

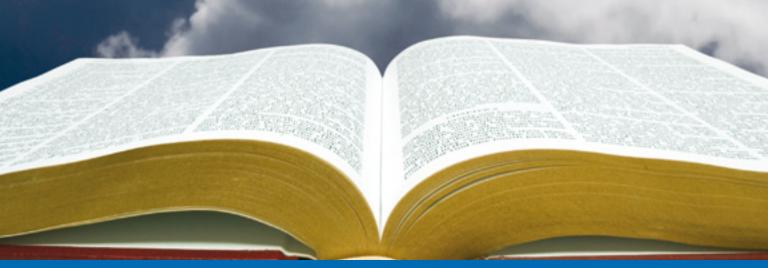
# creation: essential Bible doctrine

page 6

passover and the "last supper"

are we going into a recession?

page 24



# editor's page

# The Strengths and Weaknesses of Rebekah



MIKE WILLIS

The Bible is unique among sacred literature in recording both the strengths and weaknesses of its heroes. We remember Noah as the one who built the ark, but he is also the same one who became drunk and lay naked (Gen. 6-9). David is a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22), but he is also the man who committed adultery with Bathsheba and, in order to cover his sin, ordered the murder of her husband Uriah (2 Sam. 11). Rebekah, the wife of the patriarch Isaac, is also a biblical character whose strengths and weaknesses are revealed in Scripture.

# Her Strengths Made Her A Suitable Mate For Isaac

Following the death of Sarah, Abraham sought to find a wife suitable for his son Isaac, who was forty years old. Abraham had his servant take an oath to find a wife suited for his son among Abraham's family in Haran. In the event that the woman would not return with him, the servant would be free of the oath, but under no condition was Isaac to leave the land of promise (Gen. 24:1-9).

The servant journeyed approximately 400 miles to Haran. How would he determine whom to take for Isaac's wife? He first stopped at the city well. Inasmuch as drawing water for the family was women's work, this was an appropriate place to meet women, much like we used to go to the local drive-in restaurants when I was a young man. The servant asked God providentially to oversee his mission and asked that God give him a sign as follows: "Behold, I stand here by the well of water; and the daughters of the men of the city come out to draw water: And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: let the same be she that thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master" (Gen. 24:13-14).

When Rebekah came to the well, she did exactly as the servant had prayed that one would do, so the servant knew that God was guiding him in the selection of a wife for the son of his master. But, were the conditions that the servant listed arbitrary or did they reveal something about Rebekah's character? Look what the servant learned about Rebekah's character from this incident:

*Rebekah was kind.* When a stranger wanted a drink, she gave it to him. She could have curtly turned away and refused his request, but she did not.

*Rebekah was industrious.* She watered ten camels (cf. to watering a thirsty elephant in order to get a ticket to the circus). A thirsty camel can drink twenty to twenty-five gallons of water. Drawing water from a well was not like

opening a spigot with a garden hose attached and running it to a trough. A person had to go down steps into a well and carry a jug of water. With water weighing about eight pounds per gallon and a camel drinking only twenty gallons of water,



Well at Beer-sheba. Photo courtesy of holylandphotos.org.

she moved about 1600 pounds of water, while the servants of Abraham watched! Indeed, she was an industrious woman, for no lazy woman would have undertaken such a task.

Rebekah was hospitable. Upon learning who Abraham's servant was, Rebekah invited him and the other servants into their home, no doubt adding to her own work in so doing, inasmuch as cooking and preparing a meal are usually woman's work.

That evening Abraham's servant related what had transpired and asked for the hand of Rebekah in marriage to Isaac, his master's son. A marriage covenant was entered between the two patriarchs so that Rebekah would marry Isaac. The next morning the servant wished to return to Abraham, but the family asked that Rebekah be allowed ten days to be with her family before departing. The servant insisted that he be

# contents

The Strengths and Weaknesses of Rebekah 2 MIKE WILLIS	Footnotes
Editorial Leftovers 4 CONNIE W. ADAMS	Children's Page 19 DONNA HALBROOK
Homosexuals Demand Mayor to Resign or Apologize	Open Their Eyes
Creation: Essential Bible Doctrine	What I Want You to Know About Your Bible (Part 2)
Question & Answer	Are We Going Into a Recession?24 LEWIS WILLIS
The Unity of the Spirit	Am I Just a Christian?
Dating Passover and the "Last Supper" 12 KYLE POPE  Book Marks	All in the Life of a Preacher: Paul and His Enemies (Part 2)28 STEVE WALLACE
CHRIS REEVES  Holy Spirit Made Elders	Serving God with Joy and Gladness30 STAN ADAMS
The Danger of a False Accusation	Directory of Churches33
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# have you not read...?

# **Editorial Leftovers**



#### CONNIE W. ADAMS

#### Church Ads

In the back pages of every issue you will find paid ads from churches advertising their locations, times of services, and contact phone numbers. We list these alphabetically to make it easier to use. Over the years, these ads have been very helpful to brethren who travel, in locating a place to worship and knowing when the services are conducted. As one who is "in journeyings oft" I have used these many times. We purchase a new directory of non-institutional churches each year and it is helpful. But the directory does not give times of services and often the phone numbers listed are at the building where there is no one to answer (especially on Saturday nights when you arrive in town). We also take with us a copy of the last issue of *Truth Magazine* and the first thing we do is check to see if the church in that place has an ad in the back of the paper.

This service is especially desirable when congregations are located in large cities, near military bases, near universities or colleges, and near popular tourist attractions. Among the many who come to such places, are faithful Christians who are anxious to find brethren with whom they may worship.

A word is in order to those who already have ads. When you change locations, meeting times or phone numbers, please send that information to Andy Alexander at the book store or email him at: andyalex@bellsouth.net. Otherwise, we have no way of updating your ad and it will lose its usefulness.

The cost is minimal: \$95 per year (when paid in advance) or \$25 a quarter. The ads run twelve times a year. Talk it over, get correct information together and call 1-800-428-0121, or mail your copy to: *Truth Magazine*, P.O. Box 9670, Bowling Green, KY 42102.

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Some might be surprised to know that the publication of *Truth Magazine* is one of the smaller parts of what we do. We are a publisher of books, literature, and can supply most church needs for communion ware, signs, baptismal garments, song books, and the list goes on. In our Bible Text Workbooks for adult classes, we have excellent material on nearly every book in the Bible (and by the end of this year we expect to have one on every book). These are not just "fill in the blank" workbooks, but contain brief but excellent commentary along with thoughtful questions for class discussion. In addition to these, we also have adult study books on a wide range of subjects, all written by faithful people. Our Truth Commentaries continue to grow. Just recently we published two volumes on the Minor Prophets. We expect to have three more of the New Testament Commentaries ready this year. Hebrews and 2 Corinthians are now written and are in the process of being proof-read. James will soon ready to print. Work on Luke is nearing completion and work is now being done on Genesis 50 in a major commentary on that book. These commentaries not only serve well our own generation, but will be useful tools for Bible study for generations to come.

When I began editing *Searching the Scriptures* in 1973, a preacher friend asked "Why do you want to do that?" My

# Homosexuals Demand Mayor to Resign or Apologize JESSE FLOWERS

Good news in the news? What are the chances? But it does still happen occasionally. Let me share one such story with you.

Ft. Lauderdale Mayor Jim Naugle has said some things to the media recently that has gotten him in a lot of hot water with homosexual activists. One of his comments was that a self-cleaning, automatic toilet that the city was going to buy for the public restrooms at beaches would have an added benefit of deterring "homosexual activity." Another of the mayor's comments that stirred up additional controversy was that he preferred to use the term "homosexual" not "gay" since homosexuals are "unhappy."

As a result, calls from homosexual activists have demanded that Mayor Naugle either resign or apologize. Finally an apology was given by the mayor, but not what you would expect from your typical politician.

Instead of retracting his controversial statements he apologized to the citizens of his city for failing to do more in bringing an end to the public homosexual activity occurring in Ft. Lauderdale's parks, beaches, and public restrooms. He told reporters that he "was not aware how serious the problem was of the sexual activity that is taking place in the bathrooms in public places and parks around Broward County, particularly in the city of Fort Lauderdale." He went on to say that he's "been educated on that and I want to apologize to the children and to the parents of our community for not being aware of the problem."

As Mayor Naugle exited the news conference, angry homosexual activists shouted "shame, shame," and "you're an embarrassment to our city." Peter LaBarbera of Americans for Truth responded to this criticism saying,

"Imagine: a big-city mayor tries to stop gross perversions from occurring in public places—and the pro-gay lobby says HE is the problem and is embarrassing the city!"

How rare it is today for a politician, regardless of party affiliation, to courageously speak out against the perversity of homosexual behavior. We applaud the mayor's willingness to do so. Also how refreshing to hear a government leader apologize to the community for not taking action sooner against the lewd public acts.

"Shame, shame" is exactly right. Shame on those who continue to "call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" (Isa. 5:20). "Shame, shame" on those who practice a sexual sin that God's Word identifies as an abomination (Lev. 18:22), against nature (Rom. 1:26), deserving of death (Rom. 1:32), and will keep one from inheriting the kingdom of God (1 Cor. 6:9). "Shame, shame" on Christians who do not have the conviction and courage to speak out against such "gross perversion." It is not enough for us to claim innocence just because we do not practice it ourselves or fellowship those who do. The Bible commands us to go one step further by reproving "the unfruitful works of darkness" (Eph. 5:11).

Mayor Jim Naugle provides God's people with a glimmer of hope that maybe other politicians will take a similar stand in their communities against ungodly conduct. With that in mind let us not be negligent to the apostle Paul's instructions "that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence" (1 Tim. 2:1-2).

## Editorial Leftovers (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

answer was simple. I said, "I want to be able to preach a hundred years after I am dead." That is one reason I have continued to serve with the Foundation since 1993. I wanted to be a part of planning and bringing to reality the commentary series along with the many other works already in print, not to mention those in preparation or the planning stages.

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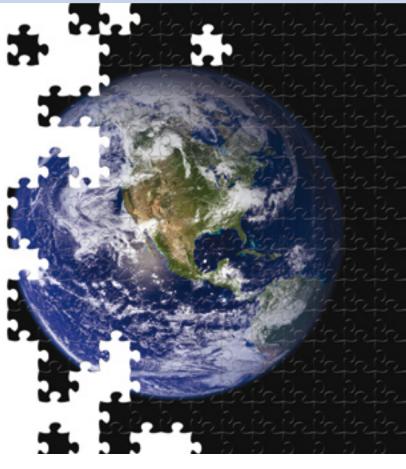
# **Creation:**Essential Bible Doctrine

C.G. "COLLY" CALDWELL

It is essential to know God. Jesus said, "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent" (John 17:3). One of the essential elements in our knowledge of God is the understanding that he is the Creator of everything other than himself. By "himself" I, of course, refer to God's threefold Divine Being: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. That said, I am convinced that we must consider it essential to acknowledge truth about God's creation and understand its implications.

In critical passages of Scripture, the Holy Spirit establishes the essentiality of accepting God as Creator and all that the Bible teaches concerning the subject. Believing that "faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" and that "without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is," we readily accept that "by faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God" (Heb. 11:1-6). All in heaven worship him who lives forever and ever saying, "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.

Almost twenty years ago, I was introduced to Jack Cottrell's three volume work dealing with man's knowledge of God. One of those volumes entitled God, the Creator provides some intriguing suggestions about the biblical doctrine of creation and the implications of our belief in what the Bible says about creation. If you read chapters three and four of that book, you will recognize some of the basic points contained in these two articles. Cottrell said, "God's highest purpose in creation—to be glorified—is fulfilled in the highest way through the creation of persons in his own image, personal beings who can acknowledge God's glory as manifested in His works and who can praise and adore him on account of it. Without the presence of rational creatures, the universe would be like a book with no reader, a voice with no one to hear, a beautiful house with no inhabitant" (127).



### **Creation from Nothing**

I believe that God originally created all material substance from nothing. He used only his own mind and energy. God is omnipotent. That does not simply mean that he is stronger than anyone else. It means that he is all powerful. He can do whatever he chooses because he is unlimited in power. Believing that, it is not unreasonable for me to believe that God used his power to create all material things. Now since he created all things and nothing but himself existed prior to creation, God must have created all things from nothing.

We use the words "create" and "creation" to refer to a variety of resourcefulness. "Generation" refers to bringing something "new" into existence from one's own existence. When a child is born, his/her human form is generated by parents through natural processes. That is not the creation we are discussing. "Formation" takes place when one brings

## **Creation: Essential Bible Doctrine**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

something "new" into existence by reconstituting elements in the material realm around him. We can only in a limited way (certainly not in a material sense) claim that Henry Ford's automobile and Frank Lloyd Wright's buildings were "creations," because they used and were built upon what was already there. The "new" things of craftsmen all pale before God's creation because he originally brought forth from nothingness without any pre-existing materials.

Now, let us look at God's own definition of what he did. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." First, this opening statement of God's Word, the Bible, Genesis 1:1, affirms the existence of God before matter thus denying atheism and pantheism. Further, it affirms creation thus denying materialism. "In the beginning" refers to the time at which all matter, the heaven and the earth, may date the commencement of its existence. The word "created" is translated from the Hebrew word bara' which refers to the initiating of something new. Even though the word itself does not inherently necessitate creation from nothing, it is important to note that after its creation, the earth was said to be "formless and void." For God to simply "form" unformed matter out of unformed matter is not rational. The only sense to be made of these words is that God brought matter from non-existing nothingness and formed it.

The Gospel according to John repeats the substance of this declaration when it says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made" (John 1:1-3). "In the beginning" mimics the opening words of Genesis and sets the stage. The Word (God, the Son) existed before all things made by him existed. The beginning is when they came into existence. Nothing was made that was not made by him. Therefore, all things were created by Divine power from non-existence.

By inspiration, the apostle Paul wrote, "As it is written, I have made you a father of many nations, in the presence of Him whom he believed, even God, who gives life to the dead, and calls those things which do not exist as though they did" (Rom. 4:17). Two great Divine works are clearly affirmed here: creation from nothing that exists and resurrection from death.

Hebrews chapter 11 verse 3 directly states "that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible"

(Heb. 11:3). As previously cited, that same verse reminds all that "by faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God." That is how God created. He spoke and matter resulted when there had been none before. Notice also that not only here but in the first chapter of Genesis each time God did something new on a subsequent day, the text says, "And God said...." Creation resulted from the

word of God. He had only to speak and what he spoke came into existence. This implies instantaneous creation. While the Bible places God's creation within the very limited time of six earth days, it also reveals that what God created from nothing required nothing more than the millisecond it took for him to speak

While the Bible places God's creation within the very limited time of six earth days, it also reveals that what God created from nothing required nothing more than the millisecond it took for him to speak it into existence.

it into existence. The Psalmist said, "By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth....For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast" (Ps. 33:6-9).

### Creation of the Invisible

At this point, we should observe that God's creative genius did not stop with the material creation. Paul said, "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him" (Col. 1:16). Notice again, that by saying that all things were created by him and for him, Scripture is affirming that nothing existed previous to it being created by God the Son. It, therefore, was created from nothing!

But notice here that God also created the invisible things in heaven and on earth: i.e., invisible spiritual beings as well as visible material beings.

Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni "created" his *Pieta* in the basilica of St. Peter's in Rome, his image of

## **Creation: Essential Bible Doctrine**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

David in Florence, and his Creation of Adam on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican. But in no way does Michelangelo's Creation of Adam compare to God's "creation of Adam"; nor would Michelangelo have claimed such. In each of his creations, Michelangelo was using pre-existing materials: stone, marble, and oil. We may acknowledge that God "formed" man (his body) and every beast of "the dust of the ground" (Gen. 2:7, 19), but that in itself does not include the creation of life, soul and spirit, which is not made of matter. God "breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being." God created life (human and animal) and he created spirits and gave them to men and women who because of that will live eternally.

David said, "For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well" (Psa. 139:13-14). We will live forever because God made us and God wills it, not because we possess some eternal quality of being. God only has "life in Himself" (John 5:26; 1 Tim. 6:16). It is impossible for him to not exist. God only is eternal. We had no existence prior to God's creating us. And we are totally dependent upon his upholding the existence of our personhood, our spirits, according to his will and by his Word.

## Creation with Purpose

God chose to create out of his own free will: "But our God is in heaven: He does whatever He pleases" (Psa. 115:3). "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power:

for you created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created" (Rev. 4:11). And further, in Christ "we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will" (Eph. 1:11).

