



Belt Line Road Church of Christ

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

June 17, 2024
Volume 16 Number 25
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 6:30 p.m.

MINISTER

Doug Post

Email:

doug.post@beltlinechurch.com

ELDERS

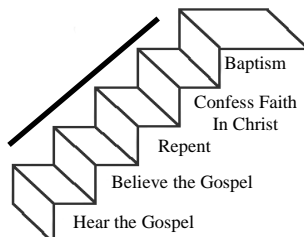
Darrell Allen
Richard Renfro
Dean Webb

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)



“STRENGTHENED” (Part 1)

Doug Post

That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man (Ephesians 3:16).

Concerning Ephesians 3:16 (as quoted above, NKJV), one prominent speaker said:

Paul was praying that ‘He [God] would grant [give] you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man.’ The fact that Paul was praying for strength rather than pointing the brethren to the ‘word’ is significant. While there can be no doubt that the Word strengthens (Rom. 16:25-27), Paul did not here point the Ephesians to the Word for strength but prayed for it. God, in answer to prayer, was to strengthen them ‘with power’ through (by means of) the Spirit. The Spirit was the medium through which God was to strengthen them with power. This strengthening took place in the inner man.¹

The above writer is teaching that the Holy Spirit must literally dwell within the body of a Christian, referred to as *the indwelling*. However, the Bible teaches that both the Father and the Son dwell in us. Why is that not *the indwelling*? We are said to dwell in God. Why is that not referred to as *the indwelling*? Dear friends, we are not literally residing within a Spirit being in heaven, any more than Deity is literally residing within our flesh here on earth. Why must Deity indwell human flesh in order to manipulate our minds. The Spirit does not have to be in us to manipulate us, neither must He literally be within our flesh so He can interpret our prayers to the Father. The Father is all knowing! The fact is, nowhere does the Bible teach a LITERAL indwelling of Deity in the body of the Christian.

It is then assumed that if the Holy Spirit literally resides inside us, then He must be doing something to us, from within us. Your body now becomes the *crane*, while the Holy Spirit becomes the *crane operator*, manipulating your mind so you can make the right decisions. However, since such a direct working of the Spirit upon the mind interferes with, and manipulates, your cognitive processes, so you can stand against temptation and avoid sin, then your *Free-Will* is destroyed. Any direct manipulation of our internal cognitive processes alters our free will, because we all think according to the desires of our hearts, whether good or bad (Prov.23:7; cf. Rom.2:4-11). If God directly interferes with our minds, then we are not allowed to think according to our own desires, and God would be doing the thinking for us, which is the absurd conclusion of the matter.

If the Holy Spirit literally resides inside our flesh to keep us from sinning [by a direct operation], then He is doing a very poor job. If that role were true, then the devil would never win and every spiritual battle we could ever face would be won. The devil would go from a “**roaring lion**” (1 Pet.5:8) to a purring kitty cat. Moreover, “once saved always saved” would be true, but that is not reality.

Additionally, prayer is NEVER divorced from the word of God (Eph.6:17-18; cf. Ja.4:2-3). The sword of the Spirit, within the same context, is the word of God. The above writer has the Spirit working separately from His sword, even though he specifically states the word of God strengthens the Christian. Yes, the Spirit strengthens the Christian, but through the means of His word He has provided us. Unfortunately, the concepts of agency and metonymy have been dismissed by the above writer as proper elements of hermeneutics (interpretation).

¹ Sanders, Phil - “The Holy Spirit,” Nashville School of Preaching and Biblical Studies, Winter, 2005, p. 60.

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, Eula Hedrick, Katherine Cox, Myrtle Wade, Michelle Reed, David West, Patti Kidd, Charlotte Burrows, Carol Partridge, Dean Webb, Jackye Jewett, Karen Rathbun, Alice Worthy, Lacy Allen, Billy Whitfield, Frank Young

Home Bound Members: Gearldean Jones

Rehab: 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 #B118) – (Grand Prairie, Tx.)

