

Belt Line Road Church of Christ

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

March 7, 2016
Volume 8 Number 10

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.... 7:00 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

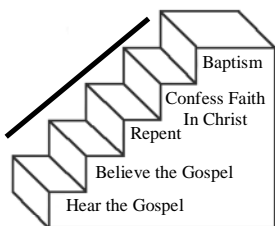
Janice Daniel & Jerry Grantham
beltlinechurch@sbcglobal.net

CUSTODIANS

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)



Pentecost- Foreknowledge and Freedom

Don Hatch

Set forth in the Bible is the foreknowledge of God and the freedom of man. In accordance to God's plan Christ was to die for the sins of the world (Acts 2:23; Isa 53; Luke 24:44-47). Those who crucified Jesus had no thought of fulfilling the plan of God. They undertook to rid themselves of a pestilent man whom they envied (Matt 27:18). They were held responsible for their actions. Thus we see the foreknowledge of God and the freedom of man. God's foreknowledge does not rule out freedom and freedom does not rule out, nor make impossible, the foreknowledge of God.

God can foreknow the future without forcing man. Prophecies prove the ability of God to foreknow the future. Abraham was to be the father of many nations (Gen 12: 22; Rom 4:17). God spoke of these as if they existed. They did not exist for a thousand years. God foretold of the life, death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. God foretold of a new covenant (Jer 31:31-34; Heb 8:8-13). Willfully much of mankind has not complied with this New Covenant. Prophecies and express statements in the Bible establish the facts of God's foreknowledge.

Man's freedom is not unlimited, yet it is still freedom. Freedom can be abused until gradually freedom is relinquished. Abuses of freedom lead to the slavery of vice. Using freedom correctly leads to additional freedom. Men hold others answerable for actions which imply accountability and freedom. Praise or blame for deeds performed demonstrates freedom. None can live a life of freedom and not have to deal with the lives of others. Will, aspirations, personality and other variables identify the idea of the freedom of man. Peter regarded those on the day of Pentecost (33AD) as being responsible for their actions (Acts 2:23-26). Individuals believe there is an underlying principle of freedom for all. Even the Atheist will hold himself responsible for things done wrong. No one considers himself, in the totality of his action, a **creature without a will** pushed by a force over which he has no control or ability to refuse. Individuals on Pentecost viewed themselves responsible for their

actions when they asked, "What shall we do?" This implies that they wanted to rescind what they had done and make it right. **"You cannot hold me responsible"** is hardly a verdict they passed on their action. Man is a rational being with ability to make decisions and implies freedom. Everyone, sooner or later, admits "I ought to do or to have done this or that". Hence right and wrong are expressed. God is willing that man be saved. Those who refuse to be saved are held accountable for their own actions (1 Tim 2:3-4; 2 Pet 3:7-9; Jn 7:17; Matt 23:37; Jn 5:40).

The harmony of God's foreknowledge and man's free-will cannot be denied. We can rest assured that God in His divine sovereignty can reconcile them. We measure God by finite standards, whereas the solution of free-will and foreknowledge of God is seen in the omniscience (all knowing) of God. To foreknow does not stipulate that it will happen. Divine foreknowledge does not work in the same manner as human aspiration. The whole span of time and world history is seen by God. God sees the future and the past; they are spread before Him as an eternal **NOW**. He can use the free-will of an individual. His knowledge of choices does not make a foreordained choice. He knows individuals will act without forcing them to act. Through this foreseeing, God's power and wisdom are mingled with the plans of free men in a providential manner. By sending prophets, His Son and through the church He affects results which are not intended nor foreseen by men. These results do not take away free-will and freedom of choice. The power of choice does not make the wrong choice right! Many believe that the **right to choose** is more important than the **right choice**. This is a dangerous kind of thinking because it implies that **any choice** is acceptable when it meets the need of personal choice. If there was no wrong then man would not need grace and mercy. It was God's intentional plan to bring grace and truth through Jesus Christ (Jn 1:17). In the area of God's foreknowledge and man's free-will we see grace and obedience blended together.