Why did he do all this? God had purpose in the creation which he made. Was it some emotional desire of a spontaneous type? Or did God determine thoughtfully that he would create? Certainly, it was the latter. Was it for the sake of the creature that he created? Or was it for his own sake? We might say both. If we use the figure of an adoptive parent, there is a desire on the part of prospective parents for a child to extend the family. But there is also a desire to embrace, enrich, and enhance the life of the orphan child. God has certainly provided for us richly (1 Tim. 6:17; Jas. 1:17; Acts 14:17) and that is wonderful testimony to his goodness and love. Nevertheless God said, "Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him" (Isa. 43:7). In Ephesians chapter one, Paul affirms that God created us and then recreated us in Christ primarily for himself: "having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved" (Eph. 1:5-6).

God created *man* to glorify himself. That was not egoism and vanity. God is God. God deserves praise and honor. In receiving that from his creatures, he is not usurping a place



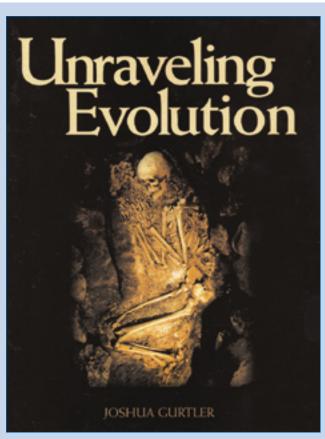
## **Creation: Essential Bible Doctrine**

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that is not rightfully his. It is not presumptuous in light of the fact that he determined to make everything from nothing. Remember, man did not even exist before. A father is not presumptuous to expect honor and respect from his children when he is an honorable person.

Why is all this so important? It is important not only because we owe our very existence to God, the Creator; but because he has recreated us in Christ. The same creation terminology is used to describe our redemption and spiritual existence that is used with reference to our physical

existence. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Cor. 5:17). "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10). "That you put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness" (Eph. 4:24). "And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him" (Col. 3:10). How marvelous are all his works!



## **Unraveling Evolution**

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# question & answer

# Question: What do some mean when they claim the books of the Bible are mere "love letters"?



BOBBY L. GRAHAM

Answer: In recent decades those seeking to implement wholesale changes respecting the view which people take of the Scriptures and their use of them have attacked the "traditional approach" as not considering the form of the biblical revelation. By form they mean (1) the particular genre (kind of literature) of the passage (for instance, poetry, epistle, parable, apocalyptic literature) and (2) how we view the passage (propositional truth like pattern, blueprint, or law vs. "love letter"). Supposedly they intend that all understand the Bible as a mere expression of divine love, as seen in whatever the text says, instead of legislation for people to obey.

The weakness of this "love letter" approach appears immediately to the discerning student. Who ever wrote a girlfriend, boyfriend, or spouse concerning such matters as going to law with one another, abusing the Lord's Supper, turning away from Christ to a different gospel, or failing to abide in the teaching of Christ? Furthermore, in these so-called love letters there are restrictions. mandates, warnings, and exhortations, all of which, on the very surface, call for obedient response from the readers. One would never have thought of this "love letter" approach by simple reading of the New Testament. The entire New Testament calls for obedient response to Jesus Christ on the part of readers, in a way that love letters sent to a girlfriend/boyfriend never can do. The New Testament comes from a superior Being with all authority, to inferior beings expected to submit to the divine will. To deny this fact is to show oneself either ignorant of the Bible or guilty of willful disobedience.

This attempt to evade the authority of New Testament teaching has classified the NT as a "love letter," lacking the force of law usually associated with it. This approach is quite problematic, as seen in this seven-count indictment.

- 1. It distorts "love" as found in the NT.
- 2. It nullifies law.
- 3. It makes it impossible for any to sin.
- 4. It ignores the divine limitations designed to protect the Scriptures from human encroachment.
- 5. It creates a false distinction between law and love.
- 6. It is built on a disregard for the meaning of words (love, law, pattern, sin).
- 7. It undermines the authority of God's Book and the holiness of God.

Another weakness of this approach is its stress on the figurative nature of much biblical writing. The charge is sometimes made that figures of speech reduce the truth or validity of language, or at least alter its authoritative nature. While it is true that figurative language abounds there, the proponents of this "love letter" approach show their elementary understanding of the nature of language. Language does not lose its truth, validity, or force because of its use of figures; if any result follows, force is thereby enhanced, so that truth stands out more powerfully and concisely than in literal language. Figurative language has no bearing on the authority inherent in divine communication or on the ways in which it conveys the divine will (direct statement, approved example, or necessary conclusion).

The reader should beware of all attempts to make the Bible anything less than the revelation of God's will to man calling for human obedience. All calls for a "new hermeneutic" or, on a smaller scale, for accepting the New Testament as just a "love letter," say more about the proponents' lack of faith than about the Bible itself.

# The Unity of the Spirit

#### IIM MCDONALD

# "Giving diligence to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:3).

This appeal to the Ephesians followed Paul's urge that they "walk worthily of the calling wherewith ye were called, with all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love" (Eph. 4:1f). By observing the aforementioned things, the Ephesians would "walk worthily of their calling" and also would be giving diligence to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace!

Unity in doctrine does not always signify unity in spirit. The fusing together of two hostile segments of society, Jew and Gentile, was not always accomplished peacefully. Even when men are of the same race but exposed to different cultures (such as Hebrew and Grecian Jews), differences arise. Example, the problem in Acts 6 where the widows of Grecian Jews were neglected in "the daily ministration." Amos' question "Can two walk together except they have agreed?" is certainly true, whether it be that agreement is upon doctrine or non-doctrinal matters (Amos 3:3).

Disputes often arise. The herdsmen of Lot and Abraham quarreled over pastures (Gen. 13:6-8). Barnabas and Paul quarreled over Mark (Acts 15:37-40). The disciples of Jesus quarreled about which of them was the greatest on the very eve of Jesus' betrayal (Luke 22:24). It took the lowly task of Jesus washing their feet to shock them back to proper sense of who truly is greatest (John 13:3-11). And the list of things which brethren and congregations quarrel about seems endless. Often separations come and one or the other will intimate the separation was "doctrinal," thereby offering "justification" for separation. But often the issue was not really doctrine, just a case where brethren had differences in judgment, over likes and dislikes.

Separations are not always wrong: Abraham suggested separation to Lot to prevent even more conflict in the future which was sure to come as their herds and flocks increased. But the separation appeared amiable: even after it, Abraham rushed to the aid of Lot, rescuing him from marauders who took Lot and others of Sodom captive (Gen. 11:11-24). When the stench of wickedness in Sodom became so great God determined to destroy it and Gomorrah and revealed those plans to Abraham, the passionate plea of Abraham for Sodom's preservation was no doubt rooted in his care for Lot.

Our care for brethren and the welfare of other congregations should be real and earnest. Paul wrote the

Corinthians, "Now if Timothy come, see that he be with you without fear, for he worketh the work of the Lord, as I also do" (1 Cor. 16:10). The prosperity of other brethren is not for themselves but the for the cause of Christ whom both them and we serve. Therefore, rejoice when other brethren prosper, even though we may not—visibly.

Within a local church, if unity of spirit prevails, it will be when brethren walk with lowliness, meekness, and long-suffering toward each other: when they have reached the position they have because all have determined "to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace."

Oh, how difficult it is sometimes to yield to the desires of others, especially when we are certain (and when circumstances later prove) we are right! Oh, how hard to remember Christ's rule, "As ye would therefore that men should do unto you, do ye also unto them" (Matt. 7:12). Only when every disciple of Christ has this spirit, will peace prevail. Alas, not all have this disposition of heart!

The Psalmist wrote: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Ps. 133:11). Jesus said, "Every kingdom divided against itself shall be brought to desolation and every city or house divided against itself shall fall" (Matt. 12:25). We have a formidable foe who seeks our destruction. We need all our efforts to be directed against him, not against each other! Thus we are urged, "Be at peace among yourselves."

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# Dating Passover and the "Last Supper"

KYLE POPE

The student of the Gospels occasionally confronts wording in the different accounts of the Evangelists which (at first glance) seems to contradict the account of other writers. If such problems are not resolved, the way is left open for critics of faith to discredit the doctrine of the inspiration of Scripture. Believers as well, may be led to doubt the faith they hold so dear. In most cases, these puzzles boil down to our own misunderstanding of the text and can be resolved with some careful examination of the details of various accounts. The practice of harmonizing Scripture can train us to avoid assumptions that are often at the heart of such misunderstandings. A good example of this is seen in what the Gospels record concerning the events leading up to the final meal which Jesus ate with his disciples.

The problem starts at Bethany, where Jesus came before his death. In the context of discussing the anointing at Bethany, Mark says, "After two days it was the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread" (Mark 14:1). Two verses after this Mark relates the anointing, in which a woman of the city anointed his feet with fragrant oil. John, however, begins this section, "Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead" (John 12:1). John then leads right into the account of the anointing. Is one account setting the anointing two days before Passover and the other six days before it? (Let's come back to this a little later.)

The next problem comes when the meal takes place. Both Matthew and Mark set the meal and the disciples' preparation of the house "on the first day of the feast of unleavened bread" (Matt. 26:17), "when they killed the Passover" (Mark 14:12). John, on the other hand, begins the discussion of the meal by saying, "Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end" (John 13:1). He then moves directly into the meal setting, declaring, "and supper being ended..." (John 13:2). Is John saying this meal was not on Passover night in contradiction of the other accounts? (We'll come back to this also.)

Finally, during Jesus' trial, John records two statements which add to the puzzle. First, he records a statement about the Jewish leaders, "Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, and it was early morning. But they themselves did not go into the Praetorium, lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover" (John 18:28). After Jesus is scourged by Pilate, John writes, "Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" (John 19:14). The other Gospels clearly record Jesus having already eaten the Passover with the disciples (Luke 22:15). Is John placing Jesus' trial before the Jewish leaders had eaten the Passover meal, on the day when the Jews prepared their houses for the Passover? How do we unravel this puzzle?

This is not a puzzle that is easily resolved. Many different attempts have been made to harmonize these accounts. Dan King in his commentary on the Gospel of John lists examples of seven different explanations (of varying merit) that have been offered to solve this puzzle (263-8).1 One interesting theory was first offered by the French Scholar Annie Jaubert.<sup>2</sup> Based on evidence from Qumran, Jaubert argued that different calendars were recognized in Palestine among the Jews. If Jesus and his disciples followed a calendar like that used at Qumran the Passover might have come before the Passover recognized by the Temple at Jerusalem. If so, the difference between John and the other Gospels is an issue of which calendar was being used as the reference point. Jaubert's theory is interesting but not universally accepted. Sacha Stern argues that there is not sufficient evidence to prove that there were different calendars in widespread use in the time of Jesus.<sup>3</sup>

The answer may not be as complicated as it seems. Barry Smith in his essay *The Chronology of the Last Supper*, argues that the issue rests on understanding biblical terminology.<sup>4</sup> Smith shows the fact that in both biblical and extra-biblical texts, "Passover" can refer to the one day feast and to the seven day "Feast of Unleavened Bread" which followed it.<sup>5</sup> During these days festival meals were eaten each night. That means that the Jewish leaders' refusal to enter the Praetorium "that they might eat the

# Dating Passover and the "Last Supper"

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12)

Passover" could refer to any meal during the "Feast of Unleavened Bread" which was also called the Passover. Smith further documents the fact that the term *paraskeue* translated "Preparation Day" in John 19:14 is regularly used of the day before the Sabbath day. That means that the phrase "Preparation of the Passover" (KJV) refers to the day before the Sabbath, that fell during the Feast of Unleavened bread (which was also called the Passover). Smith does not address the issue of the dating of Bethany, nor John's phrase "before the feast of the Passover" (13:1) immediately before recounting the events of the meal. How do these two pieces fit into the puzzle?

A good practice in Bible study is to constantly ask what a text does and does not say. It is easy to jump to conclusions when the text itself does not present what my brother, Curtis Pope, likes to call an "inescapable conclusion." The Bethany texts are a case in point. Does John say the anointing was six days before Passover? No! What the text says, is "six days before Passover Jesus came to Bethany" (John 12:1, emphasis mine). Then, after this statement, the account of the anointing is introduced with the Greek word oun meaning "then, therefore, accordingly, consequently, these things being so" (Thayer). Oun simply refers to the next thing that happened which John chooses to discuss. It doesn't have to mean that the meal took place on the same day that Jesus came to Bethany. By contrast, Mark describes a succession of events. At a time in which, "after two days was the Passover" (Mark 14:1a), the Jewish leaders conspired to kill Jesus (Mark 14:1b). This took place when Jesus was "in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper" (Mark 14:3). This tells us that the anointing at Bethany took place two days before the Passover, and Jesus came to Bethany six days before the Passover (or four days prior to this).

That brings us to the final piece of the puzzle—John 13:1. The same careful examination of the text clears away some assumptions. What does John say happened "before the feast of Passover"? Note three things: (1) Jesus' knowledge of his departure—"Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father" (13:1b); (2) Jesus' love for his disciple—"having loved his own which were in the world" (13:1c); and finally, (3) The continued love for them to that point in time—"He loved them unto

the end" (13:1d). When the next verse addresses the meal, notice how it does so, "And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him" (John 13:2). After just talking about Jesus' continuing love, the Holy Spirit then moves to address the object of his love whose actions would most test that love—Judas.

The form of the opening phrase of John 13:2 in Greek is something called the genitive absolute.8 This grammatical construction can only be translated into English by supplying prepositions or adverbs which complete the meaning and fit the context. The judgment of a translator plays a huge role in how such a text is rendered. This passage could begin with any one of the following words, with, when, as, while, etc. In addition to this, in the second word in the genitive absolute construction (ginomai meaning "to become" or "happen,") there is a single letter textual variant in which some manuscripts have the letter epsilon and some have the letter iota. This single letter changes the form from an aorist participle ("having happened") to a present participle ("happening"). This variant is reflected in the King James reading "being ended" in contrast to the American Standard reading "during." What does this tell us about the Passover? The fact that John begins 13:1 speaking of what happened "before the feast of Passover" doesn't demand that we understand the genitive absolute introduction to the events of the meal as taking place "before the feast of Passover." John first describes some events that happened before the Passover (13:1) and then moves to discuss what happened at the Passover (13:2). It is clear that John passes over some events. He does not mention the institution of the Lord's Supper (perhaps because the Synoptic Gospels all address it). John jumps to a discussion of events of the evening of the meal in order to elaborate in greater detail upon other things that took place during the Passover.

When all these things are considered together it becomes clear that there is no conflict between the accounts of the Gospel writers, in spite of the challenge that it presents to us all four Gospels are in harmony. While the critic of faith will be quick to make assumptions and use their assumptions to discredit Scripture, the believing student should train himself to carefully analyze the words (and silence) of

## Dating Passover and the "Last Supper"

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

Scripture. In most (if not all cases) the puzzles we face rest on our own misunderstanding of the text, not the words of Scripture itself.

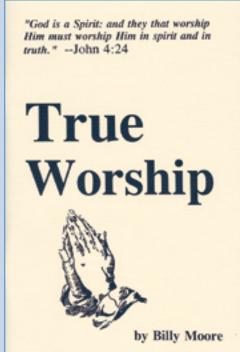
#### **Footnotes**

- <sup>1</sup> Dan King. *The Gospel of John*. Bowling Green, Kentucky: Guardian of Truth Foundation, 1998. 263-8.
- <sup>2</sup> Annie Jaubert. *The Date of the Last Supper.* Trans. I. Rafferty. Staten Island, New York: Alba House, 1965. Also, "The Calendar of Qumran and the Passion Narrative in John," in *John and the Dead Sea Scrolls.* Ed. James H. Charlesworth. New York: Crossroad, 1991, 62-75.
- <sup>3</sup> Sacha Stern. "Qumran Calendars: Theory and Practice," in *The Dead Sea Scrolls in their Historical Context*. Eds. Timothy H. Lim, Larry W. Hurtado, A. Graeme Auld and Alison Jack. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 2000, 179-186. Also, "Rachel Elior on Ancient Jewish Calendars: A Critique." *Aleph: Historical Studies in Science and Judaism* 5 (2000), 287-92.

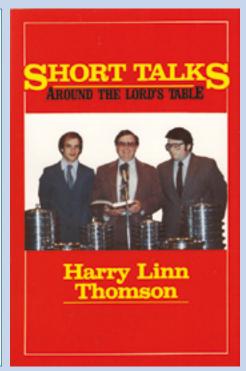
- <sup>4</sup> Barry Smith. "The Chronology of the Last Supper." *Westminster Theological Journal* 53:1 (1991), 29-45.
- <sup>5</sup> See Luke 22:1; Mark 14:12; Ezek. 45:21 and Josephus. *Antiquities of the Jews*, 14.2.1.
- <sup>6</sup> See John 19:31 where it is clear this is "Preparation Day" before the Sabbath—identified as a "High" Sabbath because it fell during the Passover/Feast of Unleavened Bread celebration. Also, Mark 15:42; Luke 23:54 and Josephus. *Antiquities of the Jews*, 116.6.1.
- <sup>7</sup> Oun "does not always furnish a strictly causal connection, but may be used more loosely as a temporal connective in the continuation or resumption of a narrative" (A Greek Grammar of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature. F. Blass, A. Debrunner and Robert Funk. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1961, 234-5).
- <sup>8</sup> "The *genitive absolute* expresses time, cause, condition, concession, or simply any attendant circumstance" (*Greek Grammar*. Herbert Weir Smyth. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1976, 459).



