



Where families worship,
serve and raise their
children

Belt Line Road Church of Christ

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

January 5, 2015
Volume 7 Number 1

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

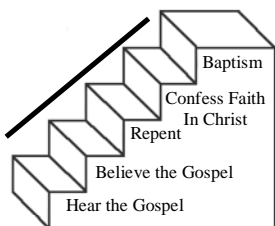
Janice Daniel & Jerry Grantham
beltlinechurch@sbcglobal.net

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)



Amazing Grace

Don Hatch

Knowing what it means to be spiritually motivated steers us to partaking of the divine nature. Mankind is composed of a physical and spiritual being. The spiritual side is made in the image of God (Gen 1:26; Jn 4:24). It is the spiritual nature of man that can partake of the divine character. Having such a promise, to partake of the divine nature, it is imperative that we strive for holiness (2 Pet 1:3-11, 1 Pet 1:13-25). The conflict between these two natures is a troublesome reality for the Christian life (Gal 5:16-23). The physical side of us selects to satisfy the urges of the flesh which are frequently devastating to the spiritual side. The spiritual being has the capacity to answer the call of the eternal and incline itself away from the unsuitable side of life.

In sin mankind is separated from God (Eph 2:11-23). Instead of seeking to participate in the divine nature there can be enslavement to the carnal inclinations of the flesh rather than the righteousness of God. The spiritual nature must conquer the appetites of the carnal man by displacing iniquitous thoughts with virtuous ones. Upon surrendering to God the soul, spirit and heart will see a change takes place within (Mat 22:37-40; Gal 2:20). "...and they that are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with the passions and lusts thereof. If we live by the Spirit, by the Spirit let us also walk" (Gal 5:24, 25). God grants to the faithful His fellowship and communion because of Christ's death upon the cross and our obedient faith. God gives us everything we need pertaining to life and godliness through the knowledge of Him. In the broadest context of God's love He saves those redeemed by the blood of Jesus and who have surrendered to Him as servants of righteousness. The carnal nature is brought into subjection to the spiritual nature required to please God (Mat 26:41; Rom 6:6; 8:1-7; Gal 6:7, 8).

The responsibility of a Christian is to "participate in" fellowship, communion and association with God on a spiritual level (2 Co 6:14-7:1). The fullness of confessing Jesus as Lord to the glory of God identifies the surrender wherein a Christian is fashioned anew into a humble and obedient follower (Heb 3:14). God is faithful through whom we

have been called into fellowship with His Son (1 Cor 1:9; 1 Jn 1:1-4). The reproducing of Christ-like living is to demeanor one's life after the life of Christ Jesus. To say "it is no longer I that live, but Christ liveth in me" is to live by faith in the Son of God who gave Himself as a ransom (Gal 2:20; 2 Cor 5:18-20). When dying to sin and living with Christ we manifest the nature of the Lord in daily living (Co 3:3, 4; Phil 1:2). If we love Christ and keep His word God the Father will love us (Jn 14:23; Rom 8:10; 1 Jn 2:24; Rev 3:20). A genuine conversion takes away our "self-life" and allows us to live a "Christ-like life".

When an individual puts on Christ in baptism the expression of trust is joined with hope that the new life will bear fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-24; 3:27; 2 Cor 5:17). "...We were buried therefore with him through baptism unto death; that like as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in the newness of life...even so reckon ye also yourselves to be dead unto sin, but alive unto God in Christ Jesus" (Rom 6:4, 11).

Some claimants of Christianity tragically fail to embrace Christianity as a way of life. Creeds, rites, philosophies or theories are not life in the Son. Supplanting the "way, the truth and the life" by practicing a fraudulent life is portrayed repeatedly in the New Testament as those who are "enemies of the cross of Christ (Phil 3:17-19). In the final analysis what Christ means to an individual is determined by what He does with his life. A form of religion that is incapable of reaching the inner man and calling forth a conversion and transformation is foreign to Christianity. Christianity elevates and ennobles those who have been transformed by the renewing of their mind (Rom 12:1-5).

Christianity cannot be hollow or a meaningless substitution. A faithful believer's life is not theoretical but rather a real life of triumph, vibrant, free, and radiant. A full life! Those called out of darkness rejoice to be in the light (Phil 4:4; 1 Jn 1:1-4). In the final investigation, what Christ means to an individual is the purpose of a Christian life. Christianity must be able to reach the inner being to lift up and convert it into a workman worthy of the God who has been saved by grace (Eph 2:1-10). Fundamentally fear haunts a life which is partially committed, but perfect love casts out fear (1 Jn 4:17-21). Jesus died deliberately in order to save mankind from everlasting torment and grant everlasting life (Jn 3:16). The sum of the matter is that a faithful Christian regards life as a sublimely complete life and will not refuse to accept the spiritual guidance from God. The option is plain, choose service to the Lord and enjoy the blessings of life now and in eternity.