With such a freedom of choice one needs to choose well. **One's choices** will determine where one will spend eternity. God foreordained salvation, He will not force. Mankind establishes the outcome. There is a triad of words which comprise the fuller knowledge and actions of God in the matter of predestination. They are *predestination, election and foreknowledge*. Within these words God sets forth the manner in which He enlightened the believers. Because of God's omniscience He knows all things. He knows the end from the beginning,

FAMILY CARE
A Message from Our Shepherds

We have all asked the question or heard the question "What must I do to be saved?" How did you answer that? For the next four weeks I would like to go over some very important facts about this question.

In **Acts 16:30-33** we find a very familiar passage... "*And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"*" ³¹ *So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."* ³² *Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.* ³³ *And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized."* In this passage we see Paul is confronted by the Philippian jailor who asked the most important question, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

Yes indeed this is a most important question a person could ever ask. Salvation from sin is our greatest need - cf. **Rom. 6:23** "*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*" What we must realize is that the answer must be according to the Word of God. The answer given is often limited to what is mentioned in **Acts 16:31** without consideration of all that is said in the context and without noting what is taught elsewhere in the Scriptures.

If one asks "**What Must I Do To Be Saved?**" how should we reply? Shall we limit our response to the words of **verse 31**? In the next few weeks will identify the following: What is not mentioned, what is mentioned, and address some objections about our study.

I pray that everyone will have a great week and see you in Bible class and Worship.

Jerry McKey

"Jehovah, who shall sojourn in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, And speaketh truth in his heart; He that slandereth not with his tongue, Nor doeth evil to his friend, Nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor; In whose eyes a reprobate is despised, But who honoreth them that fear Jehovah; He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not; He that putteth not out his money to interest, Nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved" (Psm 15:1-5).

Continued from second column...

...Father (Acts 2:33-37).

The kingdom was future while Jesus was on earth (Mattm6:5-15). Jesus' blood was the price for the church (Acts 20:28). By this blood he dedicated a new covenant which would save all mankind (Heb 9:17-21). Peace and a Mediatorship came because of the blood (Col 1:20; Eph 2:13-16; 1 Tim 2:4-6; Heb 9:14, 15). After offering His blood Jesus sat down at the right hand of God the Father (Acts 2:33-36). Hence there was a new covenant. This covenant established the Kingdom and church of Christ on Pentecost. A fact remains that the Scriptures teach a present union of divine sovereignty and human responsibility (Jn 6:34-40). **Don Hatch**

Pentecost- Kingdom

The Lord had sworn with an oath to David that the fruit of his loins would sit upon his throne. It is of the utmost importance for one to understand if there is a church of Christ there is also a kingdom of Christ (Col 1:13; Rev 1:6-9; Eph 1:20-22; Rom 16:16). Peter clearly established that the kingdom had been promised and Jesus' resurrection from the dead was part of their witness and proof that Jesus was King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Rev 19:16). It is obvious that the kingdom mentioned was not **physical** Israel, rather a **spiritual** Israel (Gal 6:16).

The kingdom was to include both Jews and Gentiles. The church was to include Jews and Gentiles (Rom 10:16-21). The same subjects are in both the kingdom and the church at the same time. The New Covenant which was established by the blood of Jesus is partaken of by Jews and Gentiles (1 Cor 11:17-34; Heb 8:18-13). This covenant removed ethnic barriers and made all one in Christ Jesus (Eph 2:11-23; Gal 3:23-29). Jesus Christ was given all power in heaven and on earth (Matt 28:18-20). What greater power would He have if He came back to earth and ruled in Jerusalem? Did Jesus promise those living in the first century that the kingdom would come with power in their lifetime (Mk 9:1)? Either Jesus failed, which I don't believe, or there are some Jews walking around who are nearly 2000 years old, or the kingdom came with power and shall never be shaken (Heb 12:18-29).