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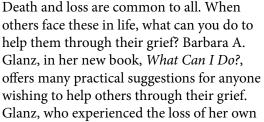
# book marks

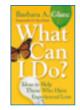
#### What Can I Do?

Barbara A. Glanz

Augsburg Books, 2007. 173 pages, softback

18989 ......\$13.99





husband and son, takes a practical, hands-on approach to this topic. She opens her book with a discussion of what grieving people need and do not need, and choosing our words carefully when speaking to them. The value of this book is found in the many practical suggestions given by Glanz to help others in times of grief and loss. Over 100 suggestions are offered to fill the immediate, personal, and long-term needs of those who are grieving (take a trip to the store, do yard work, clean the house, prepare a meal, write a note, etc.). Glanz even offers suggestions to help the children and relatives of the one grieving. Throughout this book the readers are encouraged to use their unique talents to get out and serve the grieving in a practical way that will help them the most. Whether it is a death, a severe illness, or some other loss, you can do something to help others in time of need. What Can I Do? will give you fresh ideas as you carry out this great task of service.

# The Quiver: Christian Parenting in a Non-Christian World



#### Douglas and Victoria Jacoby

Illumination Publishers International, 2007. 223 pages, softback.

18991......\$14.00

The title of this new book, *The Quiver*, is taken from Psalm 127:5. Children are like a quiver full of arrows. If we expect our

children to "fly straight" in life, we as parents must aim straight and shoot straight. If we want our children to "hit the target" of heaven, we must have a family that is designed around God's word. The authors of this book did it right when they based their parenting advice squarely upon the principles found in the Bible. Scripture after Scripture is



CHRIS REEVES

used by these authors to build a case for godly parenting in an ungodly world. The Jacobys cover five main categories in their book: family, parents, children, rhythms (daily wholesome family activities done together), and values. The parenting principles found in this book are sound, practical, and thorough. The question of single parenting, common today, is addressed and a number of helpful parenting resources are also incorporated at the end of this book including books, magazines, and internet websites. *The Quiver* is a recommended help to any parent who wishes to raise their child on the spiritual principles found in God's word.

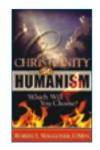
# Christianity or Humanism: Which Will You Choose?

Robert L.Waggoner

Publishing Designs, Inc., 2007.

18990 ...... \$12.95

We are in a battle and our enemy is secular humanism. The spoils are the souls of mankind! Which will you choose...Christianity leading to heaven or humanism leading to hell? In *Christianity or Humanism*, Robert L. Waggoner, who has lectured on humanism since 1985, accomplishes three important tasks: he argues capably in apologetic style for the

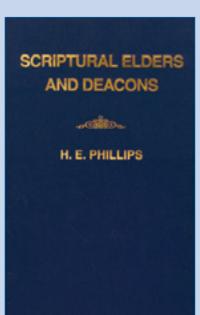


superiority of the Bible view over humanism; he warns of humanism's threat to Christian beliefs and institutions; and, he motivates the reader to greater activity in resisting and overthrowing humanism. Waggoner compares and contrasts ten areas of society that will either be influenced by Christianity or by humanism. The choice is ours: righteousness or ruin. This book includes review questions and suggested reading lists for classroom use and individual research. *Christianity or Humanism* is written to rekindle your zeal in the fight of all fights. This book is a must read for any concerned and caring Christian who does not wish to remain blissfully uniformed about the greatest threat to humanity.

The Scriptures teach that elders in the Lord's church are Holy Spirit made. In Paul's farewell address to the Ephesian elders, he said: "Take heed therefore unto your selves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28). I can hear a man say, when he should step down from an eldership, "I was made an elder by the Holy Spirit, and if I leave the eldership, the Holy Spirit will be the one to take me out!" So, we take a look as to how the Holy Spirit makes elders:

- 1. Elders: The Holy Spirit guided words commanded, by example, that there be elders in every church: "And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed" (Acts 14:23).
- 2. By Providing Qualifications To Be Met: The Holy Spirit provided a list of qualifications that a man must meet in order to be appointed to the eldership. They are recorded in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. These are said to be "must" conditions. The Holy Spirit did not directly zap these traits into a man, but as men read the words of the Holy Spirit and ordered their own personal lives so as to meet these qualities, the Holy Spirit made a man qualified to be an elder. There is no other way that an elder is Holy Spirit made!

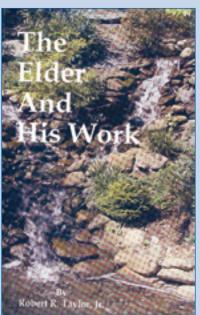
- 3. By What The Holy Spirit Has Revealed: All that we know and are is due to the knowledge revealed by the Holy Spirit. Writing the Ephesians, Paul uttered: "Whereby when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ. Which in other ages was not made known unto he sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit." How does a man know anything about elders? It has all been revealed by the Holy Spirit; that's how! The Holy Spirit works thru the word.
- 4. By Setting The Church In Order: The apostle Paul's teaching, which was Holy Spirit guided (John 16:13), to Titus was: "For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee" (Tit. 1:5). This is how elders are made!
- 5. The Holy Spirit Can Take An Elder Out: If the Holy Spirit can make a man an elder, He can likewise remove one from the office. Elders who "rule well" are to be "counted worthy of double honour" (1 Tim. 5:17). But, "them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear" (1 Tim. 5:20). The concept of "once an elder, always an elder" will not fly! If an elder is "divisive, walks disorderly" (Tit. 3:10; 2 Thess. 3:6), he must be "marked" (Rom. 16:17).



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# The Danger of a False Accusation

SHANE MILLARD

Currently I am in an American Literature class in college and we have been discussing the Salem witch trials and an interesting point has been brought up in our class. There was a danger in this time period of being an "accused" witch. The point I want to draw on is their accusation process. In a movie for the class, a woman has been playing on the paranoia of the people of Salem by accusing people falsely. At this point in time if you were accused of these types of activities your chances of survival were slim. The point in the movie is that innocent people were going to suffer because of a false accusation. So, this makes me consider about how much damage a false accusation can cause. There are three things I want us to consider that a false accusation can bring upon the Lord's people.

First, it can damage a good reputation. Proverbs tells us that a good name or reputation is to be desired and held on to (22:1). Also, when a man is looking to meet the qualifications for an elder, he is one that must be "blameless" (1 Tim. 3:2). Consider the damage that can be done in a matter of moments over a false accusation. Suppose there is a man who has a good name among the community and the local congregation and who is outside cleaning streets. A member of the church who has an improper attitude sees this man with a beer can in his hand and his mind wonders. He then tells others what he has just seen, thus slandering his good name (cf. 2 Tim. 3:3). Through this one false accusation this man's good name can be destroyed quickly. See how great a forest a little fire kindles (Jas. 3:5). This man's reputation can be shattered in a matter of a few minutes all because of this false accusation.

Second, it will cause strife and even division among the Lord's body. Proverbs 6:19 says that "he that soweth discord among brethren" is someone whom God hates. Consider this situation: you hear from a fellow member of the congregation that brother Joe has a opinion that some people disagree on, and your fellow member says that Joe is trying to divide the church. This is heard by you, and it begins to cause strife among the congregation. Also, because of the carnality in the congregation, they never fully discuss the issue with Joe and get to the bottom of the story. The congregation eventually splits because of all the gossip and false accusations. There are more problems in this

congregation than the fact of a false accusation, but if that person had gone in the beginning and talked to Joe and the situation had been dealt with properly, this division would have never occurred.

#### Third, it can contribute to someone losing his soul.

Consider the situation we just discussed. What if because of all the strife, confusion, and division that is taking place, a young Christian throws up his hands in disgust and ceases to walk with the Lord. A popular excuse people give for why they fall short in coming to services is because people in the congregation are hypocrites. The people in this situation talked a big talk in regard to their service to the Lord, but then they divided and devoured one another on Sunday morning. Also, consider this situation. A young Christian has a false accusation put forth against him. He tries to resolve the situation but the congregation has closed its mind to the discussion, and they push away an innocent man. This man then becomes angry and loses his faith because he was being torn apart by his own brethren.

My brethren, these things ought not to be so (Jas. 3:10). We must consider the damage that can be done by one simple false accusation. Just as in Salem where these people would go and kill people on the basis of an accusation, we may withdraw fellowship or misrepresent someone because a false accusation. May we always strive to have an attitude that we will look into the situation ourselves instead of tellings others, and to not have the receptive ear for such an accusation against one of our spiritual family (Lev. 19:16).

shane millard@hotmail.com



## Sins of the Tongue Edited by Mike Willis

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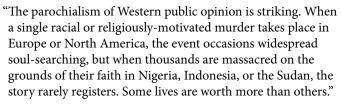
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# footnotes

# Footnote<sup>5</sup>

# The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity

Philip Jenkins (New York: Oxford University Press, 2002, p. 163)



Philip Jenkins is Distinguished Professor of History and Religious Studies at the Pennsylvania State University. Among his recent books is a trenchant analysis of "Global Christianity" (i.e., anything that wears the label or identifies itself as "Christian"). His scathing critique of how media and academia have distorted or ignored one of the main news stories of the century—indeed, a phenomenon of historic proportions largely ignored by historians as well—does not end with the barb quoted above.

This modern ignorance of "Global Protestantism"—so Western-oriented that it disregards virtually all else—is easily illustrated by citing only a small portion of the demographic data adduced by Professor Jenkins. Who would have guessed that there are more Anglicans/ Episcopalians in Nigeria and Uganda than in the United States, or even in the very home of Anglicanism—the United Kingdom? Or that there are many more Presbyterians in South Korea than in the US—or even the Presbyterian stronghold of Scotland? Or that a homegrown American religion—the Assemblies of God—has more members in Brazil than in the US? Or that there are now more than 1500 "Christian missionaries" in the UK—mainly from Africa and Asia? Who knew?

One reason for the astounding growth of all forms of "Christianity" worldwide is not only the explosion of Pentecostalism in the late 20th century, but the stunning expansion of the single largest "Christian" group—Roman Catholicism. Jenkins reports that there were 18 million Roman Catholic baptisms in 1999, including 8 million in Central and South America and 3 million in Africa (37% of them adult baptisms).

Again, this gives a pronounced Third World vs. Western cast to any global perspective on Christianity (which is still, despite



STEVE WOLFGANG

the common misperception, both the largest and the fastest-growing "world religion" on the planet—not Islam, which is second both in size and growth rate, or Hinduism, or any other *ism*). To put this in perspective, Jenkins cites (among many other nuggets in this gold mine of global religious information) the fact that there are more Roman Catholics in the Philippines than in any European country—be it Spain, Poland, or even Italy itself, and that the largest chapter of Jesuits is not in the U.S. or any Western nation, but in India.

Because many "mainline" U.S. denominations are hemorrhaging members daily and weekly, and many American Catholic parishes are nearly inactive, this moribund state does not extend to the rest of the world's populous nations. (The term "mainline" itself betrays a bias, reflecting the control those denominations once had on information purveyors—but historians are now suggesting that "oldline" is a much more accurate descriptive term for these shrinking and dying groups.) In other densely-populated locations on the planet, various versions of "Christianity" are rapidly emerging.

Of course, as many perceptive observers of American religion realize, this sort of ignorance, to say nothing of anti-religious bigotry, is not confined by the information industry poo-bahs to incidents outside the U.S. As Jenkins observes, to cite merely one example among many:

"Modern Western media do an awful job of reporting on religious realities, even within their own societies. Despite its immense popularity in North America, evangelical and fundamentalist religion often tends to be dismissed as merely a kind of reactionary ignorance. Not long ago, the media mounted a furious campaign to prevent John Ashcroft being appointed U.S. attorney general. Reasonable people can hold different views about the issues raised against Ashcroft, but it was striking how many critics illustrated his unsuitability by citing his supernatural beliefs, and specifically his Pentecostalism. Exhibit A against him was his membership in the Assemblies of God Church, which is already such a mass presence in Latin America and Africa" (162).

Such is the state of affairs in our secularizing culture in the first decade of the 21st century (1 Cor. 16:22-23).

# childrens' page

# Joshua—Esther (PART 1)

## Review Lesson

We have studied twelve books telling the history of the nation of Israel. These are the books of Joshua through Esther. Now, let us begin a review of the memory verses this month. We will also review some events in the history of Israel and learn some new lessons.

Review	of Memory Verses
Joshua:	"Go over this unto the" (Josh. 1:2).
Judges:	"The Lord raised them upand them out of the of their" (Judg. 2:18).
Ruth:	"[Boaz married Ruth and] the Lord gave herathey called his name : he is the of Jesse, the father of " (Ruth 4:13, 17).
1 Samuel:	(The elders of Israel said:) "Make us a to judge us like all the " (1 Sam. 8:4-5).
2 Samuel:	"David was years old when he began to, and he reigned years" (2 Sam. 5:4).
1 Kings:	"King exceeded all the of the earth for riches and for"  (1 Kings 10:23).

## Important events in these books of history:

- The books of Joshua through Esther tell the amazing story of how God led the Jews out of bondage in Egypt and made them into a great nation to serve him.
- After Moses died, Joshua led the people of Israel into the promised land of Canaan. When their enemies attacked them, God delivered his people by raising up leaders called judges. God was their great king!
- The people of Israel became foolish and demanded that God give them a human king because the other nations had a human king. God warned his people that they would face many new problems by getting a king, but they insisted for him to give them kings.
- God gave Israel their first king named King Saul. He started as a good king, but then he became proud and stubborn. He disobeyed God.
- God gave Israel their second king named King David. He was a very good king. When he sinned against God, he repented and asked God to forgive him. He was humble.
- God gave Israel their third king named King Solomon. He was David's son and he asked God to give him wisdom to be a good leader. Later, he married many wives from foreign nations and they worshiped idols, which made God angry.

3505 Horse Run Ct. • Shepherdsville, KY 40165-6954

DONNA HALBROOK

# **Open Their Eyes**

"But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me" (Acts 26:16-18).

In the above verses it is plainly stated that God is sending Paul to the Gentiles: to open their eyes, turn them from darkness to light, and from Satan unto God. He was to do this that these Gentiles may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among the sanctified. Some of these Gentiles, whose eyes Paul was to open, were in pretty bad shape. Consider the Corinthians: "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Cor. 6:9-11). It was to be Paul's job to open the eyes of these people to their real condition and its consequences, to show them the way out, that they might have forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among the sanctified.

Paul further reflects upon his job, "Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; and to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery" (Eph. 3:8-9). He was to "make all men see." Paul's eye-opening job began soon after his own eyes were opened. As he declared to King Agrippa, "I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision" (Acts 26:19); he stayed with his eye-opening job all of his remaining days.

But, how was Paul going to open those eyes? How would he open the eyes of the alien to his lost condition? How would he open the eyes of the idolater, the adulterer, the fornicator, and the drunkard? It ought to be obvious that he would do so by preaching the gospel to them. Let us return to Ephesians 3, for a moment. Verse 6 identifies the gospel which Paul used, in verse 7 Paul was made a minister of the gospel, in verse 8 he was to preach the gospel to the Gentiles, and in verse 9 the preaching of the gospel was the means of making "all men see." The first verse we quoted from Acts 26, says Paul was to be made a minister and witness of God's revelation. Another passage that directly reflects upon this thought is Romans 1:15-17: "I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first and also to the Greek The just shall live by faith." Paul did not open eyes by building hospitals, tennis courts, or fellowship halls. Nor did he do it by providing recreational facilities or activities, or by arranging social activities. He did it by, and only by, the preaching of the gospel. Whatever the subject under consideration, Paul taught God's truth on that subject; he declared the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27). If men were going to understand (get their eyes open), God's truth had to be taught plainly and fully. Paul did just that! Who would deny it?

### Following Paul's Example

Do we not understand that we are to do the same thing as did Paul in making God's message known? To Timothy Paul said, "I charge thee therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (2 Tim. 4:1-4). Paul was saying, "Timothy, some eyes are going to have to be opened; so, preach the word, reprove, rebuke and exhort." Jesus spoke of some people whose eyes would be closed (Matt. 13:15); and, if those people were to understand with their heart, be converted and be healed by the Lord, their eyes must be

## Open Their Eyes (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20)

opened. How are they to be opened? If not as Paul opened them, then how? I fail to see how anyone could honestly claim to open those eyes any other way! Yet, it appears to this writer that a lot of effort is being made to open them in some other way.

