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TRUTH MAGAZINE - AUGUST 2014  
Volume 58 - Number 8

# Truth

Magazine™

SPECIAL ISSUE

God or ?  
Government?



By Mike Willis

# God and Government

*Special Thanks*

We would like to express our appreciation to Steven Deaton for selecting the topics and writers for this special issue of Truth Magazine. We hope you enjoy it!



This issue of *Truth Magazine* addresses a topic that is not commonly discussed in the pages of religious periodicals circulating among Christians. This topic is the growing tendency in our country to depend upon government from the cradle to the grave. While there are political aspects of this topic, we are trying to confine ourselves to what God speaks on the subject of individual responsibility and government. How successfully we have done so will be judged by the readers.

God established government for man's good. Speaking of the rulers in the Roman empire, Paul said, "For he is God's minister to you for good" (Rom. 13:4). Government provides national defence and police protection, streets and bridges, and other services for society's benefit (services which none of us acting alone could provide). The judicial system is designed to punish the wicked and encourage righteous living (Rom. 13:3). Those who refuse to submit to government rebel against the ordinance of God (Rom. 13:2).

However, governments sometimes become the source of problems instead of helping to solve them. In the book of Revelation, the Roman government is portrayed as an enemy of Christianity who was putting God's people to death (Rev. 13:1-7).

No one can deny that government has expanded, as evidenced by the increasing cost of federal government. As expansion occurs, government begins to intrude into those areas usually reserved for parents, churches, and private enterprise. When government pays the bills, it also regulates the conditions for receiving that money and sets the rules for providing the services.

## MEDICINE

Government involvement in health care has expanded under President Obama. I say expanded because it was already involved in providing medical care through Social Security, Veterans Administration hospitals, and other programs. Now it has expanded to include much more medical care. There is no divine word from God that says that health care must be operated by private enterprise; many other nations have ventured into socialized medicine (Canada, Great Britain, etc.; see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal\\_health\\_coverage\\_by\\_country](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal_health_coverage_by_country) for more information). These countries have enough problems with their health care systems that one can readily see

that socialized medicine is not the panacea it is being promoted to be.

## Already spiritual conflicts are occurring because of government's involvement in medical care.

The private companies, Hobby Lobby and Conestoga Wood Specialties Corporation, sued the federal government because of the "contraceptive mandate" – the requirement that businesses offering their employees health insurance must provide plans that cover all federally-approved contraception methods at no extra cost to their employees. Hobby Lobby Stores and Conestoga Wood Specialties are both owned by people embracing Christian values who believe that some of those contraceptive methods are tantamount to abortion, because they can prevent a fertilized egg from implanting in the uterus. The owners sought an exemption to the contraceptive mandate under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), a statute that Congress passed almost unanimously in 1993. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of Hobby Lobby on June 30, 2014. Already the present administration had given religious organizations exemption from paying for contraceptives, although their method of doing so was to require health insurance companies to

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(ISSN 1538-0793) is published once a month by Guardian of Truth Foundation, 220 S. Marion, Athens, AL 35611. Postage paid at Bowling Green, KY and additional mailing offices.

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### SUBSCRIPTIONS, RENEWALS & OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

Should be sent to:  
*Truth Magazine*  
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### BOOK ORDERS

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### WEBPAGE

[www.truthmagazine.com](http://www.truthmagazine.com)

### POSTMASTER

Send change of address to:  
220 S. Marion  
Athens, AL 35611

### GRAPHIC DESIGNER

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By John R. Gentry

# Yahweh-Yireh: **God or Government—Who Will You Trust to Provide?**

# W

We all face difficult situations. There are times when we are all alone. We have nowhere to turn. We have no options. We are between the proverbial rock and a hard place. We feel we are drowning or suffocating. Maybe we've lost our job and can't find another job. We've had massive medical bills pile up. Our debt is growing exponentially. When such things happen, where do we turn? Do we trust in ourselves? Do we expect the government to bail us out? Or do we turn to God?

Or think of the times when we feel completely insecure. All of us born before 1990 can probably remember where we were "when the world stopped turning on that September day" (from the Alan Jackson song "Where Were You" that commemorates the fateful events of 9/11). Our freedom was threatened. Our way of life was threatened. Our very existence felt threatened. Threats continue to lurk in the distance from Al-Qaeda and other militant Muslim groups, Russia, China, or some wacko who may get his hands on some nuclear weapons. Who will protect us? Do we put our trust in our military or do we turn to God?

## YAHWEH-YIREH

Yahweh-Yireh (or Jehovah-Jireh in the KJV/ASV; meaning Yahweh-Will-Provide) was the name Abraham gave to Mount Moriah in Genesis 22:14 (the mountain upon which Solomon's temple was built, 2 Chron. 3:1, and very near the place where Jesus, the lamb provided by God, was sacrificed; cf. Gen. 22:14b). In

the first two verses of the chapter, Abraham was commanded by God to go to this place and to sacrifice his son, his only son, whom he loved! Abraham had a choice to make. Would he trust in God or try to come up with a way out of this difficult situation by trusting in himself?