To speak of the New Testament Church in prophecy is to speak of the kingdom of God's dear Son (Col 1:18). Church and Kingdom are simply two ways of speaking of the same body of people. The church indicates the "body" and the kingdom indicates a king. In both circumstances it indicates Christ's authority over the same group of people who have been saved by His blood. The church or kingdom shows a relationship between the Messiah and His people.

Jesus fulfilled all the Law, Prophets and Psalms concerning Himself (Lk 24:44-49). Nothing but complete success could satisfy the Scriptures demands. If Jesus was taken back to glory (Jn 17) it must be true that He is now King of Kings, Lord of Lords (Rev 19:16).

The church and kingdom have the same ruler (Eph 5:23; 1 Tim 6:15; Heb 1:3; Acts 2:34-36; Eph 1:19-23), the same **owner** (Mat 16:18-20; Jn 18:36; Col 1:13; Rev 1:6-9), the same **date** on which they began (Isa 2:1; Acts 2:16,17), the same law (Isa 2:2; Acts 2; Heb 8:8-13), same **terms** for admission (Jn 3:5; Acts 2:38; Gal 3:23-28; Tit 3:5,6), the same **individuals** are found in both (Col 1:2, 13), they have the same **covenant** (Heb 8:8-13; 10:15-17), they have the same **memorial** (1 Cor 11:17-39; Matt 26:29), the same **glory** (Isa 2:1,2; Eph 3:21) and the same **place** of origin (Acts 2; Isa 2:1; Joel 2:28-31).

Some may say that it doesn't say, Jesus is head over the Kingdom, or King over the church, King over the flock, or Head over the branches. When we speak we must use the appropriate terms for each figure used to describe Jesus' role. When we speak of Christ as head over the church it addresses His relationship to that figure of speech. When we speak of His people being in a Kingdom it expresses His appropriate relationship to them as a King. The authority is expressed in both terms as head and king. The head has authority over the body (Eph 1:22, 23). The King has authority over the kingdom (Rev 1:6-10; Col 1:13). The same people are in them and different figures explain their relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus fulfilled the prophecies about Him becoming a High Priest and Prophet. Jesus is a High Priest (Hebrews 3:1; 7:1-28), He is the Prophet (Deut 18:15-19; Acts 3:22-26). It must follow that He is also the King and currently rules from the right hand of the...

Family News:

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

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

March 13, 2016

Front foyer: Mike & Elizabeth Garrison

Back foyer: Dale & Katherine Cox

March 20, 2016

Front foyer: Bill & Linda Matthews

Back foyer: Glen Kelly & Donna Davis

MISSION PRINTING

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

Contribution Counters For March

Bobby England & Mike Garrison

Communion Preparation For March

Dale & Katherine Cox

Sermon Titles

March 13, 2016

a.m.: "The Body For Christ"
Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
p.m.: "The Heart And The Mouth"

Scripture: Romans 10:1-15

March 20, 2016

a.m.: "Power In Inward Man"
Scripture: Ephesians 3:14-19
p.m.: "Work Out Your Own Salvation"
Scripture: Philippians 2:12-18

Military:

Chris and Abigail Mathews

PRAYER LIST

Ongoing Health Concerns:

Bobby Bowen, Jane Easter, Dessie Ross, Don and Margaret Lewis, Frances Tipton, Diedra Sutton, Tom Prince, Ruben Melendez, Tom Head, David & Faye West, Laquita Baker, Glen Kelly, Mike Garrison

Homebound Members:

Helen Thomas, Mary Walker, Dessie Ross

Recovering at Home:

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

Hospital:

Max Melton is in the hospital with pneumonia. He is at Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Alliance in room #326. His phone number is: 682-212-3326

Nursing Home:

Elsie Nanney – Avante
Frances Tipton – Marine Creek

Prayer Request:

Mike & Elizabeth Garrison have asked for prayers for their friend **Meredith Bolger**. He had a stroke and is in ICU at Zale Lipshy Hospital.