### The Message is Still the Same

The gospel was to be preached to the end of the age (Matt. 28:20; Mark 16:15). Christ said his word would never pass away (Matt. 24:35). The gospel is the power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16). The word of the Lord endureth forever, and that word is preached unto men by the gospel (1 Pet. 1:25). We must never preach another gospel (Gal. 1:8-9). We must earnestly contend for this gospel (Jude 3). We must limit our teaching and practice to the gospel (2 John 9-11). We must not add to or take from that gospel (Rev. 22:18-19). All these facts need no further comment to most, if not all, our readers.

## **Application**

To the alien: What are we going to tell him to open his eyes? Will we not tell him God's truth, as did Peter in Acts 2, what he must do to change that alien status? He will have to "see" that he is in a lost condition and what it takes to change that. His eyes must be opened to the facts that he needs a Savior. Jesus is that Savior, but that Jesus will not save him until he meets certain conditions. If his eyes are opened to these simple facts, he can now obey the Lord with all the benefits allowed.

To the worship: How do we open the eyes of those in error regarding the worship of God? Do we not point to John 4:24, showing both the disposition and pattern for acceptable worship? Having done that, we then step-by-step, item by item, verse by verse show the whole pattern of worship. If it is not shown in God's pattern of worship it cannot be acceptable; that is what is wrong with having instrumental music in worship. For the same reason we cannot observe the Lord's Supper on any day other than the first day of the week (Acts 20:7), only the first day of the week is in God's pattern.

To the work of the church: "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10). God ordained the good works for us, and we are to walk in them. The only way we can know what God has ordained is by what we can read in the gospel. There we can find that

the church was involved in preaching the gospel (1 Thess. 1:7-8) and in caring for the needy saints (Acts 11:29-30; 1 Cor. 16:1-2). By pointing out these facts, we hope to open the eyes of those in error concerning the work of the church. Is this not so?

To the organization of the church: Elders were to be appointed in every church (Acts 14:23) and those elders are limited in their oversight to that one local church (Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:1-2). He who will spread that oversight to other congregations or portions thereof, shows his displeasure at God's order of things, in spite of his denial to the contrary. The "sponsoring congregation" arrangement is in violation of these simple truths and these truths should open the eyes of those in error on the organization of the church.

To divorce and remarriage: It is obvious that a lot of eyes need to be opened on this subject; and they can be opened in exactly the same way as in other areas—by preaching God's truth on the subject. Matthew 19:9 is quite plain in that it applies to all men and not to just those called Christians. It is also plain in that it shows the only reason for divorce and remarriage (fornication) and that the guilty party in such divorce cannot remarry. We must make up our minds as to whether we shall take God's word on the subject or take what man has said about God's word.

Sometimes it takes a lot of preaching to open eyes on this subject. Yet, we hear some boasting of not preaching on the subject but just a few, very few, times. Brethren, the only way eyes will be opened on this subject is more and more plain preaching on it!

To the drinking of intoxicating drinks: Most agree that drunkeness is wrong and utterly condemned in the gospel (1 Cor. 6:9-11; Gal. 5:19-21). But, the prelude to drunkeness, social drinking, is often upheld. Just as some try to do away with the teaching of Matthew 19:9, in speaking of divorce and remarriage, others try to do away with 1 Peter 4:1-3, as it applies to social drinking. So eyes continue to be closed on the dangers involved. Brethren, eyes need to be opened, not closed.

*To fellowship:* If you wish to fellowship every false teacher around, run to those who teach such can be justified by applying Romans 14 to the practice. In spite of the fact that Romans 16:17 and Ephesians 5:11 forbid fellowship with the false teacher, these passages must be twisted to harmonize

## Open Their Eyes (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21)

with the perverted form of Romans 14. So eyes remained closed and the only way, brethren, that those eyes are going to be opened is to preach God's truth concerning the subject over and over again.

The above examples of application certainly do not exhaust the list for such need, but I think they do show what is happening—eyes remain closed because the truth simply is not being preached as it should be. Paul well knew that some would not like the truths which he pointed out. He said to the Galatians, "Am I become your enemy because I tell you the truth?" (4:16). Whatever reason (or excuse) which we may use for not doing so, let it be understood that eyes are remaining closed to the truth. Fellow preachers (teachers), souls are at stake, and one may be our own.

If we are to present our hearers to be "holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight," we (and they) must "continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister" (Col. 1:22-23).

Paul opened a lot of eyes during his ministry, and on the whole range of Bible subjects. Where he saw sin or error, there he directed his message. In doing so, he often made enemies; but he did open eyes so that his hearers could act in harmony with God's word, could obtain the forgiveness of sins, and an inheritance among the sanctified. What a shame that all gospel preachers do not follow his great example today. We should know that only when eyes are opened can they respond accurately and intelligently. What a job we have! And, what an honor it is to have it!

1515 Walnut, Alameda, California 94501

#### **Ellettsville Church of Christ**

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# What I Want You to Know About Your Bible (Part 2)

HEATH ROGERS

#### The Bible Is Relevant

Relevancy is important. It has to do with making sure we are spending our time, attention, and energy with something worthwhile. When discussing the relevancy of the Bible, it would question whether or not the Bible has any bearing upon our lives today. Some people would say that it doesn't. While acknowledging its historical and religious significance, the prominent opinion seems to be that the Bible is an outdated book. It may have served a purpose in the past, but times have changed. Some question how a book as old as the Bible can have any serious application to our lives today.

Is the Bible relevant? Does this ancient book have any practical application to our lives today? Does it satisfy our needs as individuals and as a society, or do we need something else? I believe the following points prove that the Bible is relevant to our lives today.

- 1. God Has Not Changed. "For I am the Lord, I do not change" (Mal. 3:6; see also Heb. 13:8). A lot of time has passed since the Bible was written, but that doesn't mean God has changed. How do we know this? A lot of time passed while the Bible was being written (about 1,600 years), yet God is the same person at the end of the Bible that he is at the beginning. Time has a way of changing man, but God exists outside of time. Time doesn't have any affect upon him. God hasn't grown any wiser through the centuries. He hasn't become tolerant of things that used to anger him. God is the same Person for us today that he is in the Bible.
- 2. God's Word Has Not Changed. "Forever, O Lord, your word is settled in heaven" (Ps. 119:89). God's standards of right and wrong have always existed, and will always exist, the way they are found in the Bible. There is no need to update, change, or revise the Bible. Some have the idea that, because society now accepts things like living together, adultery, no-fault divorce, homosexuality, etc., God now accepts them. This isn't true. God's thoughts and ways are not subject to our approval (Isa. 55:8-9). It is a dangerous thing to be presumptuous about God.
- 3. The Needs of Society Have Not Changed. Society changes all the time, but the needs of society are still the same. People are still people, and have the same basic needs. Some may be surprised to find that the Bible both addresses and offers solutions to problems that we are dealing with today. Crime

and punishment (Eccl. 8:14), the role of civil government (Rom. 13:1-6), welfare abuse (2 Thess. 3:10), prejudice (Acts 10:34; Matt. 22:35-40), teen pregnancy (1 Cor. 6:18; Heb. 13:4), drug and alcohol abuse (Gal. 5:19-21), family problems (Col. 3:18-21), divorce (Mal. 2:16; Matt. 5:32), homosexuality and same-sex marriages (Rom. 1:26-27; Matt. 19:4-5), and terrorism (Matt. 7:12) are all addressed in the Bible.

4. The Needs of Mankind Have Not Changed. The Bible answers the most basic and fundamental questions that mankind has struggled with. Where did I come from? Why am I here? Where am I going? The apostle Paul answered all three of these questions in a sermon recorded in Acts 17. Where did I come from? "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands" (v. 24). Why am I here? "So that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us" (v. 27). Where am I going? "Because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead" (v. 31).

In addition to philosophical needs, man also has spiritual needs. Many people have serious problems dealing with guilt, depression, doubt, despair, hopelessness, and fear. Bookshelves and magazine racks are filled with material written in hopes of identifying and solving these problems. TV and radio programs offer pop-psychology and the latest self-help fads. However, the Bible is the one book that positively identifies the real problem with mankind: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). It is also the only book that offers the real solution to this problem: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 6:23). It answers the most important question of all—"What must I do to be saved?"

The Bible is not an out-dated relic of centuries past. It is not a book of ancient history or myths. It is not a charm to ward off evil. Neither is it a file cabinet for newspaper clippings, announcements, pictures, or flowers. It is the living Word of God. It gives answers to our most important questions, and provides the standards and guidance we need as individuals and as a society. The Bible not only shows us how to have the best life here on earth, it is the only book that can prepare us for eternal life.

# Are We Going Into a Recession?

LEWIS WILLIS

Listening to the news is depressing at times, to say the very least. For seemingly endless months, the primary story on news broadcasts centered around our ultimate "defeat" in the Iraq war. When that conflict began to turn more positive, the media focused on our U.S. economy and essentially talked us into a financial recession, or so it seems to me.

Here in our part of the country, the economy was already in a slow and steady decline, so it took very little for it to worsen. Almost daily we hear of yet another company closing or laying off hundreds of workers. These are hard and difficult times for many families across America. Not only has our movement toward a recession affected us, but stock markets across the world are nervous and they, too, are steadily moving into trying times.

In the midst of this financial atmosphere, what is the Christian to think and do? If caught up in one of these announced layoffs, or if one's retirement program or 401k plan collapses, anyone will sense severe alarm, even a faithful Christian. The house payment, utilities, car payment, food, and clothing expenses continue, even when employment ends. Again I ask, what is the child of God to do in such stressful circumstances?

I truly wish I had a magical solution and answer. But, I don't! All I know to do is remind us of some basic biblical truths which we need to keep in our hearts and minds. However, even as I am about to insert the following Scriptures, I realize this truth does not provide health care for your children when you lose your job. Perhaps what I am struggling to say is, don't lose your soul and your job!

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said,

Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow;

they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you (Matt. 6:25-33).

If you are in one of those desperate circumstances described before, allow me to urge you to read that passage again. And, don't lose your faith in the midst of your crisis. Oh, I know, such is much easier said than done, but we must continue to trust in God, especially when all our genuine efforts appear to have failed.

### To Those Who Are Blessed

If you are one of those people whose job and income are still secure, be admonished not to forget those who are suffering! These are truly hard times for many, and our brethren have not been exempted from those sorrows. Permit me to insert here the counsel of God for those of us who are still blessed.

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith" (Gal. 6:10). James wrote a similar exhortation. He said: "If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone" (Jas. 2:15-17). We must remember to care for each other. The people of the world have a totally different approach to such situations, but God's people are not like the world. They live by a higher standard!

### Do Not Trust In Money And Things

Just a reminder! We are destined to lose our way if we put our trust in material things. Jesus said, "Lay not up for

## Are We Going Into a Recession?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24)

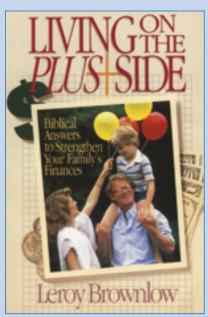
yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matt. 6:19-21).

We know this on an intellectual level, but when times are hard, we can very easily forget it. Another exhortation comes from the Lord, through the apostle Paul. He wrote: "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made

known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:6-7).

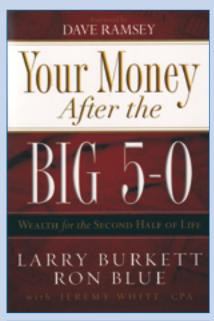
"Be anxious for nothing" is how one translation begins that last passage. This sounds easy enough, if you are still working and bringing home a check every week. But, consider the poor soul who does not know how to feed and house his children!

No, don't just "consider" him; help him bear his burden! We are admonished: "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ" (Gal. 6:2).



# Living On the Plus Side

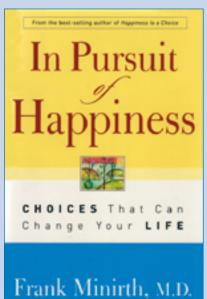
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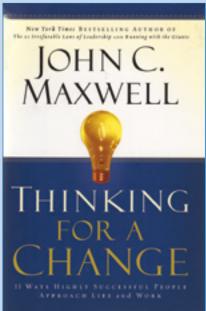
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# Am I Just a Christian?

IONATHAN CHAFFIN

An article appeared several months ago in *Truth Magazine* entitled "Is It Possible To Be Just A Christian?" I want to answer that question, but from a different standpoint. The author brings out the point that people of the world consider themselves and others as Christians because they affiliate themselves with a particular religious organization other than the church that we read about in the New Testament. A well written article by brother Heath Rogers dismisses that claim by correctly stating, "the preaching of the apostles did not produce Catholics, Baptists, Presbyterians, Pentecostals, etc. It produced Christians..."

Using the same title, "Is It Possible To Be Just A Christian?," what does it mean to be a Christian? Can we call ourselves Christians just because we "go to church," whether it be a Baptist, Methodist, Catholic, or even a church of Christ? Just because we regularly go to a building with the name "Church of Christ" attached to it, that does not automatically make us Christians.

Sadly, there are those who think that being a Christian involves nothing more than being immersed in some water and, after that, there is nothing else to do. Do we stop growing once we are baptized? If so, why do we have Scripture that tells us to grow? 2 Peter 3:18 commands, "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and for ever. Amen."

Do we understand everything about the word of God and need not to know anymore? Do we think we have the answers to everything contained within God's word? Is it possible to be "just a Christian?" Can we be idle in the work God has given us to do and be pleasing in God's sight? There are brethren who think just because they occupy a space on a pew each Sunday and Wednesday, such is all they have to do to be a Christian. I suggest to you that God requires more of us than warming a spot on a pew. What makes us think we can be idle in the kingdom of God? Are we going to do as the laborers in the vineyard (Matt. 20:1-16) who waited until the end of the day to seek work? Are we going to be idle until the day of judgment and then proclaim that we did nothing in the name of the Lord? The judgment day will be too late. Ephesians 2:10 reads, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God afore prepared that we should walk in them." God created us to do his work, not to sit back and do little or nothing at all. We cannot sit back and watch the world pass us by. Our purpose upon this earth is to do God's work.

What does God require of us? The passage of Scripture that comes to mind is found in James 2:17-18: "Even so faith, if it have not works, is dead in itself. Yea, a man will say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith apart from thy works, by my works I will show thee my faith." Your faith may be strong and steadfast, but James is telling us that your faith alone is not enough. There is more than faith that is required of you. Verse 17 is what we quote most of the time and do not go beyond that one verse. However, verse 18 is showing us that we do not have the option to choose between faith or works; rather, it is telling us that faith and works belong together.

We most definitely need to have faith, but we must prove our faith by our actions. If you think that your "actions" are

attending worship services, partaking of the Lord's supper, giving of your means, and the other acts of worship we perform when we assemble together, then you are sadly mistaken. Do you have the mind set that because you make your presence known at the assembly, you are a "good" Christian?

If you think that your "actions" are attending worship services, partaking of the Lord's supper, and the other acts of worship we perform when we assemble together, then you are sadly mistaken.

Remember what Paul writes to Timothy in 2 Timothy 3:17: "That the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work." What do you think "furnished completely unto every good work" means? The first part of that verse says "that the man of God may be complete." Other translations use the term "perfect" which means "complete." Are you "complete" or "perfect" enough in your faith that you are willing to risk doing nothing? We have a responsibility to be active in the kingdom of God.

## Am I Just a Christian? (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26)

Colossians 3:17 says, "And whatsoever ye do, in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." It is required and commanded of us to do all things that we do in honor of our Lord. No matter what we do, we are to honor our Lord in everything, even if we are just eating. "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31). Give honor and glory to God in everything.

We have a responsibility as Christians to be more than mere pew warmers. We have to preach the gospel to the whole creation (Mark 16:15). How can we preach to the whole creation if we are idle Christians? Jesus says in Matthew 25: 32-46:

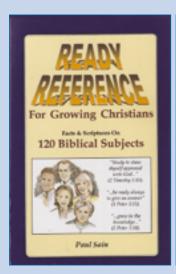
And before him shall be gathered all the nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as the shepherd separateth the sheep from the goats; and he shall set the sheep on his right hand but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. for I was hungry, and ye gave me to eat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in; naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord when saw we thee hungry, and fed thee? Or athirst, and gave thee drink? And when saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? Or naked and clothed thee? And when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it unto

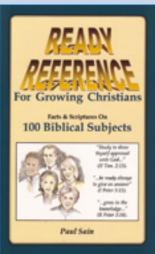
one of these my brethren, even these least, ye did it unto me. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand Depart from me, ye cursed into the eternal fire which is prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry, and ye did not give me to eat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me not in; naked and ye clothed me not; sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer, saying, Lord when saw we thee hungry, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not unto one of these least, ye did it not unto me. And these shall go away into eternal punishment: but the righteous into eternal life.