FAMILY CARE
A Message from Our Shepherds

OUR PURPOSE IS TO GLORIFY GOD!!! Remember these four C's;

COMMITMENT of our obedience to Christ,
COMMENCEMENT of obedience now,

CONTINUOUS obedience forever and

CONFIRMATION of God's Word.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith." (Romans 12:1-3)

The Belt Line Road Church of Christ elders are excited and proud to be your shepherds and count to it a blessing each day.

"Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears." (Acts 20:28-31)

The church of the Lord needs shepherds who . . .

are men of **PRAYER**, who will humbly approach the throne of God for wisdom and guidance in feeding His flock.

are men of **INTEGRITY**, who are not easily tempted by the allurements of the world.

are men of **KNOWLEDGE**, who dedicate themselves to the frequent, fervent, diligent study of the Word.

are men of **EXPERIENCE**, who have endured trials and temptations successfully.

are men of **CONVICTION**, who will take a firm stand on the truths of God's Word.

are men of **VIGILANCE**, ever on the lookout for danger, and things that would harm the sheep. **Richard Renfro**

"For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that were wanting, and appoint elders in every city, as I gave thee charge; if any man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having children that believe, who are not accused of riot or unruly. For the bishop must be blameless, as God's steward; not self-willed, not soon angry, no brawler, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but given to hospitality, a lover of good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled; holding to the faithful word which is according to the teaching, that he may be able to exhort in the sound doctrine, and to convict the gainsayers" (Titus 1:5-9 ASV).

A Life Of Holiness

The life imparted to a Christian at the time of surrender to Christ as Lord and King is the entry into eternal life (Jn 6:47; 5:24). The substance of eternal life is living a spiritual and moral life under the guidance of the Godhead (Rom 1:18-20). The nature of our eternal Father, Son and Holy Spirit is holiness (1 Pet 1:13-25; Eph 1:4; Rom 12:1; 2 Tim 1:9). To have fellowship with the Godhead is striving to be holy, guileless, undefiled and separated from sinfulness. Holiness is the resultant state of conduct befitting one who is separated from sin. It was predetermined by God for believers, when they begin their Christian lives. Hence they are called "saints" (1 Cor 1:1-3). Holiness denotes the distinguishing traits which deliberately sets an individual apart from worldly practices (1 Thes 3:13). The exercise of love is declared to be the means by which the likeness of Christ is developed in the Christian. In this state the Lord gives Christians the ability to bear one another's burdens (Gal 6:1-10). The nature of Christians is to manifest Christ living in them (Gal 2:20; 5:24-26). Fundamentally it is the moral and spiritual essence and significance of being consecrated to God.

Being set apart unto God, the Christian renders service which is circumspect and righteous. Sinlessness is a state of being unsullied by sin or moral wrong, lacking knowledge of evil, a moral sense which seeks purity, uprightness and action befitting godliness. The New Testament designates these as children of God. As pure and righteous the child of God is separated from worldly practices and spiritual corruption (1 Pet 2:9). Through the knowledge of God and using the wisdom from above Christians are incorporated into the holy and royal priesthood (1 Pet 2:4-11; Jas 3:13-15).

Only through the knowledge of God can a Christian know and practice virtues befitting a "fellow citizen with the saints, and of the household of God" (Eph 2:12-22). Authentic knowledge concerning Christ is revealed within the Bible. His words are spirit and life (Jn 6:62, 63). Jesus expressly confirms that holiness is made possible by divine decree (Jn 8:32). Does a Christian develop and reproduce the life of the Lord Jesus Christ by spasmodically reading the Bible? Can a Christian boast of loyalty to its teachings and obey as little of it as can be to alleviate the conscience? With an ever widening scarcity of true spirituality within the ranks of Christians we can be justified in concluding that the weak response of many makes us concerned about their loyalty to the Bible's teachings. A *talisman* [lucky charm] with fake magical powers to ward off evil is purportedly a rabbit's foot, not the Bible. A formula by many is to avow, in a perfunctory way, the reading of the Bible, mouthing loyalty without daily practice or in a cold legalistic manner following its least demanding commands thinking all is well with the soul. A new catch all word of bibliolaters is "**the Bible doesn't say we can't**", as if it was a **shibboleth** [a saying that is widely used or a belief that is widely held, especially one that interferes with somebody's ability to speak or think about things without preconception and prejudice]. The commitment to Christ is never seeking to circumvent the spiritual ways of God in order to get along with the world. Christianity is different from the world. We seek to help them become **practitioners** [someone who does a particular activity] of the Christian faith. A life lived in a holy manner is divinely blessed. The church is the light of the world (Mat 5:13-16).