LADIES UPCOMING EVENTS

LADIES BIBLE CLASS will meet on Tuesday, **March 8th** at 10 a.m. in the Annex. The lesson will be on "**The Foolish Woman**". Please invite your friends to join us.

Ladies,

We need small gift items for ten bags on Ladies Half-Day. If you

would like to contribute, please bring your items by Sunday, April 24th. For more information see Beverly McKey.

LADIES HALF-DAY

Please check the Volunteer Lists in the front foyer and sign up for any task(s) you would like to help with. We need everyone's participation.

If you would like to send **Max Melton** cards, please send them in care of his niece (Leslie Humphrey). He will be moving in with his nephew and niece when he gets out of the hospital.

The address is:

Max Melton
10308 Fossil Valley Dr.
Fort Worth, Tx. 76131

HAVE YOU INVITED SOMEONE TO WORSHIP THIS WEEK?

TIME CHANGE

March 13th is Daylight Savings Time Change. Be sure to change your clocks on **Saturday night one hour ahead** so as not to miss Sunday Bible Class.

Congratulations

Jessica and Mike* Chester are the proud parents of Elizabeth Taylor Chester. She was born Friday night. Proud grandmother is **Debra Alonzo**.

A very special Thank You Teens and those who helped prepare a wonderful breakfast on Saturday. Everyone who attended enjoyed a fun time.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

3/15/16 – Ladies Bible Class – 10 a.m.

3/21/16 – 39'ers – Annex – 6:30 pm

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- Kenny Mayer – 3/2
- B.C. Fowler – 3/6
- Xavier Kaiser – 3/6
- Don Overturf* – 3/7
- James Gilliam – 3/7
- Vicky Askins – 3/8
- Dana Hodgkins – 3/11
- Jerry Baker – 3/18
- Kay Overturf – 3/19
- Philip Whitlock – 3/22
- Carol Swinney – 3/25
- Pansy Yankey – 3/30

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- Don* & Kay Overturf – 3/12
- Grady & B.C. Fowler – 3/17
- Jerry & Beverly McKey – 3/24
- Gary & Nadya Workman – 3/29

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

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THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE THIS SUNDAY

<u>LORD'S TABLE (MORNING)</u>		3/13/16	<u>SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS</u>
<u>Front Table</u>	<u>Rear Table</u>		
· Glen Kelly	· Bobby England		· Jerry McKey
· Scot Allen	· Thomas Rathbun		· Bill Matthews
· Mike Garrison	· Curtis Vaughan		· Dean Webb
· Kenny Mayer	· Xavier Kaiser		
· Henry Seidmeyer			<u>A.M. SCRIPTURE READING</u>
· Don Herriage			· John Mayer
			1 Corinthians 6:12-20
			<u>SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS</u>
			· Scot Allen
			· Curtis Vaughan
			<u>P.M. SCRIPTURE READING</u>
			· Glen Kelly
			Romans 10:1-15
			<u>P.M. SONG LEADER(S)</u>
			· Darrell Allen

LORD'S TABLE (EVENING)

- Nathan Allen
- John Mayer

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

Robert Taylor

A.M. SONG LEADER

- 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	65	64	65	100
A.M. Worship	103	113	104	150
P.M. Worship	76	64	71	80
Wed. Class	60	60	57	85
Contribution	\$4585	\$6083	\$5483	\$5170

MISSIONS

- 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
- Wil & Telanda Sadler** – Military Missions
- 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
- Mike Batot** – Southwest School of Bible Studies – Austin, TX
- Carlos Tario** – Brown Trail School of Preaching – Bedford, TX
- Brayden Shelley** – Brown Trail School of Preaching – Bedford, TX
- Dennis & Beth Johnson** – Chennai Teacher Training School – India

BELT LINE ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

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**PERIODICALS POSTAGE
PAID
AT IRVING, TEXAS**