How are we going to answer Jesus on that great day? We are not using Christ as our example if we do not heed his words and neglect our duty. Take the example of Phoebe in Romans 16. She was one who took care of other saints when in need. Paul says that she "was a helper of many, and of mine own self." Are we? There is much more that we can do than what is talked about here. Take a look and see if you are just a pew warmer or active in the Lord's work.

Ask yourself a question: What *more* can I do to be an active member in the kingdom of God? You cannot afford to just sit back and think that you are "doing enough" to get to heaven. Your presence at worship services is not enough. So answer the question about yourself: Is it possible to be "just a Christian" in name only?

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# All in the Life of a Preacher: Paul and His Enemies (Part 2)

When we began this short series of articles in last month's issue, we noted the wonderful character and work of Paul. We then noted the various enemies he made and actions they took to hurt his influence, do him bodily harm, and undermine his work. What could be behind such actions? What does the Bible tell us about the attitudes of heart that caused Paul's enemies to act as they did? We seek an answer this question in this article.

# Attitudes of Heart Affecting Paul's Enemies

- 1. Opposition to Christ and His gospel (Acts 13:46; 17:32; 19:8-9). The arguments in favor of a lost person's believing the gospel are compelling for both Jew and Gentile alike (Acts 2:25-31, 34-35; 8:32-35; 14:17; 17:21-31; Rom. 1:20). However, the history in Acts shows us that many resisted Christ's word. This led them to defame and persecute His followers.
- 2. Perceiving Christ's ministers to simply be leaders (Acts 24:5; 21:28). Peter, Paul, and others like them were leaders. They led others to know, obey, and serve Christ (Acts 2:22-36; 11:26; 14:23). However, those who perceived them to be merely leaders severely under estimated these men. They were primarily followers followers of Jesus the Christ (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 10:28; 11:17; 2 Cor. 4:5; 1 Cor. 11:1).

These dispositions we have noted in our first two points were often connected with other sinful feelings. Let us now examine some attitudes which both moved people to work against Paul and caused problems among God's people in the first century.

- 3. Jealousy (Acts 13:45; 17:5). This word's meaning in these verses is defined as "an envious and contentious rivalry, jealousy" (Thayer). Stumpff describes it: "The kind of zeal which does not try to help others but rather to harm them, the predominant concern being for personal advancement" (TDNT, II: 882). As we consider these definitions, we cannot be surprised at the actions of those moved by jealousy in the contexts of the verses cited under this point.
- 4. Strife (Phil. 1:15). This word is variously defined, "discord, contention" (B.A.G., 309) and "baseness, self-

interest, ambition" (Büchsel, *TDNT*, II: 661). It is helpful to study verses where it appears (1 Cor. 1:11; 3:3; Tit. 3:9). It is likewise beneficial to note how often it is linked together with jealousy (Rom. 13:13; 1 Cor. 3:3; 2 Cor. 12:20). It is also profitable to observe that *it was often seen among God's people in the first century*. This shows all of us that we must guard against it today. It is remarkable to read, "Some indeed *preach Christ* even of envy and **strife**" (Phil. 1:15). *People can become so twisted from harboring strife that they do good things with bad intent!* 

5. Faction (Phil. 1:17). Faction is also found linked with jealousy (James 3:14,16), and with jealousy and strife (2 Cor. 12:20). Let us note its definition. "... 'a hireling'; hence the meaning of 'seeking to win followers,' 'factions,'... rivalries..." (Vine, 68). Barclay's observations on this word are helpful:

It is to be noted that three out of the four instances (of Paul's usage of this word, sw) occur in contexts in which the main problem lies in competing parties within the Church....

In (the writings of, sw) Paul the word clearly denotes the spirit of personal ambition and rivalry which issues in a partisanship which sets a party above the Church (*The Works of the Flesh*, 55).

Those motivated by faction can come to look at Christianity as a competition with other Christians and a means of exalting themselves. A factious person removes Christ from the center of Christianity and puts himself or his party in Christ's place. When this happens, error and/or personal opinion can be exalted to the point where it is treated as matters of faith.

### Conclusion

Jealousy, strife and faction were a problem at the church in Corinth (1 Cor. 3:3; 2 Cor. 12:20). In light of this, it is interesting to note the plea that Paul makes to the Corinthians to open their hearts to him (2 Cor. 7:2), and his observation that they were "restricted in [their] own affections" (6:12, RSV). Let us all be instructed! These brethren both harbored these sinful attitudes in their hearts and found it difficult to receive the apostle Paul as a

# All in the Life of a Preacher (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28)

faithful brother in Christ! This was in spite of all the work he had done in converting and grounding them in the faith (Acts 18:8-11). The innocent victim of brethren who are controlled by these sinful attitudes can be led to search his heart wondering what it is he has done wrong.

Harboring jealousy, strife, and faction led Christians of the first century to do some really strange things. As we noted, "Some indeed *preach Christ* even of envy and **strife**" (Phil. 1:15). Such Christians stayed within the church and/or association with Christians — *while working against other Christians!* They so worked while apparently claiming to serve the Lord while doing it! This shows us that, when a

Christian holds such sinful attitudes in his heart, it will be difficult for him to distinguish the motives for his actions. Therefore, he will be in great danger of doing wrong while *feeling* like he is doing right! Such are the twisted fruits of these sins.

The incidence of these sins occurred in different places in the world of the first century. They can take place anywhere today. May we all recognize the importance of keeping our hearts right (Prov. 4:23; Luke 6:45) and, "Cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (2 Cor. 7:1).

# Fifth Annual Truth Magazine Lectures

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday				
8:00 - 8:50	In the Beginning Was the Word (John 1:1) Anthony Genton	The Work of the Spirit (John 16:7-14) Bruce Reeves	Preach The Word (2 Tim. 4:1-5) Norman Fultz				
9:00 - 9:50 A	Come Unto Me (Matt. 11:28) Adonis Bailey	Contend Earnestly For The Faith (Jude 3) Bobby Holmes	Blessed Are The Dead Who Die in the Lord (Rev. 14:13) Lewis Willis				
9:00 - 9:50 B	The Unity of the Spirit (Eph. 4:1-7) Wayne Seaton	Receive Ye One Another (Rom. 15:7) Jeremy Sweets	Whosoever Divorces His Wife (Matt. 19:9) Andy Alexander				
10:00 - 10:50 A	The Word of God Is Living and Powerful (Heb. 4:12) Mike Grushon	True Worship (John 4:24) Andy Diestelkamp	Bring Up Your Children in the Nurture and Admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:1-4) Royce DeBerry				
10:00 - 10:50 B	Works of the Flesh: Sensuality (Gal. 5:19) Gale Towles	Works of the Flesh: Sins Against Brethren (Gal. 5:20-21) Ron Halbrook	Love (1 Cor. 13) Rick Liggin				
11:00 - 11:50 A	Strangers and Pilgrims (Heb. 11:13-16) David Halbrook	Upon This Rock I Will Build My Church (Matt. 16:13-19) Brian Anderson	Without Faith It Is Impossible To Please Him (Heb. 11:6) Phil Martin				
11:00 - 11:50 B	Daughters of Sarah Carla Adams	Eunice and Lois Marilyn Curtis	Euodia and Syntyche Bonnie Gary				
	Lunch	Break					
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Open Forum: Must We Divide Over Every Issue?		Open Forum				
	Singing 7:00 - 7:30 p.m.						
God So Loved The World (John 3:16) Mike Willis	Go Ye Into All The World (Mark 16:15-16) Connie W. Adams	Singing	More Than Conquerors (Rom. 8:37) Steve Monts				

# Serving God with Joy and Gladness

STAN ADAMS

In Moses' second speech to the people before his death, he delivers to them blessings and cursings in Deuteronomy 28. They would be blessed and basically have it made if they obeyed all the Lord told them to do. However, if they disobeyed, everything would go wrong for them eventually. In verses 45-47 he says, "Moreover all these curses that come upon thee and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, till thou be destroyed: because you hearkened not unto the voice of the Lord thy God to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded you. And they shall be upon thee for a sign and for a wonder and upon thy seed forever. Because thou served not the Lord your God with joyfulness and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things." We conclude from this statement that Israel was not only destroyed for blatant disobedience and idolatry but also because they had a horrible attitude and spirit toward the Law and the blessings God had showered on them. One has to ask if we, the spiritual Israel of God, are not like them at times.

It could not have been easy to keep the Old Law. As a matter of fact the Hebrew writer talks of the imperfection of the Old Law and the inadequacy of the blood of bulls of goats to forgive. In spite of how tough it may have been to keep at times, the people of Israel were to keep the law with joyfulness and gladness.

Imagine what it must have been like to come home from working in the vineyard only to find that your house had mold in it and you had to evacuate it and treat it for a period of time? Imagine how difficult it might have been to gather animals to bring for sacrifice. Anyone who has a dog knows that animals do not always do what you want them to do. It had to be a struggle at times to keep your joyful and glad heart, but keep it you must or the sacrifice and service meant little.

One of the ways Israel expressed their joy when they heard the law was to say "Amen." There is nothing wrong with a hearty "amen" when a point of truth is made plain even today. "Amen" means, "so be it" and is an apt expression of our agreement with the Word.

True joy and gladness enabled the Israelites to gather every seven years to hear the entire law read to the people. That could not have been a particularly dynamic presentation by worldly measure, no matter who read, but the beauty of the words of the Law and the reality of who gave it and why he gave it were to supercede any earthly concept of what constituted joy and gladness. We would do well today in the

Lord's church to grow in our joy and gladness toward the Word and not be so concerned about how it is presented or how "warm and fuzzy" it makes us "feel." We would also do well to realize that true worship to God is not based on the peppy movement of the notes in a song, or in the camp like mood one can manufacture by telling some tear-jerking story. Let us remember,

We would do well today in the Lord's church to grow in our joy and gladness toward the Word and not be so concerned about how it is presented or how "warm and fuzzy" it makes us "feel."

brethren that the power is in the Word (Rom. 1:16) and we need not apologize for its power and beauty or demean it by thinking we can "spiff it up."

In Nehemiah the people gathered at the watergate to hear the law read. We read in Nehemiah 8:7, 8 that Ezra, some others, and the Levites "caused the people to understand the law: and the people stood in their place. So they read in the book in the Law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading." Notice the attitude of the people in standing out of respect for what they were to hear. Can you imagine asking the brethren in any church in America to stand for an entire sermon? This must have also been a rather long gathering, but no one seems to have noticed the time because they were caught up in the beauty of what was being read and explained.

I find it interesting that nowhere in the qualifications for priests of Israel does God mention that they must be dynamic speakers. Although there is nothing wrong with a man being a good, persuasive speaker, the power is not

# Serving God with Joy and Gladness (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30)

in the man but in the distinct way in which the word is presented. One preacher years ago was heard to pray, "Lord help me not to get in the way of the beauty and power of Thy Word." I would hope that would be the prayer of all who preach the precious Word of God. All who listen are to thrill at the mere reading of it, every time it is read and preached.

Unfortunately, we live in a time when many think the church needs to "get with it" and "jazz up" worship for the young people. If we are not careful, we will raise a generation of Christians who serve God based on false ideas of worship. Worship is not all about me or you and how we feel, it is all about God and showing him the gratitude of our hearts for the abundance of the blessings he gives and for the grace he has extended to us in giving us opportunity to hear his Word and worship with him one more time. Artificial joy and gladness does not approach true joy and gladness in pleasing the Lord.

In an era of multi-million dollar buildings with all the trappings for comfort and convenience, we can get sidetracked as to what constitutes true worship to God. Ask yourself if you are a Christian who serves the Lord with true gladness and joyfulness. Ask yourself if you thrill at the hearing of his Word and consider it an honor and privilege to serve him on a daily basis in the keeping of his law and "seeking the kingdom first" (Matt. 6:33).

We must remember that much of the Old Law addressed what a person was not doing, and admonition was made for them to correct their error. These parts of the Law were not being violated by a faithful Jew, but they were to still find joy and gladness in

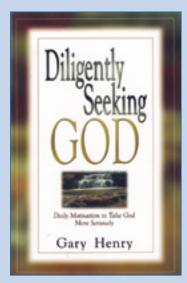
hearing it read.

In Deuteronomy 28:47 the point God is making to the people is that he is rejecting them for their poor attitude toward his law. When one begins to lose the joy and gladness of keeping God's precepts and of hearing them over and over, then he is well on

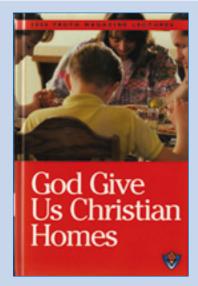
When one begins to lose the joy and gladness of keeping God's precepts, then he is well on the way to digression and indifference.

the way to digression and indifference. Apathy soon sets in and his faith is soon destroyed. No matter what the outside influences in our lives, nothing is to take away from our joy and gladness over the abundance of blessings God has given us in his law.

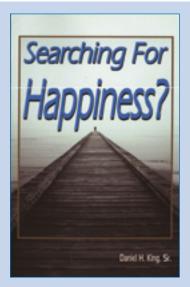
God will not entertain any excuse for failing to have joyfulness and gladness of heart. If God will not accept such excuses let's make sure we do not accept what he rejects. Serve him with joy and gladness for his abundant blessings.



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## The Strengths and Weaknesses of Rebekah

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

released immediately to return to his master. Laban said, "We will call the damsel, and enquire at her mouth" (24:57). When Rebekah replied, she said, "I will go."

Rebekah had a pioneer spirit. She manifested the same kinds of traits that the early English women displayed who would board a ship in England, sail across the Atlantic, and be separated from their family in order to start a new life with her husband in an unexplored country. The same spirit was shown by the American woman who would pack what she could of her possessions in a chuck wagon, leave her father and mother, and travel with her husband and children across the unexplored plains and mountains of mid-west and western America in search of a better life. Rebekah is a strong woman, willing to assume just such a role for her and her yet unborn children. But Rebekah's strengths also become some of her weaknesses, as will be seen shortly.

Rebekah was a spiritual woman. Her spirituality is evident from her inquiring of the Lord when her twins were acting abnormally in her womb (25:22). There are many women who never inquire of the Lord's will about anything; they never search his word to find out what he wishes for them to do in life. A second evidence of her spirituality is her heart being broken by Esau's marriage to Hittite women (26:35; 27:46). There are Christian women who seemingly are little troubled to see their children date and marry non-Christians, but this was not true in Rebekah's case. She was troubled that one of her children became enamored with women who would lead him away from God.

### Her Weaknesses Hurt Her Family

Rebekah had many good attributes, but some of her character traits definitely harmed the family.

She showed partiality to her children. Both Isaac and Rebekah showed partiality to their children. Jacob was Rebekah's favorite, for some unrevealed reason, but Esau was Isaac's favorite because he liked the game which he killed and cooked (25:28). Their partiality contributed to the rivalry between the two boys and eventually drove them apart. Rather than bonding together as the twelve sons of Jacob did to establish one nation of people, Esau and Jacob were never united (25:23). They became the fathers of two different warring nations: Edom and Israel.

*Rebekah was domineering, manipulative, and conniving.*Rebekah's strength was her strong pioneer spirit, but such a

strong spirit can become domineering. When one reads the machinations that Rebekah and Jacob devised in order to secure the birthright blessing for Jacob, one sees character traits in Rebekah that are not pretty. First of all, when Rebekah overheard Isaac's plans to give the firstborn blessing to Esau, she acted against the will of her husband. The virtuous woman is described as follows: "The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life" (Prov. 31:11-12). Certainly Isaac could not trust Rebekah on this occasion since she was undermining what he intended to do.

In order to accomplish what she desired, Rebekah stooped to deception and lies. She did not have enough faith that God could fulfill his promises in his own time and in his own way to allow God to work out his will. Instead, she thought she needed to take matters in her own hands and secure the birthright blessing for her favorite son. In this she was like Sarah who provided Hagar for Abraham to bear children because she thought God needed her help. Rebekah instructed Jacob to kill two kids of the goats, she would cook the food so that Jacob would think it was what Esau killed, and Jacob could go in to receive the blessing from his aged, nearly blind father. The deception worked and Isaac gave the firstborn blessing to Jacob. But, the incident manifests the rivalry between the two children, the in-working between Isaac and Rebekah, and the character of both Rebekah and Jacob. None of it is pretty.

