Richard & Carolyn Renfro

Back foyer: Thomas Rathbun & Doris Selby

September 14, 2014

Front foyer: Robert & Betty Ruckman

Back foyer: Bobby & Brenda England

Sermon Titles

September 7, 2014

a.m: "His Word"

Scripture: Titus 1:1-4

p.m: "Know The Father"

Scripture: John 14:7-14

September 14, 2014

a.m: "A Family"

Scripture: Philemon 1-3

p.m: "Do Not Be Lead Astray"

Scripture: Matthew 24:3-8

Contribution Counters For September

John Mayer & Thomas Rathbun

Communion Preparation For September

Bill & Linda Matthews

MISSION PRINTING

Mission Printing will meet *Sunday* at 4:00 p.m. in the Jr. Auditorium to collate booklets. Please come help us and enjoy the Christian fellowship.

PRAYER LIST

Ongoing Health Concerns:

Bobby Bowen, Jane Easter, Joann Hatch, Serena Hatch, J.C. and Dessie Ross, Denzil Myers, Tom Prince, *Tom Head, Faye West

Homebound Members:

Roy and Helen Thomas, Mary Walker, Gearldean Jones, Frances LaFerney

Recovering at Home:

.Jerry Catlin is now at home after having knee surgery last week.

.Paul Hart (former member) fell last Monday in rehab and fractured his left hip.

Hospital:

.Alice Worthy is in Las Colinas Medical Center, room #204.

Upcoming Procedures:

.Carolyn Renfro will be having cataract surgery today.

.Anne Herriage will also be having cataract surgery.

Nursing Home:

Billie Myers – Northgate Plaza
Fauna Garrett – Emerall Hills
Rehab Center

Dorothy Smith – Avalon
Elsie Nanney – Elm Croft

Military:

Chris and Abigail Mathews

SUMMER SERIES

Our Wednesday night **Summer Series** is drawing to a close. Our speaker on **September 3rd** will be **Ken Hope**. Ken's topic will be "**Virtue's Exceeding Strength**" – **Ephesians 3:14-19**

A set of **keys** were found in the parking lot yesterday morning. They are in the church office.

TEACHERS

The new quarter starts on Wednesday night, **September 3rd** and Sunday, **September 7th**.

CHRIST'S HAVEN FOR CHILDREN

Christ's Haven **Fall Work Day** is Saturday, **Sept. 13th**. If you can help in this effort, please register online at www.ChristsHaven.org. The volunteers are invited to enjoy lunch with the Christ Haven families and staff at the conclusion of the Work day!

LADIES CLASS

Ladies Class will begin on Tuesday, **September 9th** at 10 a.m. at the Annex. We will be studying about **Bible Women**.

RESPONSES

Devante Dunn was baptized last Wednesday evening.

The following people came forward Sunday asking for the prayers of the congregation:

Jeanene Heilman, Joann Hatch, Tom and Billie Prince, Donna Davis, Sherry Hodge, Amber Vaughan

SYMPATHY

Our love and sympathy go out to **Kati Mimms** whose grandmother passed away. Her services are pending at this time.

NEW ADDRESS

Myrtle Wade: 2934 W. Pioneer
Apt. #317
Irving, Tx. 75061
Phone: 972-790-4818

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

9/3/14 Ken Hope – speaker

9/9/14 Ladies Bible Class – 10 a.m.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY'S

David West – 9/1
 Jackye Jewett – 9/2
 Dean Webb – 9/4
 Brenda Bryant – 9/7
 Katherine Cox – 9/8
 Fauna Garrett – 9/10
 Jane Easter – 9/10
 Hannah Guajardo – 9/12
 Sherry Hodge – 9/13
 J.C. Ross – 9/17
 Marcella Porter – 9/20
 Derrol Allen – 9/21
 Mary Martini – 9/24
 Dessie Ross – 9/26

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Tom* & Linda Head – 9/7
 Keith & Cindy Vaughn – 9/15
 Vern & Melody Lundquist – 9/22
 David & Faye West – 9/24

*If unable to serve on the Lord's table,
 please contact Mike Batot at:
 (972)741-2397*

BELT LINE ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

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THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE THIS SUNDAY

<u>LORD'S TABLE (MORNING)</u>		9/7/14	<u>SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS</u>
<u>Front Table</u>	<u>Rear Table</u>		· Jerry McKey · Henry Seidmeyer · Mike Batot
· Don Herriage	· Kenny Mayer		
· Scot Allen	· Ethan Howard		
· Dorris Walker	· James Gilliam		
· John Mayer	· Thomas Rathbun		
· Mike Garrison			
· Glen Kelly			
<u>LORD'S TABLE (EVENING)</u>			<u>A.M. SCRIPTURE READING</u>
· Dale Cox			· Scot Allen Titus 1:1-4
· Dean Webb			
<u>COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS</u>			<u>SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS</u>
· Thomas Rathbun			· Thomas Rathbun · Glen Kelly
<u>A.M. SONG LEADER</u>			<u>P.M. SCRIPTURE READING</u>
· Jerry Baker			· Henry Seidmeyer John 14:7-14
			<u>P.M. SONG LEADER(S)</u>
			· Jerry McKey

FOR THE RECORD: ATTENDANCE & BUDGET NUMBERS

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	71	65	68	100
A.M. Worship	130	113	115	150
P.M. Worship	69	67	64	80
Wed. Class	78	76	76	85
Contribution	\$4541	\$5021	\$4917	\$5331

MISSIONS

Haiti – Printing
 Glen Tattersall – Australia
 Roland & Rose Moshen – France
 Gary & Nadya Workman – Ukraine
 Charlie & Mary DiPalma – Australia
 Oleg & Natasha Yakimenko – Russia
 Willie & Del Gley – Ghana/Togo, Africa
 David & Paula Tarbet – New Milford, CT
 Wil & Telanda Sadler – Military Missions
 Roy Conner – Brown Trail Preaching Student
 Wayne Jackson – Christian Courier on the Web
 Christ's Haven Children's Home – Keller, TX
 Foster's Home for Children – Stephenville, TX
 Ted Lingren – Sisophon Bible School – Cambodia
 Rohan & Sandra Jones – Cape Town, South Africa
 Elangwe & Magdaline Gregory – Wotutu, Cameroon
 Mission Printing Worldwide Literature Distribution
 Terry & Pam Laurence – Ft. Defiance, Arizona – Navajo
 Dennis & Beth Johnson – Chennai Teacher Training School – India

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