On the way up the mountain, as Isaac carried the wood on his back, he asked his father where they were going to get a lamb for the sacrifice (v. 7). Abraham, fully planning to kill his son (cf. Heb. 11:17-19), replied, "God will provide...." Abraham had the knife drawn over his son and was about to slay him when he was told to stop. Turning around, Abraham saw a ram provided by God for a sacrifice. God provided, just as Abraham said. **When Abraham arose early in the morning to follow the Lord's command, he didn't know what was going to happen, but he trusted in God to provide the answer and solution to his difficult dilemma. Will we learn to do the same?**

## JUDAH'S CHOICE

When the nation of Judah was faced with Assyrian terrorists overtaking their land and their people, they were tempted to seek protection in the nation of Egypt with their many chariots and strong horsemen. Was this wise? Would

Egypt provide protection for them? Consider the words of the Lord.

Woe to those who go down  
to Egypt for help  
and rely on horses,  
who trust in chariots because  
they are many  
and in horsemen because  
they are very strong,  
but do not look to the  
Holy One of Israel  
or consult the LORD!  
And yet he is wise and  
brings disaster;  
he does not call back his words,  
but will arise against the  
house of the evildoers  
and against the helpers of  
those who work iniquity.  
The Egyptians are man,  
and not God,  
and their horses are flesh,  
and not spirit.  
When the LORD stretches  
out his hand,  
the helper will stumble, and  
he who is helped will fall,  
and they will all perish together  
(Isa. 31:1-3; cf. chapter  
30 and Deut. 17:16).

Trusting in Egypt to save them from Assyria would get them nowhere fast. While Egypt could provide a strong military, they ultimately could not protect Judah because "The Egyptians are man, and not God." Only God could protect them.

God instituted government for good (cf. Rom. 13:1-7, esp. v. 4). However, government is not a substitute for God; government is man and not God. We must

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trust in God and not government to provide for us the things we need. Will we learn the lesson God was trying to teach Judah?

**CONCLUSION**

As Christians, we must “walk by faith and not by [flesh]” (cf. 2 Cor. 5:7). We must trust in God, come what may. Trusting in God means that he will provide the best things for us in the best way, even if his provisions don’t make sense to us or result in the loss of our lives or the destruction of our country. Consider the example of Job: “Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him” (Job 13:15, κxv). Or consider the example of Habakkuk, who upon learning that God was going to destroy his nation with another nation more wicked than his own, as he learned to live by faith (Hab. 2:4), wrote a

psalm/prayer recorded in Habakkuk 3; especially note verses 17-19:

Though the fig tree should not blossom,  
nor fruit be on the vines,  
the produce of the olive fail  
and the fields yield no food,  
the flock be cut off from the fold  
and there be no herd in the stalls,  
yet I will rejoice in the LORD;  
I will take joy in the God  
of my salvation.  
GOD, the Lord, is my strength;  
he makes my feet like the deer’s;  
he makes me tread on  
my high places.

And, finally, consider the following two passages that encourage us to trust in the Lord instead of ourselves or in a strong government/military.

Some trust in chariots and  
some in horses,

but we trust in the name of  
the LORD our God.

They collapse and fall,  
but we rise and stand  
upright (Ps. 20:7-8).

Out of my distress I called  
on the LORD;  
the LORD answered me  
and set me free.

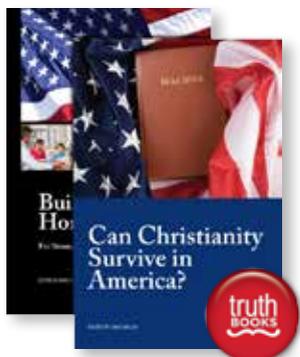
The LORD is on my side;  
I will not fear.

What can man do to me? (Ps.  
118:5-6; cf. Heb. 13:5-6).

*Yahweh-Yireh – the  
Lord will provide!*

*Biblical references are taken from the  
English Standard Version (ESV).*

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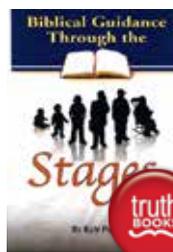
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By Kyle Pope

# God Will Provide

## During Every Stage of Life

A year ago I became a grandfather for the very first time. With no bias whatsoever, I can say with certainty that the sweet little



girl pictured on the right was the most beautiful grandbaby I had ever seen! I'm sure all grandparents feel that way, and I know I will feel the same towards any other grandchildren I may be blessed to have. There is a special bond we have to our children's children. Solomon said, "Children's children are the crown of old men" (Prov. 17:6a, NKJV). Although I was moved to recognize the connection I could instantly feel with this tiny little person I had only just met, what amazed me more was what childbirth illustrates about God's providential care for His people.