Don Hatch

Family News:

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

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

January 11, 2015

Front foyer: Thomas Rathbun & Myrtle Wade

Back foyer: Robert & Betty Ruckman

January 18, 2015

Front foyer: Mike & Elizabeth Garrison

Back foyer: Nancy Pond & Doris Selby

Sermon Titles

January 11, 2015

a.m: "Eternal Security"

Scripture John 17:17-26

p.m: "Great Refusal"

Scripture: Jonah 1:1-5

January 18, 2015

a.m: "Salvation Full And Free"

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-20

p.m: "Surrender Without Demand"

Scripture: Matthew 14:22-33

Contribution Counters For January

John Mayer & Thomas Rathbun

Communion Preparation For January

Jerry McKey

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, J.C. and Dessie Ross, Don and Margaret Lewis, Frances Tipton, Linda Head

Homebound Members:

Roy and Helen Thomas, Mary Walker, Gearldean Jones

Recovering at Home:

.Alice Worthy has been sick. Please keep her family in your prayers as there has been a death in her family and also a family member at Medical City who is very ill.

.Elizabeth Garrison went to the doctor last week with a rash on her arm.

.Dean Webb is home sick.

.Juanita Melton is now home from the hospital and needs our prayers.

Hospital:

.Priscilla Mayer is in MCA Hospital in Arlington. They are running tests on her.

Nursing Home:

Billie Myers – Northgate Plaza
Dorothy Smith – Avalon
Elsie Nanney – Elm Croft

Military:

Chris and Abigail Mathews

Special Requests:

Jackye Jewett's son Gary Baker is in ICU in a Texas City hospital and needs our prayers.

Upcoming Procedures:

.Purman Cofer will have a pacemaker installed on Friday, January 9th at Baylor, Irving.

.Grady Fowler will have surgery on his shoulder on January 20th.

LADIES CLASS

Ladies Class will resume on Tuesday, **January 13th** at 10 a.m. They will be studying "**Bible Women**".

Don Hatch has started a new study on the book of **1 Thessalonians**. This is in the auditorium class.

Understanding the Bible

by George Akpabi

The Bible is an ancient book. In it God reveals His will to humans. The message of the Bible is God's communication with man, yet, like most communications, much of it is misunderstood. All can read and understand the Bible by following these simple rules:

1. Believe that the Bible is inspired of God and is therefore the fundamental authority He has over us. God reveals the true meaning only to those who are willing to obey Him.
2. Before you begin reading, pray to God and ask for His wisdom.
3. Use your intelligence; seek to understand what God is trying to tell you. God gave us common sense to help us understand our fellow humans; use it also to understand God.
4. Do not fear the extra effort that is required in reading an ancient book.
5. Have an open spirit. Do not read the Bible to confirm your opinions, for in doing that you would not discover anything new. As for prejudice, it's a sure roadblock to understanding the Scriptures.
6. The greatest blessings come when you study with the desire to obey. The Word is like seed; allow it to germinate and grow in good soil, your heart.

(This article is taken from *The Voice of Truth International* – Volume Thirty-Six)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1/13/15 – Ladies Bible Class – 10 a.m.

1/19/15 – 39'ers – Annex – 6:30 p.m.

JANUARY BIRTHDAY'S

- Don Hancock – 1/1
- Ken Lee – 1/2
- Linda Head – 1/3
- Scot Allen – 1/3
- Debra Alonzo – 1/4
- Christal Moore – 1/5
- Helen Thomas – 1/10
- Fay Yeldell – 1/11
- Bobby Bowen – 1/11
- Dale Cox – 1/14
- Carolyn Montgomery – 1/24
- Nellie Melvin – 1/24
- Lautricia Williams – 1/25
- Don Lewis – 1/27
- Jessica Chester – 1/28
- Dorris Walker – 1/29
- Kayla Allen – 1/30
- Judy Odom – 1/31

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Bobby & Mary Bowen – 1/11

*If unable to serve on the Lord's table,
please contact Scot Allen:
(214)724-6400*

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THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE THIS SUNDAY

<u>LORD'S TABLE (MORNING)</u>		1/11/15	<u>SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS</u>
<u>Front Table</u>	<u>Rear Table</u>		· Richard Renfro
· Scot Allen	· Bobby England		· Henry Seidmeyer
· Don Herriage	· Thomas Rathbun		· Dean Webb
· Dorris Walker	· Nathan Allen		
· Bill Matthews	· James Gilliam		<u>A.M. SCRIPTURE READING</u>
· Kent Conner			· Kent Conner
· Dale Cox			John 17:17-26
			<u>SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS</u>
			· Bill Matthews
			· Thomas Rathbun
			<u>P.M. SCRIPTURE READING</u>
			· Scot Allen
			Jonah 1:1-5
			<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	64	59	59	100
A.M. Worship	100	96	96	150
P.M. Worship	65	62	62	80
Wed. Class	47	0	0	85
Contribution	\$5476	\$5810	\$5810	\$5331

MISSIONS

- Glen Tattersall – Australia
- Roland & Rose Moshen – 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
- Dennis & Beth Johnson – Chennai Teacher Training School – India

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1202 N. Belt Line Road - Irving, TX 75061

**PERIODICALS POSTAGE
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AT IRVING, TEXAS**