Rebekah paid a high price for her sin. After Jacob, her favorite son, departed to Haran to search for a wife, she never saw him again. She died before Jacob returned to his family. She was buried in the cave of Machpelah (49:31).

### Conclusion

Perhaps we need to be reminded that none of us has attained to the perfection that was found in Christ. Each of us has strengths and weaknesses in his character. But this should not leave the impression that one can close his eyes to sin, ignoring those character flaws that separate us from God and bring havoc to our families. Instead, may Rebekah's weaknesses remind us of the sorrow that such sin can create in the family and, thereby, encourage us to overcome those character weaknesses in our own lives which are hurting those whom we love.

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BRUNDIDGE, AL Church of Christ 417 Clayton St (at US 231) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Paul Carter (334) 397-4684 Billy Carter: (334) 566-3205 pcarter@@graceba.net billyc@troycable.net	MOBILE, AL West Mobile Church of Christ 129 Hillcrest Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (251) 342-4144 or 342-2041	SCOTTSBORO, AL Eastside Church of Christ John T. Reid Pkwy. (Hwy. 72, 2 mi. E. of Hwy. 35) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Wayne Chappell, Sr. (256) 574-1603 or 575-2664	CLINTON, AR Mt. Zion Church of Christ 1202 Hwy. 16 West Clinton, AR 72031 (1.2 miles W of US 65) Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Bill Dodd Bldg: (501) 745-2572	MARSHALL, AR Marshall Church of Christ (North Central, AR) Hwy. 27 N, 1 Mi. from 65 Jct. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Randy Searight (870) 448-2055	BELLFLOWER, CA Rose Ave. Church of Christ 17903 Ibbetson Ave. Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (562) 866-5615
HELP VACATIONING CHRISTIANS FIND YOUR PLACE OF WORSHIP	MONTGOMERY, AL Church of Christ 800 Perry Hill Rd. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jason Cicero 244-1675, 277-9155, 271-4679	FAIRBANKS, AK Chena Small Tracts Road Church of Christ 5033 Chena Small Tracts Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (907) 479-8918	CONWAY, AR  Hwy. 65 Church of Christ 217 Highway 65  Bible Study 9:00 A.M.  Worship 10:00 A.M.  Evening 5:00 P.M.  Wednesday 7:00 P.M.  Evangelist: Bruce Reeves  Bldg: (501) 336-0052	PINE BLUFF, AR Church of Christ 4700 W. 28th St. Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:35 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Clarence W. Fell (870) 879-2097	CANOGA PARK, CA (San Fernando Valley) Church of Christ 7054 Winnetka Ave. Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Afternoon 2:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Minister: Bruce Evans (818)348-2193 Spanish congregation (818)701-0112
FLORENCE, AL  College View Church of Christ 851 N. Pine St. (Next to University Campus) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelists: Mark White	MONTGOMERY, AL Eastbrook Church of Christ 650 Coliseum Blvd. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 6:00 P.M. Bldg: (334) 272-4232 Evangelist Brian Moore 279-1077 Tommy Moore 285-6066; Carroll Puckett 288-1461; Charles Martin 283-2983; Bob Smith 334-277-1904	GLENDALE, AZ Church of Christ 6801 N. 60th Ave. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:40 A.M. Bible Study 5:00 P.M. Evening 5:40 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Steven Harperk	CONWAY, AR  Prince Street Church of Christ 2655 Prince St. (Hwy. 60) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (501) 336-0669	ROGERS, AR Central Church of Christ P.O. Box 763 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Ricky Manes (479) 636-7484 (479) 631-0288	DUBLIN, CA Tri-Valley Church of Christ 11873 Dublin Blvd. Dublin, CA 94568 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Joshua Higgins (925) 828-8747
HUNTSVILLE, AL Chapman Acres Church of Christ 2137 Penhall Dr., NE (I-565, Exit 21, left on Maysville Rd., left on Chapman Ave., right on Penhall Dr.) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Roger Blackwelder (256) 536-5296 or 776-2223	NORTHPORT, AL Northwood Church of Christ 4601 Northwood Estates Dr. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: David Hartselle	TUCSON, AZ Church of Christ 145 N. Country Club Rd. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Hugh Delong 326-3634 or 722-3179	FT. SMITH, AR South 46th St. Church of Christ 2323 South 46th St. Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: John Hagenbuch (479) 478-6108 or 782-0588	To make changes to your ad, contact us at andyalex@bellsouth.net	FOLSOM, CA Church of Christ 900 E. Natomas St. P.O. Box 492 Worship 9:30 A.M. Bible Study 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: David Posey (530) 676-9514 or (916) 608-4866 www.folsomchurch.com

# CALIFORNIA THROUGH ILLINOIS

# directory of churches

	FREMONT, CA Church of Christ in the Centerville area 38069 Martha Ave. Ste 100 Fremont, CA 94536 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. (510) 794-7659	IGNACIO, CO Church of Christ 295 Burns Ave. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Bible Study 1:00 P.M. (970) 563-9418	DESTIN, FL South Walton Church of Christ 64 Casting Lake Rd. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M.  (850) 622-3817 www.southwaltonchurchofchrist.com	KEY LARGO, FL Key Largo Church of Christ 100695 N. Overseas Hwy. 33037 m.m. 100.5 on U.S. 1 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Roland Fritz (305) 451-1194	ORLANDO, FL Azalea Park Church of Christ 6800 Lake Underhill Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: James P. Needham (407) 277-7931 or 628-2995	SEFFNER, FL Church of Christ 621 E. Wheeler Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Bobby Witherington (813) 684-1297 www.seffnercofc.org
	HEMET, CA Church of Christ 203 W. Acacia Ave. Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Alan Piner (951)925-1991	MONTROSE, CO San Juan church of Christ 1414 Hawk Parkway, Unit C Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worhsip 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. Evangelist: Richard Thetford (970) 626-5558 or (970) 249-8116 www.sanjuanchurchofchrist.org	FORT LAUDERDALE, FL Northside Church of Christ 912 NW 19th St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (305) 763-1404	KISSIMMEE, FL Church of Christ 2431 Fortune Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Mark Copeland (407) 931-1725 or 348-0300	ORLANDO, FL S. Bumby Church of Christ 3940 S. Bumby Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelists: Joshua C. Creel (407) 851-8031 or (321) 235-3307	TAMPA, FL Central Church of Christ 2701 E. Fowler Ave (in the Clarion) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. John Lockaby (813) 833-5786 John Trimble (813) 914-0546 Tom O'Neal (813) 625-5651
	LONG BEACH, CA Church of Christ 3433 Studebaker Rd. Bible Study 9:50 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Lonnie Fritz (562) 420-2363 Mark Reeves (562) 420-9577	PAGOSA SPRINGS, CO Church of Christ Community Center 451 Hot Springs Blvd. Worship 9:00 A.M. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Eddie Campbell (970) 264-4236	FORT MYERS, FL Church of Christ 200 Pine Island Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Vernon E. Ford (239) 567-0819	LAKELAND, FL Lakeland Hills Blvd. Church of Christ 2510 Lakeland Hills Blvd. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelists: Marc W. Gibson Don Hastings (863) 688-4336	PALATKA, FL Palatka Church of Christ 505 Third Ave. (Third Ave. intersects Hwy. 19 one block south of Hwy. 20) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Evangelist: Robert Skomp (386) 326-3952 or 546-5689	ZEPHYRHILLS, FL Church of Christ 5444 4th St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Assembly 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (813) 788-9587
	OCEANSIDE-VISTA, CA Church of Christ 2020 Sunset Dr. Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Lowell C. Bell (760) 940-8003	DOVER, DE Kent-Sussex Church of Christ 2041 South DuPont Hwy Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (302) 672-7087 www.delawarebiblestudies.com	FORT MYERS, FL Southside Church of Christ 13641 Learning Ct. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M.  Evangelist: David P. Schmidt 433-2838 or 482-2158	MERRITT ISLAND, FL Church of Christ 512 Plumosa St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (321) 453-3320	PANAMA CITY BEACH, FL Beach Church of Christ 8910 Front Beach Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Ben Liggin (850) 234-2521 or 234-1368	CENTERVILLE, GA Centerville Church of Christ 250 Collins Ave. (Near Robins AFB) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: J. Wiley Adams (478) 922-1128
(I	ARVADA, CO (Denver) Northgate Church of Christ incoln Academy Charter School) 6980 Pierce Street Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Afternoon Class/ Worship 1:30 P.M. (303) 456–4895	ALACHUA, FL Santa Fe Hills Church of Christ Hwy, 441, 1/2 mile west of 1-75 (Exit 78) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: James L. Yopp (386) 462-4325 or (352) 333-7003 www.geocities.com/jameslyopp	FT. WALTON BEACH, FL 6 Lane Dr. Mary Esther, FL Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Joey Rankin (850) 244-9222	MIAMI, FL Flagler Grove Church of Christ (Nearest to Airport) 500 N.W. 53rd Ave. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: John Buttrick (305) 634-5924	PANAMA CITY, FL Church of Christ 3339 Florida Ave. (Between Baldwin Rd. & Hwy. 390) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Marvin Hudson (850) 265-6539	CONVERS, GA Rockdale Church of Christ East Metro Atlanta, 705 Smyrna Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Forrest Bacon, elder (770) 761-6987; Bob Tuten, elder (678) 475-7212; Building (770) 929-3973
	AURORA, CO (Denver) Boston St. Church of Christ 1297 Boston St. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Preacher: Sam Csonka (303) 366-5283	BRONSON, FL Church of Christ 894 E. Hathaway (Hwy. 27A) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Thursday 7:00 P.M. Evengelist: John Zellner (352) 528-3058	FROSTPROOF, FL Church of Christ 40 W. "A" St. Frostproof, FL 33483 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Mike Freese (863) 635-2607 or 635-4278	MIAMI, FL Church of Christ 12780 Quail Roost Dr. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Clark Pace (305) 233-9590 or (954) 430-1437	PENSACOLA, FL East Hill Church of Christ 2078 E. Nine Mile Rd. at Camberwell Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Stan Adams 479-2130 or 994-7749	PINE MTN. VALLEY, GA Church of Christ Route 116 (near Callaway Gardens) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist:Tommy W. Thomas (706) 628-5117 or 628-5229
	COLORADO SPRINGS, CO Northeast Church of Christ 6660 Galley Rd. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (719) 597-6661 Spanish Service 3:00 P.M.	BROOKSVILLE, FL Church of Christ 604 W. Fort Dade Ave. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: V.C. McCormick (352) 796-9803	GENEVA, FL Geneva Church of Christ Ave. C and 2nd St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. (407) 349-9998	To make changes to your ad, contact us at andyalex@bellsouth.net	PENSACOLA, FL Northside Church of Christ 4001 N. Ninth Ave. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Joseph R. Mazter (850) 432-0736	VALDOSTA, GA Church of Christ 4313 North Valdosta Rd. (Located 1 mile E. of Exit 22 off L-75) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (229) 244-8630
	GOLDEN, CO Westside Church of Christ 13789 West 8th Ave. (½ mi. E. of Indiana St.) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (303) 233-5683	CHIPLEY, FL Church of Christ 1295 Brickyard Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (850) 638-4942	HOLLYWOOD, FL Harding St. Church of Christ 5828 Harding St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Jason Schoenholz (954) 961-4112	OCALA, FL Church of Christ 3900 S. Pine (441, 301 & 27 S.) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Steve Hudgins (352) 694-2922 Evangelist: Jeremy Ferguson	ST. PETERSBURG, FL Church of Christ 901 49th St. South Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Doug Barlar (813) 321-2721	BLACKFOOT, ID Church of Christ 370 N. Shilling P.O. Box 158-83221 Bible Study 1:30 P.M. Worship 2:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (208) 785-6168 or 681-1552
	GRAND JUNCTION, CO Valley Church of Christ 491 Sparn Road P.O. Box 40531 Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Bill Bohannon (970) 245-5112	DELAND, FL  North Blvd. Church of Christ 823 N. Woodland Blvd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jack Owen (386) 734-6907 or 734-4311	JACKSONVILLE, FL Marietta Church of Christ 8150 Driggers St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Jamie Rhoden (904) 781-5704 or 693-9929 693-0432 www.mariettacoc.com	ORLANDO, FL Pine Hills Church of Christ 890 Hastings St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Ray West (407) 293–2851 or 290–8650	PLANT CITY, FL Plant City Church of Christ 315 N. Wilder Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Gary M. Ogden (813) 752-2227 or 752-2771	ABINGDON, IL Abingdon Church of Christ 209 N. Main Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 4:00 P.M. Evangelist: John B. Wilson (309) 462-5368

BENTON, IL Church of Christ 203 N. Central St. P.O. Box 12 (west of Wal-Mart) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Greg King (618) 438-2911 or 435-2981	ELLETTSVILLE, IN Church of Christ 303 W. Temperance St. Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Johni Edwards Evangelist: John Isaac Edwards (812) 876-2285 or 336-4630	OOLITIC, IN Church of Christ 400 Lafayette Ave. P.O. Box 34 Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (812) 279-4332	LENEXA, KS Lenexa Church of Christ 7845 Cottonwood Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jim Stauffer (913) 631-6519 or 764-9170	DANVILLE, KY 385 E. Lexington Ave. Worship 10:00 A.M. Bible Study 11:15 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelists: Steve Wolfgang & Scott Vifquain 236-4204, 236-8506 or 238-0860	TOMPKINSVILLE, KY Lyons Chapel Church of Christ 2401 Center Point Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Frank Chumley (270) 487-8448
CHICAGO, IL  Northside Church of Christ 2543 W. Division St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: James R. Davis, Jr. (312) 961-2150	HAMMOND, IN Woodmar Church of Christ 2133 169th St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (219) 845-8942	PEKIN, IN Church of Christ (First St. & Karnes Ct.) Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: John Henry 967-3437 or 967-3520	TOPEKA, KS  17th Street Church of Christ 5600 SW 17th St.  Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (785) 235-8687 or 273-7977 www.17thstreetchurchofchrist.org	FRANKLIN, KY 31-W North Church of Christ 1733 Bowling Green Road Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Steve Monts (270) 586-3978 www.franklinchurch.com	BATON ROUGE, LA Park Forest Church of Christ 9923 Sunny Cline Dr. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Bill Crews 275-4684 or 273-1105
CHICAGO, IL Church of Christ 1514 West 74th Street Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: James E. Scott Bldg. (773) 224-9279 (708) 339-6126	HOBART, IN Church of Christ 300 N. Liberty St. Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Keith Welch (219) 942-2663	RICHMOND, IN Gaar Road Church of Christ 1835 Gaar Rd. (1 mi. S. of I-70 off Hwy. 227) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Douglas R. Clark (765) 935-2911	WICHITA, KS Ridge Road Church of Christ 7001 W. 21st St., North Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. (316) 722-6622 or 744-1841	GLASGOW, KY East Main St. Church of Christ 106 Carnation Dr. (across from Gorin Park) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. Evangelist: Doug Lancaster (270) 678-2847 0r 651-7141	BOSSIER CITY, LA Bossier Church of Christ 2917 Foster Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (318) 747-4308 or 742-4557
DOWNERS GROVE, IL Church of Christ 1236 63rd St. (1 and 1/2 mile E. of 1355) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:55 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (630) 968-0760 • www.dgcoc.org	INDIANAPOLIS, IN Castleton Church of Christ 7701 East 86th St., 46256 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (317) 842-3613 Eric Spencer (317) 750-5939	SALEM, IN Westside Church of Christ 2000 West State Rd. 56 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Evan Casey (812) 883-2033 www.westsidechurchofchrist.info	WICHITA, KS Westside Church of Christ 3500 S. Meridian Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Mike O'Neal (316) 729-9302 or 282-2374 www.cocwestside.com	LEITCHFIELD, KY Mill St. Church of Christ Highway 62 E. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:55 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Joey Cooper (270) 259-4968	LAKE CHARLES, LA Southside Church of Christ 3919 Auburn St. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (337) 474-9122 or 436-0477
GLEN ELLYN, IL Church of Christ 796 Prairie, 60137 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Joseph T. Novak (630-529-2149) (630) 858-2290	JAMESTOWN, IN Church of Christ (1 Mi. south of 1-74) Cor. Darlington & Mill Sts. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:25 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Evangelist: Denver Niemeier (765) 676-6404 or (317) 892-6285	TRAFALGAR, IN Spearsville Rd. Church of Christ, 6244 S. 500W. (1.2 mi. S. of Hwy. 135) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: David R. Dodd (317) 878-5969 or (317) 439-3252 spearsvilleroadmessenger@gmail.com	BEAVER DAM, KY Church of Christ 1235 Williams St. Worship 10:00 A.M. Bible Study After Worship Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Mike Thomas (270) 274-4451 or 274-4486	LOUISVILLE, KY Valley Station Church or Christ 1803 Dixie Garden Dr. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Dudley Ross Spears (502) 937-2822	LEESVILLE, LA White Park Church of Christ 17801 Nolan Trace; 20 mi. from Fort Polk (5 mi. W. of Leesville) Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:35 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (337) 239-4614 www.whiteparkchurchofchrist.org
MATTOON, IL Southside Church of Christ 1100 S. 17th St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (217) 234-3702	KOKOMO, IN Church of Christ 1217 S. Courtland Ave. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 10:30 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Joshua Welch (765) 453-2356	DES MOINES, IA Church of Christ 1310 N.E. 54th Ave. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:40 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M.	BOWLING GREEN, KY West End Church of Christ 820 Old Morgantown Rd., 42101 Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelists: Todd Chandler & Lowell Sallee (270) 842-7880 www.westendchurch.com	LOUISVILLE, KY Church or Christ 4401 West Broad St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Donald Wright, Jr. (502) 772-3026 or 491-9372	MANY, LA Lakeside Church of Christ 12095 Texas Hwy. (Hwy. 6 W.) 12 miles west of Many Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (318) 256-9396
PALATINE, IL Church of Christ (N.W. Chicago Suburb) 1050 N. Deer Ave. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (847) 967-9667	MARION, IN  South Marion Church of Christ 3629 S. Washington St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (765) 998-7134 or (765) 384-7540	Subscribe Today! Truth Magazine 1-800-428-0121	BRANDENBURG, KY Brandenburg Church of Christ 612 Broadway Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. Evangelist: Charles J. White (270) 422-3878	OWENSBORO, KY Southside Church or Christ 2920 New Hartford Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jarrod Jacobs (270) 683-5386 or 264-7869	STONEWALL, LA N. DeSoto Church of Christ 2071 Highway 171 (South of Shreveport) Worship 9:00 A.M. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Steve Bobbitt (318) 925-2733
BLOOMINGTON, IN Church of Christ 825 West 2nd St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. 332-0501	MUNCIE, IN Church of Christ 301 N. Calvert Ave. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Tom Hamilton 284-5299 or 286-5488	GRINNELL, 1A Church of Christ 1402 Third Ave. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Brian Chapman (641) 236-1955 or 793-2989	(270) 789-1651	To make changes to your ad, contact us at andyalex@bellsouth.net	WEBSTER, MA Church of Christ Webster 168 Main St. Sunday Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Sunday Worship 10:30 A.M. Wed Bible Study Call for details (508) 765-6067 Preacher: Peter Capoccia
CLARKSVILLE, IN Clarksville Church of Christ 407 Lewis and Clark Pkw. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Kipp Campbell (812) 941-0747 or 944-2305 KCampbell@earthlink.net Elders: 944-1878 or 948-9917	NOBLESVILLE, IN Noblesville Church of Christ 15321 Herriman Blvd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: John Hughbanks (317) 770-0798 or 332-0513 www.noblesvillechurchofchrist.com	EL DORADO, KS Emporia St. Church of Christ 1154 S. Emporia Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M.  (316) 321-1025	CANEYVILLE, KY Caneyville Church of Christ 103 N. Main St. (near the 4 way stop) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Dale Barnes (270) 879-6152 or 274-3065	REGINA, KY Road Creek Church or Christ 7 miles west of Elkhorn City on Route 460 & Route 80 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (606) 754-9883, 754-8642 or 754-5398	PORTLAND, ME Church of Christ 856 Brighton Ave. (Breakwater School) Leave Maine Turnpike at Exit 48 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Second service immediately following morning worship, Mid-week Bible Study—Please call for times & places (207) 839-3075 or 839-8409