Before my granddaughter was even born, she could have no idea all of the care, planning, and preparation that went into her entrance into the world. There were special diets her mother adopted to guard her health. There were showers that were hosted to offer clothing and provisions for her future care. The room where she would sleep and play was painted and carefully furnished. When she was about to be born, the lives of parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles instantly froze for a brief moment as miles were travelled, plans were rearranged, responsibilities were transferred – all to welcome her into the world. In her first hours, she will never really know all of the doctors, nurses, and

other staff who each contributed to the first moments of her life. When she came home, it was amazing to see the efforts of her mother and father attending to her every need, while she (oblivious to all of this) began her discovery of the world. She didn't need to feel anxiety over food, shelter, clothing, or security – her every need was provided, even though she had no concept of the source of such provision or power to secure it for herself.

### **GOD PROVIDES IN BIRTH**

On a much broader scale the provision offered to my granddaughter illustrates some amazing principles about God's providence. God told Jeremiah, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you" (Jer. 1:5a). This was not only true for Jeremiah because of the plans God had for him (cf. Jer. 1:5b) – it is true for all of us. David said of God, "You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb" (Psa. 139:13) and "Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed" (Psa. 139:16a). Not a one of us who has ever lived had the slightest power, knowledge, or ability to be able to mold the DNA, chromosomes, and cells that developed into the marvel that brought about our own existence. Before we were born, the mind of God was making provision for our conception and future life. The freewill actions of our parents certainly played a role in this process, but God provided all of the building blocks from which our

entire make-up was constructed. God set the rules and laws of nature that govern this process, and He sustains imperceptibly all of the conditions and reactions that allow its continuation. Paul said of Jesus, "in Him all things consist" (Col. 1:17) and the Hebrew writer speaks of Him "upholding all things by the word of His power" (Heb. 1:3). When men lose faith and imagine that there is no God responsible for our lives how easy it is to ignore these facts. In ways far more fundamental to our existence than baby showers and room decorations, God lies behind every breath we take, every sensation our brain processes, and the continuing life and death of every cell in our body.

### **GOD PROVIDES THROUGH MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY**

The reasons we lose sight of this may be multifold; however, at the heart of many of these problems is a failure to distinguish stewardship from mastery, or (to put it another way) responsibility from autonomy. From the first stages of our life when we have no ability whatsoever to determine even the smallest choices about our existence, we gradually are allowed to assume more and more responsibilities (for a time). It starts with choices like, "What would you like for dinner, sweetie?" or "What toys do you want to play with today?" These choices eventually expand into questions such as "Where do you plan to go to college?" – "What job will you choose?" or "Who will you marry?" At that stage of life it is very easy to imagine that *we are*

**God Will Provide During Every Stage of Life***Continued from page 6*

*in charge* and it's all up to us! That is an illusion! We are just as dependent upon God's provision during the few short years during which we have a measure of responsibility, as are we were in our birth. We are not *masters*; we are *stewards*.

Let's consider how this works. As God would have it, in birth we are placed in the care of parents who are charged to make the freewill choices to bring us up "in the training and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). They are to "train" us in the "way" we should go so that in older age, we will not "depart from it" (Prov. 22:6). This very arrangement and charge is part of the way God provides. Our parents have a stewardship to fulfill. As we grow we become capable of working for a living and perhaps responsible for our own family. Is God out of the picture during this stage? No. It is God "who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food" (2 Cor. 9:10). To mankind, it is God who has "given him power to eat ... to receive his heritage and rejoice in his labor" (Eccl. 5:19). All the materials necessary for industry, economy, and commerce that allow us to provide an income – all of the mental and physical capabilities that allow us to be able to work are given by God. This, too, is part of the way God provides. We have responsibility, but we are never autonomous and wholly independent.

Clearly, some parents neglect, ignore, or reject this responsibility. In some cases, circumstance may hinder parents or other family members from fulfilling their stewardship. This is where the entire question of the government's role becomes an issue. According to Scripture, government is charged to punish wrongdoing (Rom. 13:3-4), but it is not charged to *train* or *bring up* children. The church is charged to aid its own who cannot provide for themselves (1 Tim. 5:9-16), and

individual Christians "as we have opportunity" are to "do good to all" (Gal. 6:10), but even in these cases the primary vehicle of God's provision is the family. Paul taught, "If anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever" (1 Tim. 5:8). It is when man fails, or one has no connection to the Lord's church, that government so often is left to bridge the gap. Unfortunately a "safety net" may quickly become a "meal ticket," and systems born out of charitable intentions can evolve into tools of political manipulation. Yet, whether Christians find themselves under a free market, capitalistic democracy, or under the most totalitarian socialistic state imaginable, we must never surrender to the government the responsibility God has given us to be His stewards unto our families. This may look different in different cultures and at different times. The medieval serf may have been wholly dependent upon his feudal lord. The sharecropper may have been virtually enslaved to the landowner whose property he farmed. In such cases, God's provision may flow through those in positions over us, whether they are landowners, masters, or a socialistic government that funnels provision through the state. Christians can be Christians anywhere, and God can provide through many sources.