UPDATE:

Eula Hedrick is now at home.

Frank Young, a frequent visitor fell in his garage and broke his femur. He is recovering from surgery at Baylor, Scott and White Hospital and was moved to the 5th floor, Tower 3, room # 3511.

Polly Roses fell last Monday and has some back pain.

Dave Sherrill still needs our prayers for his health issues.

Karen Rathbun's mom, **Flora Elliot** is in the hospital as she has anemia and will have elbow surgery later this week.

Darrell Allen's mother, **Lois** is in ICU in San Antonio and may need a pacemaker.

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 weather-related victim.

5th Sunday Singing will be on **June 30th** at the evening worship service. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the front foyer for song requests.

We extend our deepest sympathy to **Angie Conner** and family. Her brother **Willie Latham** who lived in Memphis Tennessee, passed away last Sunday.

We also extend our deepest sympathy to **Mike & Sharon Haynes** as a family member of Sharon's passed away last week.

Paul Hughes placed membership with us. His info is: 2806 W. Pioneer Dr., Apt. #147
Irving, Texas 75061
Phone: 214-662-4424

Greeters scheduled for Sunday Morning – June 23, 2024

Front Foyer: Daniel Rodriguez & Clarine Henson

Back Foyer: Angie Conner & Mary Elaina Vaughan

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

6/19/24 – Wednesday Night Bible Study – 6:30 pm

7/5/24 – Ladies Bible Class – 6 p.m. Annex

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Karen Rathbun 6/2
Nadya Workman 6/22
Darrell Allen 6/23

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Robert & Cathy Taylor 6/13

THOSE TO SERVE ON: June 23, 2024

Announcements – Darrell Allen

Song Leaders – a. m. Darrell Allen
p. m. Darrell Allen

Prayers – a.m. Dean Webb
George Tripp
p.m. Jerry McKey
Thomas Rathbun

Scripture Reading – a.m. Joseph Paul
Mark 3:13-15
p.m. Doug Post
Various passages

Lord’s Table – (Both Services) Richard Renfro & Thomas Rathbun

ATTENDANCE & BUDGET NUMBERS

| | <u>6/16/24</u> | <u>YTD Avg.</u> | <u>Goal</u> |
|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Sunday Class | 30 | 31 | 50 |
| A.M. Worship | 54 | 57 | 100 |
| P.M. Worship | 28 | 34 | 50 |
| Wed. Class | 27 | 30 | 50 |
| Contribution | \$4,216 | \$5,034 | \$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

Southeast School of Preaching – *Trevor Tattersall*

“And He said, “Go, and tell this people: ‘Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive. “Make the heart of this people dull, And their ears heavy, And shut their eyes; Lest they see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart, And return and be healed.” Isaiah 6:9-10

We have all been afflicted with spam phone calls. Having caller ID on your phone and knowing who is calling before you answer is a time saving blessing. Recently, in passing, I heard someone refer to “sending God to voicemail”. I had never heard that saying before and found it interesting. Just four words but they say so much. The person “sending God to voicemail” knows or is aware of God. They are aware He wants to communicate but do not take the call. Why? Are they too busy, like those who spurned the invite to the prince’s wedding in Matt. 22: 2-5? Maybe they are afraid He may want them to do something they don’t want to do or discuss an uncomfortable matter and so are fleeing Him like Jonah? Maybe they are like Solomon who had turned away from God. 1 Kings 11:9-10.

What about us? Do we send God to voicemail? He is always about us, constantly communicating, demonstrating his presence - Romans 1:20. Do we know in our minds and hearts He is there but, at times, go about our day as if we don’t know or care about Him or what he wills? The answer is yes, each time we consciously sin. The next time temptation comes, picture in your mind, you pushing that button sending God to voicemail. Hopefully the thought and shame of doing such will help you stay true.

Darrell Allen

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