# directory of churches

ARBUTUS, MD Arbutus Church of Christ 5205 East Dr., Suite D (East Drive Shopping Center) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Church phone: (410) 247-1396, 590-2852 or 551-8274	CLINTON, MS  McRaven Rd. Church of Christ 301 McRaven Rd. (120, exit 36) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:55 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Leonard White (601) 925-9757 or 924-2645	DONIPHAN, MO Southside Church of Christ Hwy. 142 E. ½ mile (P.O. Box 220) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (573) 996-3251 or 996-3513	ST. JAMES, MO Church of Christ 685 Sidney St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Lynn Huggins (573) 265-8628	VAUXHALL, NJ Church of Christ Milbourn Mall Suite 6 2933 Vauxhall Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Harry A. Persaud (908) 964-8570	DALLAS, NC Deepwood Forest Church of Christ 2002 Lineburger Rd., Hwy. 275 (Between Dallas & Stanley) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Louis Woollums (704) 922-8985
SEVERN, MD Southwest Church of Christ 805 Meadow Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Brandon Trout (410) 551-6549 or 969-1420	COLUMBUS, MS Woodlawn Church of Christ 359 Sanders Mills Rd. Steen Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:45 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Willis Logan (601) 356-6629	FAIR GROVE, MO Church of Christ 217 N. Orchard Blvd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Walter Myers (417) 830-8972 or (417) 736-2663	ST. JOSEPH, MO County Line Church of Christ 2727 County Line Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 4:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (816) 279-4737 www.countylinechurchofchrist.com	ALAMOGORDO, NM 25th & Hawaii Church of Christ P.O. Box 2065 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. (505) 434-5834	HOPE MILLS, NC Gray's Creek Church of Christ 1391 Sand Hill Road Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. 910-423-8719 910-424-2372
RIVERDALE, MD (Washington, D.C. area) Wildercroft Church of Christ 6330 Auburn Ave. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Mike Thomley (301) 474-7460 or 446-1912	GULFPORT, MS Morris Rd. Church of Christ 1 blk. N. of Dedeaux Rd. & 3 Rivers Rd. on Morris Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Don Davis (228) 832-5529	KANSAS CITY, MO Nashua Church of Christ 11425 N. Main St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Mark Broyles (816) 532-4270 or 734-4142	ST. JOSEPH, MO Prairie Hills Church of Christ 14273 County Rd. 307 (.7 mi. E of Intersection I-29 & Hwy. 169) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (816) 233-6485 Evangelist: Erik Smith	ALBUQUERQUE, NM Albuquerque Church of Christ 1908 Sunshine Terrace SE Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (call to confirm time) 764-9277	MARION, NC Hwy. 70 Church of Christ 18 Peachtree St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 4:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: T.J. Elliott (828) 652-7504 or 652-2584
CEDAR SPRINGS, MI Grand Rapids Area W. Michigan Church of Christ Sr. Citizen Center, 44 Park St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. David Waldron (231) 832-2189 Michael Sewell (616) 361-8795	MERIDIAN, MS Grandview Church of Christ 2820 Grandview Ave. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. Evangelist: Danny Gardner (601) 681-4505 or 482-9543 dg1969@bellsouth.net	KANSAS CITY, MO Vivion Road Church of Christ 2026 N.E. Vivion Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Tom Kinzel (816) 453-6157	BEATRICE, NE Church of Christ 7th and Bell Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. 233-4102 or 228-3827 www.churchofchrist7bell.com	ALBUQUERQUE, NM Heights Church of Christ 7801 Zuni Road, S.E. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evanagelist: Darrel Yontz (505) 266-7577 www.heightschurchof christ.com	BEAVERCREEK, OH Knollwood Church of Christ 1031 Welford Dr. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Keith Greer (937) 426-1422
DULUTH, MN Church of Christ 318 N. 18th Ave. E. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Bible Study 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Nick Krumrei (218) 728-3233	MERIDIAN, MS 7th St. Church of Christ 2914 7th St. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. (601) 483-3101	KENNETT, MO Church of Christ 703 Harrison St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (573) 888-6778	LAS VEGAS, NV Vegas Dr. Church of Christ 3816 Vegas Drive Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 4:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (702) 648-4827	ALBUQUERQUE, NM Sandia Church of Christ 3939 San Pedro N.E., Building D-2 Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Derek Chambers (505) 830-2086 www.sandiachurchof christ.com	CINCINNATI, OH Blue Ash Church of Christ Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evang:elist: Russell Dunaway, Jr. 891-3174
Shop online at truthbooks.net	Bible Study 9:30 A.M.	LILBOURN, MO P.O. Box 270 211 Benton St. Bible Study 9.45 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Shane Williams (573) 688-2234 or 748-5204	RENO, NV Central Church of Christ 2450 Wrondel Way, Ste. A Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (775) 786–2888	BUFFALO, NY Greater Buffalo Church of Christ 3578 Walden Ave Lancaster, NY 14086 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:15 A.M. Tuesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Daniel Bailey (716) 870-3259	CLEVELAND, OH Lorain Ave. Church of Christ 13501 Lorain Ave. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (216) 476-0660, 651-1689 or (330) 725-3960, 723-0111
ROCHESTER, MN N. Broadway Church of Christ 2002 Second St., SW Bible Study 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Evening 7:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist:Luvimino D. Samaniego (501) 289-8906	BLUE SPRINGS, MO Southside Church of Christ 4000 SW Christiansen Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Jim Bailey (816) 228-9262	RAYMORE, MO Raymore Church of Christ 107 N. Woodson St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Bill Johnston (816) 322-0042 or 318-3642	SPARKS, NV Sierra Nevada Church of Christ 2425 Pyramid Way Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Monday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Ross Triplett, 5r. (775) 972-4911 retriplett@tripletweb.com	CARY, NC Walnut St. Church of Christ (Raleigh) 217 Walnut St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Rick Billingsly (919) 467-0012 (919) 372-1497	COLUMBUS, OH Laurel Canyon Church of Christ 409 McNaughton Rd. Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (614)868-1375 www.lccoc.net
ST. CHARLES, MN Church of Christ 636 Whitewater Ave. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Bible Study 2:45 P.M. Evangelist: Robert Lehnertz (507) 534-2905 or 932-3521	CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO North Cape Church of Christ 121 S. Broadview St. Suite 2 Cape Girardeau, MO 63703 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jerry Lee Westbrook (573)334-9673	RAYTOWN, MO Sterling Ave. Church of Christ 5825 Sterling Ave. (Near Sports Complex) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Norman E. Fultz (816) 358-3096 or 792-2040 www.sterlingavechurchofchrist.org	MOORESTOWN, NJ Moorestown Church of Christ in the Cherry Hill, N.J. Area Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. (856) 665-2496	CHARLOTTE, NC Harris Blvd. Church of Christ 5424 E.W.T. Harris Blvd. Worship 8:30 A.M. Bible Study 9:30A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelists: Various members of local congregations Don Moeller (704) 532-9242	DAYTON, OH West Carrollton 28 W. Main Street Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:25 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Michael Grushon (937) 866-5162 or 434-3090 E-mail: www.wc-coc.org
BOONEVILLE, MS Oakleigh Dr. Church of Christ 101 Oakleigh Dr. Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 4:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Building: (662) 728-1942	COLUMBIA, MO Eastside Church of Christ 5051 Ponderosa Columbia, MO 65201 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. 445-5497 or 636-0224	Subscribe Today! Truth Magazine 1-800-428-0121	PISCATAWAY, NJ 258 Highland Ave. Bible Study 9:15 A.M. Bible Classes 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Gary P. Eubanks (732) 463-1323	CHARLOTTE, NC Charlotte Church of Christ 5327 S. Tyron St. Worship 9:00 A.M. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Wendell Powell (704) 525-5655 or 522-9971	FRANKLIN, OH Church of Christ 6417 Franklin/Lebanon Rd. State Route 123 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Eston Vandever (937) 746-1249 or (513) 422-2466

FREMONT, OH Church of Christ 3361 W. State St. 1 mi. W. of Fremont on U.S. Rt. 20 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (419) 849-3340 or 849-3686 www.amplex.net/churchofchrist	NEW RICHMOND, OH Church of Christ 550 Washington St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Contact: Dave Wylie (513) 553-6414 www.nrchurchofchrist.com NORTHWOOD, OH	COLONIAL HEIGHTS/ PETERSBURG, PA Appomatox church of Christ 117 Orange Avenue (Ft. Lee Area) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Lenny Chapman (804)526-6464 or (804)675-0216	TAYLORS, SC (Greenville Area) Taylors Church of Christ 400 E. Main St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Bill Mosely (864) 268-5224 or 877-2728 www.taylorschurchofchrist.com	KNOXVILLE, TN Chapman Hwy. Church of Christ 7604 Chapman Hwy. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Jack Wise, Jr. (865) 573-6638	PIGEON FORGE, TN King Branch Road Church of Christ 560 King Branch Road Worship 10:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Facilities available for Sunday evening services upon request. Evangelist: Roger Williams (865)430-5980 www.KingBranchRoadChurchOf- Christ.org ROCKWOOD, TN
HAMILTON, OH Westview Church of Christ 1040 Azel Ave. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:45 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: David A. Stansberry (513) 868-9988	(Toledo Area) (Toledo Area) Church of Christ 4110 Frey Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Donald Jarabek 893-3566 or 691-0688	To make changes to your ad, contact us at andyalex@bellsouth.net	WEST COLUMBIA, SC Airport Church of Christ 4013 Edmund Hwy, (Hwy. 302) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Brad McCleeary (803) 783–0079 Steven Hutchinson (803) 604–6011	MARYVILLE, TN Smokey Mt. Church of Christ 2206 Montvale Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Harold Tabor (865) 977-4230 Robert Lawson (865) 681-7995	Church of Christ Highway 70 East 5080 Roane State Hwy. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Cecil Belcher (865) 717-3654
HILLIARD, OH Church of Christ 4840 Cemetery Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (614) 876-4089	UHRICHSVILLE, OH Church of Christ 638 Parrish Street Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Mid-week 6:30 P.M.	EXTON, PA Exton Church of Christ 217 N. Whitford Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. 363-8042	COLLIERVILLE, TN East Shelby Church of Christ 4700 Mayfield Rd. West Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Terry Francis (901) 853-7840 or (901) 759-1242	MEMPHIS, TN Rocky Pt. Road Church of Christ 516 E. Rocky Point Rd., Cordova Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00P.M. Contact: Mitch Stevens (901) 372-5580 or 758-4006	SAVANNAH, TN Savannah Heights Church of Christ 230 Harrison St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jonathan Ellis
MANSFIELD, OH Eastside Church of Christ 326 Grace Street Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 6:00 P.M. Evangelist: James Bond 526-2868 or 526-4739	WAVERLY, OH 209 Mullins St. Church of Christ Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (740) 947-7122 or 289-3401	PHILADELPHIA, PA Church of Christ 7222 Germantown Ave. Bible Study 10:15 A.M. Worship 11:15 A.M. Tues. night 8:00 P.M. Evangelist: James H. Baker, Jr. (215) 248-2026 www.mtairychurchofchrist.org	COLUMBIA, TN Jackson Hts. Church of Christ 1200 Nashville Hwy., Hwy. 31N Bible Study 9:15 A.M. Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Mid-week 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Andrew Roberts (931) 388-6811	MURFREESBORO, TN Compton Rd. Church 663 Compton Rd. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Assembly 10:00 A.M. Assembly 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. David Arnold (615) 896-6550 or 896-9474	SHELBYVILLE, TN El Bethel Church of Christ 1801 Hwy. 41-A North Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:50 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Donnie V. Rader (931) 685-1113 or 931-607-9099 dvrader@hughes.net
MANSFIELD, OH Southside Church of Christ 687 Mansfield-Lucas Road Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 6:00 P.M. Building: (419) 522-8982 Leon Bond: 522-3684 Glenn Bond: 522-1965	OKLAHOMA CITY, OK Seminole Pointe Church of Christ 16300 N. May Ave. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: John M. Duvall (405) 340-3189 or 513-6691 www.seminolepointecofc.org	BEAUFORT, SC Church of Christ 2107 King St., P.O. Box 4 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Parris Island, 8:00 A.M., Sunday Evangelist: Ronald Nelson (843) 524-4400 or 524-4652	COLUMBIA, TN Mooresville Pike Church of Christ 417 Mooresville Pike (.8 mi. N. of Hwy. 50/Jas. Campbell) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (931) 388-5828; 381-7898; 380-1226 www.mooresvillepikecoc.com	MURFREESBORO, TN Northfield Blvd. Church of Christ 2091 Pitts Ln. at Northfield Blvd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelists: David Bunting (615) 893-1200	TULLAHOMA, TN Church of Christ 1625 W. Lincoln St. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jim Mickells (931) 455-0273 or 455-5723
MARIETTA/RENO, OH  Jct. St. Rt. 7 & County Rd. 20  Bible Study 9:30 A.M.  Worship 10:30 A.M.  Evening 6:30 P.M.  Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  (740) 373-0064 (Joe Schof) or  473-9028 (Steve Foutty)	TULSA, OK Woodland Hills Church of Christ 9119 E. 61 St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Ross Oldenkamp (918) 252-1220	HOPKINS, SC Lower Richland Church of Christ 3000 Trotter Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Wayne Seaton (803) 776-0754	DAYTON, TN Main Street Church of Christ 250 Main St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 2:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Contact: (423) 618-6250 or 332-4604	MURFREESORO, TN South Ridge Church of Christ 488 Barfield-Crescent Rd. PO Box 2257, Zip 37133 (I-24, Exit 81, South 1.5 miles on Hwy 231, turn right) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (615) 494-9686	Subscribe Today! Truth Magazine 1-800-428-0121
NEW CARLISLE, OH Church of Christ 235 Funston Ave. (Near Wright-Patterson AFB) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Randy Blackaby (937) 849-1643 or 845-8467 (bldg.)	MEDFORD, OR Church of Christ 1850 Spring St. (Roxy Ann Grange Hall) Corner of Spring/Valley View Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Thursday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Dean Blackwell (541) 773-2649	NORTH CHARLESTON, SC Ashley Heights Church of Christ 2605 S. Oakridge Cir. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (843) 553-4970 www.findthechurch.com	JACKSON, TN Sunset Church of Christ 3618 Hwy 70 East (Exit 87 off I-40, 7mi. @ Spring Creek) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Steve Wilkerson (731) 423-0907 or 424-5510	NASHVILLE, TN Bell Road Church of Christ 1608 Bell Road Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Robert Davenport (615) 833-4444 or 331-7377	ABILENE, TX  North Park Church of Christ 2958 Grape St. (3 blocks south of I-20) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Wayne Goforth (325) 677-6934 or 672-8026 E-mail: wgoforth@sbcglobal.net
NEW LEBANON, OH Church of Christ 1973 W. Main St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Glen Murphy, Jr. 687-2985	SWEET HOME, OR Church of Christ 3702 E. Long St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Building: (541) 367-1599	ORANGEBURG, SC Southside Church of Christ 1502 Binnicker Bridge Rd. (Grange Building - Hwy 70) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evangelist: Fred England (803) 939-0672 www.southside-church.org	JOHNSON CITY, TN Brookmead Church of Christ 2428 Lakeview Drive Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Kevin Kay 423-282-6251 or 426-1836	NASHVILLE, TN Hillview Church of Christ 7471 Charlotte Pike Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jerry Sayre (615) 797-1114	ALLEN, TX  West Allen Church of Christ 1414 W. Exchange Blvd. (2 miles w. of Hwy. 75) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Jerry King (214) 504-0443 (972) 727-5355 (bldg)
Shop online at truthbooks.net	Worship 11:00 A.M.	SUMTER, SC Woodland Church of Christ 3370 Broad St. Extension Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: A.A. Granke, Jr. (803) 499-6023	KINGSTON SPRINGS, TN Kingston Springs Church of Christ 350 North Main St. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Dan King, Sr. (615) 952-5720 or 662-7626	NASHVILLE, TN Perry Heights Church of Christ 423 Donelson Pike Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:55A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Johnny Felker (615) 883-3118 http://perryheights.faithweb.com	ALVARADO,TX I-35 Church of Christ (E. Service Rd. of I-35, N. of Alvarado) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (817) 295-7277 or 790-7253