**GOD PROVIDES IN OLD AGE**

Some people are able to carry out their stewardship over the things God has given them to the very end of their lives. Their health continues, their mind stays strong, and they may be able to leave to their children resources that will serve as an extension of God's provision even after they are gone. For some of us, however, age, health, and the decay

of the mind may lead us to a stage in old age when our choices once again are limited. Jesus told Peter, "When you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish" (John 21:18b). What Jesus said to Peter in reference to the manner of his death (John 21:19), becomes true for many as age returns us to a state of dependency. Others may have to care for us, tell us where to live, dress us, clean us, and provide for us when (as in childhood) we cannot provide for ourselves.

Whatever our condition in old age, for all who live it is only for a few short years of our life that we are given a stewardship. We are never truly masters of our lives. We have the responsibility to act as vehicles of God's provision to others. If we become disillusioned with God because others have failed in their stewardship, or consider it unfair that those we love have too quickly lost their ability to care for themselves, we may have misinterpreted this brief period of responsibility as if we were intended to be autonomous creatures in no need of God's provision. That is not who we are, or ever shall be! At every stage of life God is always behind the scenes offering the provisions necessary for our life here ultimately pointing us toward the eternal life He provides to those who seek Him. God's provision doesn't mean that we always get everything we want, or that we will be delivered from every trial. The ultimate focus of all of God's provision, and the highest provision He desires to offer to us, lies in the age to come. Eternal life is the final stage for the child of God and the greatest demonstration of God's eternal provision for us (cf. Rev. 21:4-5). Obedience to the gospel demonstrates a trust in God to provide for us through every stage of life.

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By Stan Adams

# Serving God under Any Government

All governments are ordained of God and are to exist for ordering men in a society. While I am unashamedly a patriotic American, I must admit and allow that God ordains all governments to exist (both good and bad). In the midst of an oppressive and corrupt Roman rule, Paul, through the Holy Spirit, wrote,

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake (Rom. 13:1-5).

Christians are required to be subject to whatever governmental structure they are dwelling under. The authority for all governments comes from God (Dan. 2:21 – “he removeth kings and setteth kings up”; Dan. 4:32 – “the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men and giveth it to whomsoever He will”; John 19:11 – “thou couldest have no power at all against me except it be given thee from above”; even the wisdom rulers need to govern comes from God; Prov. 8:15-16 – “by Me

kings rule and princes decree justice. By Me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth”).

Once we realize that governments are there because God wants them for His reasons, we realize that opposing government, for the most part, is equivalent to opposing God and bringing condemnation. We are to give rulers honor (1 Pet. 2:17; 1 Tim. 2:1-2). Isaiah tells us that it is God who “bringeth the princes to nothing; He maketh the judges of earth as vanity. Yea they shall not be planted; yea they shall not be sown; yea, their stock shall not take root in the earth; and He shall also blow upon them, and they shall wither, and the whirlwind shall take them away as stubble. To whom will ye liken Me or shall I be equal? Saith the Holy One” (Isa. 40:23-25). God is in control of all the nations and their rulers, but rulers have limits. They are not given permission by God to just run rampant. These things will be dealt with by other writers in this special edition.

Peter wrote, “Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake, whether it be to the king, as supreme; or unto governors, as them that are sent by Him for punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God...” (1 Pet. 2:13-15a). He was stressing to all Christians for all time that we are bound by God to submit ourselves to whatever government we find ourselves subject. While we may not want to hear it, God’s word is clear that the obligation of all Christians is to *obey the government*. Paul states,

... whosoever resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God; and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? Do that which is good and thou shalt have praise of the same: for he is a minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain; for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath’s sake but also for conscience sake (Rom. 13:2-5).

In the book of Daniel, every time Daniel or his friends addressed the wicked pagan king they began with “O king, live forever” not “get lost you loser.” Even when they had to disobey the king’s edicts in order to obey God, they treated him with respect. We can do no less. We must be respectful of our government officials and pray for them (1 Tim. 2:1-4 – “I exhort that, first of all, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men; for kings and for all in authority; that we may lead a peaceable and quiet life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; who will have all men to be saved, and to come to a knowledge of the truth”).

But what if the government goes against what God tells us to do? We must obey God more than men and that would include any government law or edict. Should the rulers of any nation ever try to prohibit Christians from doing their God-given duties, then submission to man’s laws

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would place one in violation of God's law (1 Cor. 11:3). We are bound always to appeal to the higher power which is ultimately God. Acts 4:13-21 gives an account of Peter and John being forbidden by the Jewish council to preach anymore in the name of Jesus. They continued to preach and said, "We must obey God rather than man."

Governments have the right given them by God to defend themselves and the Christian's role in such actions is left to each one's liberty to decide to what extent he will engage in such conflicts. Overall, with the exception of violating divine law, all Christians are to be subject to the law and order of the land they live in.

As Americans we are privileged to live in a country unlike Rome, which was idolatrous and corrupt. In this writer's thinking we are not far from being like them, but as of this writing, we are blessed to live in a free country and are able to live quiet and peaceable lives for the most part. However, this is not the case in many countries. In Canada right now, it is conceivable that a preacher can go to prison for using the Bible to support a position against homosexuality, because portions of the Bible are viewed by the Canadian government as hate speech. Andrew Napolitano told me something similar when I asked him about preachers in our country preaching against homosexuality and abortion. Brethren, testing time is coming for us as it did for New Testament Christians. Will we have the courage to stand for truth and disobey our government when they insist on us following laws that violate God's law? Christians are to be law-abiding citizens in every other way, unless man's law violates God's law. The best citizen of any country (and best asset) is a true Christian.

Should we ever be under Islamic rule, we would have to submit as far

as we could without violating God's law. This would make it very difficult and may cost our lives, but we should be willing to give our lives as our early ancestors of faith did in Rome.

In America, we are still able to influence our government towards biblical values and priorities. So it rests on all Christians to take part in government. Learn about it, understand it, participate in it, obey it, pray for it, and, above all, use the power each of has in this land of the free to vote out corrupt, sinful rulers and vote for those who will stand for righteous principles.

Our officials must realize that every society that has adopted an attitude toward moral deviancy has fallen and that murder (abortion) is against God's law (and is a reproach to any people). If any government of men is to survive it will be because "righteousness exalteth a nation" (Prov. 14:34). Silence helps no one, but rather lends godspeed to the evil (2 John 9-11).

Let us never forget that God is moving behind the scenes in the affairs of all mankind (Jer. 18:7-10 – "at what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, and to pull down, and to destroy it; if that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them. And at what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build; and to plant it; if it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them").

Let us leave the disposition of nations to God and let none forget that it is God who is in charge and gives a nation to whom He will. The Christian's role in the nation he lives under is to "let your light so shine

before men that they might see your good works and glorify God who is in heaven" (Matt. 5:16). Let us be the leaven of righteousness that preserves the nation we abide in. May we never forget that it was just that type of godly perseverance by average brethren that brought the mighty Roman Empire to her knees and allowed the spread of the gospel to a lost and dying world. Godliness and courage is the way we resist evil. Nations will rise and fall but it is the kingdom (church) that will endure forever (Dan. 2:44 – "in the days of those kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed: and the kingdom will not be left to other people but it will break in pieces and consume all the other kingdoms and it shall stand forever").

So, in spite of all the news reports we hear (pro or con) about our nation and other nations, may we as Christians not lose heart and feel defeated at any corruption and injustice that we see in the nations of men. God is in charge and the beautiful thing is that He can rule the hearts of men under any form of government (Capitalism, Communism, Socialism, Republics, Democracies, Dictatorships, Monarchies, etc.), through the beautiful, powerful gospel message. Our hope is not in governments, but in heaven. Our task is to "go into **all the world** and preach the gospel to every creature..." (Mark 16:15). Let us remember our time is short, so we must be busy following the Lord's command to reach all lost souls (regardless of the governments they live under). Remember "The world passes away and the lusts thereof but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever" (1 John 2:17).

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By David A. Cox

# Government Programs Undermine the Home

God has ordained government. Government exists to serve those it governs. Paul, speaking of government and its roles in the lives of Christians in the first century, states that it is “a minister of God to you for good” (Rom. 13:4). God has ordained two primary functions of government:

- To provide for the promotion and protection of the well doer (Rom. 13:3; 1 Tim. 2:2; 1 Pet. 2:13-14).
- To punish the evil doer (Rom. 13:4; 1 Pet. 2:14).

Many times governments will leave the functions given to them by God and enter into areas that God has not given them the authority to enter, which often leads to their failure.

The overreaching by the state to control or do things that God has not given them to do is seen in the establishment of programs or enacting laws that take the government into areas that God did not ordain for it. We see this in the multiplicity of government programs in our nation today. This idea is often applauded and promoted much in our society. The idea is seen in the book written by a former first lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton, *“It Takes A Village: And Other Lessons Children Teach Us.”* In this book, Mrs. Clinton focuses on the impact of a child’s well-being through the programs and groups outside the family in meeting the needs of a child during the growing and developmental years. God has clearly stated that it takes a father and mother to raise a

child. That is God’s plan. The truth of the matter is that often the state will reach into the home and the result is that they undermine the home as God ordained it to be.