# directory of churches

ALVIN, TX Adoue St. Church of Christ 605 E. Adoue St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Mark Mayberry (281) 331-4953 or (832) 837-9038	CORPUS CHRISTI, TX Hwy. 9 Church of Christ 5853 Leopard St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (361) 289-1559, 225-4792 or 289-1439  DICKINSON, TX	HOUSTON, TX Fry Rd. Church of Christ 2510 Fry Road (77084) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Michael McLemore (281) 578-1897	LUFKIN, TX Timberland Dr. Church of Christ 912 S. Timberland Dr. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelists: Harold Hancock James W. Adams 634-7110 or 632-7070	ROSENBERG, TX Church of Christ 908 Frost St. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jason Trick Bldg: (281) 232-4425 Cell: (832) 228-8973 SAN ANGELO, TX	CHESTER, VA Chester Church of Christ 12100 Winfree St. (Central to Richmond, Hopewell, Petersburg, & Colonial Heights) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Church Building; (804) 796-2374 Also: (804) 497-3638 or (804) 271-0877 COLONIAL HEIGHTS/
ANGELTON, TX Kiber St. Church of Christ P.O. Box 1162 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Zeke Flores (979) 849-8376	Church of Christ 2919 FM 517 Rd. E. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 9:45 A.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Craig Meyer (281) 534-4870	HOUSTON, TX Bellaire Church of Christ 8001 South Rice Ave. Worship 9:30 A.M. Bible Study 10:45 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. www.bellairechurchofchrist.org (713) 668-4810	MANSFIELD, TX Northside Church of Christ 1820 Mansfield-Webb Road Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelists:Tom Roberts (817) 466-3160	Green Meadow Church of Christ (Off Loop 306, sw part of the city) 3438 Green Meadow Dr. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Boyd Jennings (325) 224-284 (325)944-8147 or (325)896-2038	PETERSBURG, VA Appomatox church of Christ 117 Orange Avenue (Ft. Lee Area) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Lenny Chapman (804) 526-6464 or (804) 675-0216
To make changes to your ad, contact us at andyalex@bellsouth.net	EDNA, TX 301 Robison Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (361) 782-5506 or 782-2844 Elders: S.A. Mercer & S. Wilson Evangelist: Heath Rogers	HOUSTON, TX Oak Forest Church of Christ 1333 Judiway Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Mid-week 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jay Taylor (281) 970-2976 elysian39@juno.com	McKINNEY, TX Central Church of Christ 1805 White Ave. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00P.M. Evangelist: Jack Howard III (214) 544-3035	SAN ANTONIO, TX Pecan Valley Church of Christ 268 Utopia (1-37 S.E. Exit Pecan Valley) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Clyde W. Carter (210) 337-6143	NEWPORT NEWS, VA Harpersville Rd. Church of Christ 315 Harpersville Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (757) 595–9564
AUSTIN, TX Wonsley Dr. Church of Christ 507 E. Wonsley Dr. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Ron Lehde	EL PASO, TX  Eastridge Church of Christ 3277 Pendleton Road Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Ken Looper (915) 821-1084 (915) 855-1524	HOUSTON, TX (Southwest) Murphy Rd. Church of Christ 2025 Murphy Rd., Missouri City Worship 9:30 A.M. Bible Study 10:45 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Gene Mabry (281) 265-8071 or 261-5216	MESQUITE, TX (East Dallas) Westlake Church of Christ 427 Gross Rd., 75149 Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Carl Mullins (972) 285-1610	SHERMAN, TX Westwood Village Church of Christ 314 N. Tolbert Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Fred Watkins	RICHMOND (Metro), VA Courthouse Church of Christ Courthouse Rd. at Double Creek Ct. (2.2 miles S of Rt. 288) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Gene Tope (804) 790-1629 www.courthousechurchofchrist.com
BAYTOWN, TX Pruett and Lobit Church of Christ 701 North Pruett St. Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:40 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (281) 422-5926; (281) 383-1005; (713) 818-1321	FORT WORTH, TX Woodmont Church of Christ 6417 Landview (at Altamesa) Worship 9:30 A.M. Bible Study 11:00 A.M. Afternoon 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Jeff S. Smith (817) 292-4908 or 426-2242 woodmontchurch.org	HOUSTON, TX Spring Woods Church of Christ 9955 Neuens Rd. at Witte Rd. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist (281) 795-0837	Subscribe Today! Truth Magazine 1-800-428-0121	TEMPLE, TX Leon Valley Church of Christ 4404 Twin City Blvd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Warren King (254) 939-0682 or 228-5038 www.biblemoments.org	RICHMOND, VA Forest Hill Church of Christ 1208 W. 41st St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Reuben Southall (804) 233-5959
BAYTOWN, TX East Side Church of Christ 3107 N. Highway 146 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Wilson Adams (281) 427-8729 or 837-9259	FORT WORTH, TX West Side Church of Christ 6110 White Settlement Rd. 76114 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (817) 738-7269	HUNTINGTON, TX Church of Christ P.O. Box 858 One block north of U.S. 69 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (936) 422-4640	MIDLAND, TX Woodcrest Drive Church of Christ 1401 Woodcrest Drive Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Danny Hooper (432) 689-0955 (432) 694-3482	TEMPLE, TX Southside Church of Christ 2003 S. 5th Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (254) 773-0931	RICHMOND, VA West End 4909 Patterson Ave. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Stacy Crim (804) 358-7933
BEAUMONT, TX Dowlen Rd. Church of Christ 3060 Dowlen Road Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelists: Max Dawson & David Banning (409) 866-1996	Shop online at truthbooks.net	IRVING, TX Westside Church of Christ 2320 Imperial Dr. (closest to D/FW Airport) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist Mark Roberts (972) 986-9131 www.JustChristians.com	NACOGDOCHES, TX Stallings Dr. Church of Christ 3831 N.E. Stallings Dr. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Randy Harshbarger	WACO, TX Sun Valley Church of Christ 340 E. Warren St. (In Hewitt, a suburb of Waco) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Marc Smith (254) 666-1020 or 420-1484	RIDGEWAY, VA Church of Christ 2970 Old Leaksville Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Ken Sils (276) 956-1150 or 956-6049
CLEVELAND, TX Church of Christ 310 E. Houston Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Robert Davis (281) 592-5676	FRISCO, TX (North Dallas-Plano) 4220 Preston Rd. (Holiday Inn) Call for times of services. Glenn Henderson (972) 378-3621 Rex Payne (972) 740-1486 Al Payne (972) 712-9274	LANCASTER, TX  Pleasant Run Church of Christ 831 W. Pleasant Run Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (972) 227-1758 or 227-2598	ODESSA, TX Crescent Park Church of Christ 1415 Royalty Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Dale Garrison (432) 366-5071 or 413-7759	THE WOODLANDS, TX Woodlands Church of Christ P.O. Box 7664-77380 3987 Wellman Road Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (281) 367-2099 www.simplychristians.net	ROANOKE, VA Blue Ridge Church of Christ 929 Indiana Ave. N.E. 5 min. from Roanoke Convention Center 1st Lesson 9:15 A.M. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (540) 344-2755
CLUTE, TX Church of Christ 343 S. Main Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (979) 265-5283 or 265-2933	GRANBURY, TX Old Granbury Rd. Church of Christ 4313 Old Granbury Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (817) 573-6878	LUBBOCK, TX Indiana Ave. Church of Christ 6111 Indiana Ave. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Brett Hogland (806) 795-3377 or 928-9262	PLANO, TX (North Dallas Suburb) Spring Creek Church of Christ 2100 W. Spring Creek Pkwy. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (972) 517-5582 or 231-3748 www.planochurch.org	CHESAPEAKE, VA Tidewater Church of Christ 217 Taxus St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Steve Schlos (757) 436-6900	STAFFORD, VA Stafford Church of Christ 767 Jefferson Davis Hwy. Bible Class 9:00 A.M. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evanglist: Mark McNabb (540) 891-1215

#### VIRGINIA BEACH, VA Southside Church of Christ 5652 Haden Rd. Robert Mallard (757) 464-4574 VIRGINIA BEACH, VA Bible Study Worship Wednesday churchofchrist@utinet.net BELLINGHAM, WA Mt. Baker Church of Christ 1860 Mt. Baker Hwy. Bible Study Worship Evening Wednesday Evangelist: Joe Price (360) 752-2692 or 380-2960 www.bibleanswer.com/mtbaker SEQUIM, WA Church of Christ American Legion Hall Corner of Sequim Ave. & Prairie St. Bible Study Worship Evening Wednesday Call for Wednesday meeting place (360) 683-2152 SUNNYSIDE, WA Sunnyside Church of Christ (sound) 1312 East Edison Bible Study Worship Wednesday Evangelist: Steven J. Wallace (509) 837-2813 www.sunnysidechurchofchrist.com TACOMA, WA Manitou Church of Christ 4806 So. 66th St. (P.O. Box 7523, 98407)

Sunday

Wednesday

Bible Study

Wednesday

Worship

#### CLARKSBURG, WV Westside Church of Christ

Sunday Morning 9:30 A.M. 7:00 P.M. Wednesday

#### WELLSBURG, WV Charles St. Church of Christ

836 Charles Street Bible Study 9:30 A M Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday

(304)527-4438 or 737-4158

MILWAUKEE, WI

Metropolitan Church of Christ

1029 S. 58th St.

West Allis

Evangelist: David Girardot

(414) 257-3035 Church: 258-8520

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Northside Church of Christ

803 - 20 A Ave. N.E.

Calgary, Alberta T2E ISI

(403) 276-8088

Jordan, Ontario

Jordan Church of Christ

Preacher - Chad Comfort

(905) 562-4739

9-30 A M

10:30 A.M.

7:30 P.M.

10, 11, 6

7:00 P.M

10:00 A.M.

11:00 A.M.

6:00 P.M

7:00 P.M.

#### Virginia Beach Church of Christ FAIRMONT, WV

11:00 A.M.

9:30 Å.M.

10:30 A M

6:00 P.M.

7:00 P.M.

10:00 A.M.

11:00 A.M.

6:00 P.M.

7:00 P.M.

2:00 P.M.

3:00 P.M.

7:30 PM

10:00 A.M.

10:00 A.M.

10:50 A.M.

6:00 P.M.

7:30 P.M.

7:30 P.M.

Pembrook Manor Recreation Eastside Church of Christ Building 4452 Hinsdale St. 1929 Morgantown Ave. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 7:30 PM Wednesday (757) 486-6639 or 650-4440 (304) 366-4523

#### GREEN BAY, WI

Hillcrest Church of Christ 1621 Hillcrest Dr. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (920) 499-5677 Evangelist: Jimmy Pettigrew www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com

Bible Study

Wednesday

Worship

Sunday

Wednesday

Bible Study

Wednesday

Worship

Evening

10:00 A.M. 10:45 A.M. 6:00 P.M. 7:00 P.M.

Glen Oaks Church of Christ Greenbag Road Bible Study 9:30 A M Worship 10:20 A.M. 6:00 P.M. Evening 7:00 P.M. (304) 296-9793

#### MORGANTOWN, WV

MOUNDSVILLE, WV Church of Christ 210 Cedar St.

Evening 6:30 P.M. 7:30 P.M.

Bible Study 9:30 A.M. 10:30 A.M. Worship Evangelist: Brian Price (304) 845-2820, 845-4940

### MOUNDSVILLE, WV

Roberts Ridge Church of Christ Bible Study 9:45 A.M. 10:30 A.M. Worship Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Don Terrill: (304) 845-2344

Mail to: Sam Wood (304) 845-2202 406 Jefferson Ave. Glen Dale, WV 26038

Marrtown Church of Christ 825 Marrtown Road Bible Study Worship Evening Wednesday 7:30 P.M.

#### CANADA PARKERSBURG, WV

9:30 A.M. 10:15 A.M. 7:00 P.M. (304) 861-0342 or 422-7458

RAVENSWOOD, WV

Church of Christ

1101 Gallatin St.

Evangelist: Rick Christian

273-0261 or 273-3267

9:30 A.M.

10:30 A.M.

6:30 P.M.

7:30 P.M.

Bible Study

Wednesday

Worship

Evening

#### Hamilton, Ontario

450 Concession St. Bible Study Worship 11:00 A.M. Monday 7:00 P.M. 7:00P.M. Tuesday Steve Rudd, Evangelist (905) 575-8437

#### CANADA

Peterborough, Ontario The Board Rm., Parkway Place Mall, Lansdowne St. W. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Peter McPherson Other meetings: phone (705) 742-5349

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Church of Christ

902 W. Washington Ave.

Conservative

Church of Christ 522 Daugherty St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. 10:50 A.M. Worship 5:30 P.M. Evening Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (304) 346-2112 or Lowell Thomas (304) 965-9369

#### CHARLESTON, WV

Church of Christ 873 Oakwood Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A M 10:50 A.M. Worship 6:00 P.M. Evening 7:30 P.M. Wednesday (304) 727-1794

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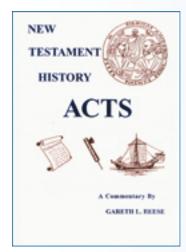
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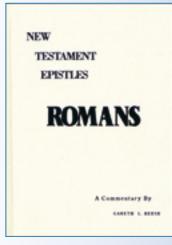
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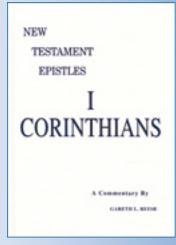
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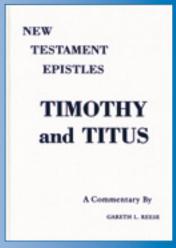
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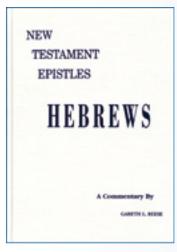
# commentaries by Gareth L. Reese



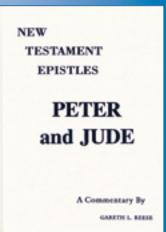








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