## THE UNDERMINING OF THE HOME: THE ROLES OF FATHER AND MOTHER

The home was the first relationship that God instituted (Gen. 2:18-25). Within this relationship, God gave a role to the husband (father) and wife (mother). The Scriptures teach that husbands/fathers are to be the head of their families (1 Cor. 11:3; Eph. 5:23; 6:4). Being the leader of the home implies that he is to be the “provider.” Paul tells us this in 1 Timothy 5:8 as he says, *“If anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his own household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”* God has given to the husband and father the primary work of providing for the home. This provision is not only limited to the physical needs for sustenance, but for the training, development, and correction of the children. By stating that it is the primary work of the father, I do not to mean or imply that the mother does not have any responsibility in these areas (1 Tim. 5:14; Titus 2:4-5). The virtuous woman of Proverbs 31 shows the role of the wife and mother in the home. The woman described is working diligently in the care of her family. She works from early to late in seeing that the needs are met for her family, even in working

with her hands to have things to sell for the monetary gain. All this is done in keeping with her role as a wife and mother in the home.

We live in a day and time in which government has taken upon itself a role that God never intended for it to have. This new or expanded role that it has assumed strikes at the heart of the home and undermines the role of the parents in the home. The social programs that were put into place in the 1960s are many of the things to which I am referring. Fifty years ago, in January 1964, the “War On Poverty” was declared by President Lyndon Johnson. This brought on many social programs of President Johnson’s “Great Society” that came about as an effort to reduce or eliminate poverty. Of course, eliminating poverty is something that all would like to see, but to see the intrusion of the government into the home and its effect on the home is something that is displeasing to the Lord.

Social programs discourage men from working and encourage the attitude of “the government will take care of me and my children.” The statistics from the 1960s to 2012 prove this point. In 1960, 40.3 percent of all American households were homes with children living with both parents. By 2012, the number of households with children living with both parents has dropped to 19.6 percent. In 1960, only 7% of children were born to unwed parents. By 2012, 40.7% of the births in the United States were born to unwed parents. Without looking

**Government Programs Undermine the Home***Continued from page 10*

back to the politics of the programs that were begun, or enlarged, by the “War On Poverty,” all must admit that these policies/programs brought the federal government into the area of responsibility that God never intended. The programs put into place did not help in the issue of bringing about more jobs, rather it provided financial aid for people not working, in the form of welfare checks, food stamps, and child care assistance programs. The Scriptures speak of an individual working with his own hands so that he will have what he needs and will have to give to those that need (Eph. 4:28). Families would then raise their children, training them and giving an example of working for the needs of the home. It is clearly seen that, in the first century, as needs arose, they were supplied by families, and then by the Lord’s church, if necessary (1 Tim. 5:8, 16; Acts 4:28-32; 6:1). The people were not told to look to the government to satisfy the needs they had. The family unit was to care for itself in the necessities they needed. The statistics cited earlier show that, as the government has become the standard to supply the needs for families, the family unit has deteriorated. The government has taken on the financial aid to unwed mothers and their children. Is there any doubt that this has had an effect on fathers being in the home fulfilling their God-given role? Remember, children born to unwed mothers has risen from 7% to 40.7%, nearly six times higher in 52 years.

## **THE UNDERMINING OF THE HOME: THE EFFECT OF NO-FAULT DIVORCE AND MARRIAGE LAWS**

God established the marriage relationship to be for life (Gen. 2:24). Jesus, when asked about the bill of divorcement that Moses allowed, said, “from the beginning it was not so” (Matt. 19:4). Paul told the Romans that a wife is bound to her husband as long as he lived (Rom. 7:2). It is easy to see that God’s design for marriage is to be for life. It is true that Jesus gave an acceptable way in which one could dissolve his marriage without death and marry another and not be wrong, but it must be only when fornication is committed by one’s spouse (Matt. 19:9).

The government, through the no-fault divorce laws, has made it easy for a spouse to dissolve a marriage for “irreconcilable differences,” or “incompatibility.” The no-fault divorce laws were introduced in the United States in 1970 in California. In the next fifteen years, 49 states would make no-fault divorce legal. This clearly undermines the home and the commitment that is expected by God of a man and a woman in the marriage relationship. The median length of a marriage in the United States today is eleven years. What a shame!

The government is continuing to threaten the home as it advocates and enacts laws legalizing same-sex marriage. It is absurd that anyone would think that marriage between two people of the same-sex could be acceptable to God. Homosexuality is an “abomination” to God and is described as that “which is against nature” (Lev. 20:13; Rom. 1:26-27; etc.) For government to place homosexuals into a relationship that God instituted for a man and a woman threatens the home at its core (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:4-5). Just

because government accepts it does not make it acceptable to God.

There are many things in our society that have adverse effects on the home. The government through its power has done numerous things to undermine and destroy the home. God’s plan works. Let us always remember that God’s law is supreme and does not need the intervention of government. May we always order our homes and our lives to His will.

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By Steve Lee

# Replacing the Parents

Many in our society today like the idea of the government providing care from the “womb to the tomb.” In other words, they want the federal, state, and local governments to provide for their every need from birth to death. It is my personal view that the government has too much business in my life and I would like to see the government have less intrusion instead of more.

In this article we want to look at the role of public education replacing the parents with respect to our children’s education, public education giving a moral foundation to our children, and public education disciplining our children and also interfering with a parents’ right to discipline their children.

## REPLACING THE PARENTS IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

The apostle Paul makes it clear that fathers are to bring their children up in the “nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4). When Christians have a child or children, they must decide whether they will school their children at home or send them to public schools. My wife and I made the decision to send our children to public schools, and our children have done well in that environment. All three of our children are straight A students, and we are proud of the accomplishments that they have made in their secular education. But, we haven’t just left their education to the public school teachers. We have been involved with our children and the schools that they have

attended through the years. We have talked with the administrators and teachers where our children have been students and have helped with various school activities as much as we have been able.

One thing that we have always tried to do is to ground our children in the truth of God’s word first and try to help them understand that many things that they see and hear in public schools are certainly not well pleasing unto the Lord. We have always encouraged our children to stand up for their faith and we are proud that they have been willing to do that. We have not allowed our children to participate in any activity that has been even questionable with regards to our faith, values, or morals. We have been fortunate in that most of the schools that our children have attended have been smaller schools and many of the teachers and administrators have not had a problem with us being involved in our children’s education. I would encourage any parent, especially Christians, who send their children to public schools to be involved in his child’s secular education. **Do not let public education replace you in the training up of your child!**

## PUBLIC EDUCATION GIVING MORAL FOUNDATION TO CHILDREN

I don’t know that this is even the case in the majority of public

schools today. There was a time in our country’s history where the public school teacher did in fact teach good morals along with reading, writing, and arithmetic. It is sad today that there is a lack of morals being taught in public schools. Again, one of my jobs as a father is to train my children in good moral behavior. Teaching them things like respect, godliness, and integrity is part of my job as a father. My moral training came first from my parents, who brought me up in the church, and secondly from my study and application of God’s word in my life.

Unfortunately in today’s society, and in many public schools, almost anything goes. Profanity is spoken by students and teachers alike. Children in public schools today are being taught that homosexuality is an acceptable lifestyle. God’s word teaches that it is sinful (Rom. 1:20-ff). Of course, all sexual immorality is a sin (1 Cor. 6:18-20) and is condemned by God. Children are also encouraged at an early age, beginning in elementary school in some places, to attend dances. In the “upper grades,” middle and high school, the dances get more risqué to say the least. My children have been invited to attend dances and have never been allowed to go to any of them and will never be allowed to attend dances, especially the prom. The modern dance is lasciviousness, and the apostle Paul says that it is one of the works

**Replacing the Parents***Continued from page 12*

of the flesh in Galatians 5:19-21. Those who participate in such things cannot inherit the kingdom of God.

To me one of the saddest commentaries on public education is the many scandals that involve teachers and students. It is all much too commonplace to read or hear about another teacher being investigated or fired for inappropriate relationships with a student. When I was in school, we were taught to respect our teachers and teachers were held to a higher standard and held themselves to a higher standard. How could a teacher who is having inappropriate relationships with one of his/her students be expected to teach any child good moral behavior? Public education cannot be depended upon to train up your children, or mine, in moral standards. Moral training, like all training, begins in the home. **Parents, do not abdicate your role in your child's life when it comes to moral teaching!**

**PUBLIC EDUCATION REPLACING THE PARENTS IN DISCIPLINING CHILDREN AND INTERFERING WITH A PARENT'S RIGHT TO DISCIPLINE HIS CHILDREN**

When our oldest son began kindergarten, I spoke with the principal of his school one day and told him that he had my permission to spank our son if he needed it. The principal responded by saying, "We don't do that here." And that is one of the problems in public schools,

and it has created many problems in society. Corporal punishment has been banned in public schools, I suppose, because the "experts" thought it was doing more harm than good. A friend of mine taught elementary school for a few years, and after the school where he taught stopped practicing corporal punishment, one of his students told him he could do anything in the classroom and there was nothing my friend could do about it. It's that kind of misbehavior that has hurt so many in public education and makes many parents fearful of sending their children to public schools.

God's word is abundantly clear that parents must discipline their children (Prov. 13:24; 22:6, 15; 23:13-14; 29:15), and children are taught in the word of God to obey their parents (Eph. 6:1; Col. 3:20). I am not talking about abusing one's child or abusing one's authority as a parent. Too many people in our society, and I'm afraid some brethren, view the passages in Proverbs negatively because, in their mind, the words that the writer uses sound abusive. God has never encouraged the abuse of another, especially one's own offspring, in the Scriptures. Obviously, not every infraction against the rules in the home or at school has to result in corporal punishment, but if the infraction deems that a spanking is in order, then so be it. I was the recipient of several spankings growing up and never got one that I didn't deserve. My children have also been spanked on occasion when the misbehavior called for it. But, I never got a spanking in school, and I grew up in a time when spankings were still a part of the discipline code. The main reason I never got a spanking at school is because I was told if I got one at school I would get one when I

got home, and frankly, I didn't want two spankings in one day! I was taught to behave at home, at church services, in school, and in the homes of other people. And, my children have never had discipline issues at school because they have been taught to respect their teachers and to behave at school. Many children today are disobedient and disrespectful to their teachers at school because they know that nothing will be done except that maybe they will be written up or be sent to the principal's office where they may or may not be disciplined at all.

**When school administrators and school boards decide to have a "no corporal punishment" policy, it can indirectly interfere with a parent's ability to discipline his children at home.** Children may threaten to tell their teacher if the parent tells the child they are going to get a spanking, or a child is getting away with bad behavior at school, so they think they can get away with that same behavior in the home. Undoubtedly there may be parents who are afraid to discipline their children at home because they might get "turned in" to the school teacher or administrator. Parents, we must be strong in our resolve to teach our children and discipline them, showing that we love them and that God loves them too!

*Steve Lee has preached for the Sunny Hill Drive church of Christ in Campbellsville, KY for six years.*





by Sean Lynch

# Government Providing for Life's Needs

**W**e are blessed to live, by comparison, in a wonderful country (dare I say the greatest country in the world). Our government is designed to ensure and protect our freedoms, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. In recent decades the people of this country and government officials have set for themselves the daunting task to end poverty. The end of poverty, I believe everyone would agree, is a good and noble idea ... in theory. History has shown throughout time that the poor are always with us even during the greatest empires and periods of wealth. Jesus made a similar statement in John 12:8b, "For the poor always ye have with you." This is not to say we should not attempt to end or reduce poverty, but observation shows poverty has been, and most likely always will be, with us. Due to this situation, there have been nonprofit groups, charity events, government programs, and holiday-driven events all created to support and help those who are in need as defined by each group or program's specific focus. **I have no doubts as to their success in helping those in need for the short term; however, the Lord clearly defines for us principles about meeting our needs.**

## **THE BIBLE TEACHES SELF-SUFFICIENCY**

From the beginning, work has been an integral part of the human

situation (Gen. 2:15; 3:17-18; 1 Thess. 4:11-12). Work is honorable, a part of our everyday lives. Even as children we learn about work and its contributions to the family and that, without it, the family does not thrive. Solomon writes, "Go to the ant" (Prov. 6:6a), and uses one of God's creatures to show the wisdom of one who labors in summer for the harvest. The one who is lazy, sleeps, folds his hands, and refuses to work he calls a sluggard ... a work-hater (Prov. 6:6-11). The opposite of slothfulness is diligence, one of the 49 character qualities. Diligence is used in Proverbs in comparison with the sluggard (Prov. 12:24; 13:4) and is called the precious possession of a man (Prov. 12:27). To be diligent or to have a diligent hand is the idea of being hard-working, not negligent. The principle that is conveyed in these passages is simply the diligent or hard-working man brings wealth (Prov. 10:4).

The New Testament continues this thought of the diligent and self-sufficient man in 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12. Paul here tells the church at Thessalonica to work with their hands as they were commanded. Paul explains so they would behave properly toward outsiders and not be in any need. Paul himself refused to accept money from the church and used his own skills as a tent maker to take care of his needs. He was not condemning taking support but supported himself for the sake of those who would attack him because of taking support. In Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians, he tells them to follow his example wherein he paid for his food and labored hard

so as not to burden the saints there. Paul was making a point with his example by acting above reproach because he had heard there were some who were not working at all but acting as busybodies. Paul stated, "If anyone will not work, neither let him eat." The ones who would not work were called undisciplined (2 Thess. 3:6-13). A man, especially one of the household of faith, is to provide for himself. Those who refuse to work to provide for themselves and their own are to be put to shame. In his letter to Timothy, Paul says such a one is worse than an infidel or unbeliever (1 Tim. 5:4, 8).

**Not only are we to provide for our needs and those of our own household, but we are to "work the thing which is good" (Eph. 4:28) in order to share with those who do have need (Prov. 19:17; Matt. 25:40).**

## **UNDERMINES THE INCENTIVE TO WORK AND LESSENS THE NEED TO PROVIDE FOR ONE'S FAMILY**

Programs created by the government to provide basic needs of the family such as food, clothing, shelter, healthcare, and retirement, have good intentions. They were designed to help those who live under a set standard of wealth

**Government Providing for Life's Needs***Continued from page 14*

called the poverty line. Now before I go further, let me say I do not believe many of these programs are wrong, nor would I suggest it is wrong to use them. There are those who truly need such services; however, for the purpose of this discussion, I am referring to those who are able to work versus those who choose not to. I would also like to suggest careful consideration about these type of programs and where they may lead, if not used properly.

More frequently I read about the abuses of welfare programs. One particular person who comes to mind is a man who is living off of welfare and refuses to work, because the welfare program pays all his needs and more. He spends all his time playing in a band, eating expensive meals, and even driving an expensive high-end SUV. Others are receiving cell-phones, cars, homes, and other things all because they can and not because they are in genuine need.

**Granted, there are those with legitimate needs,**

**however, where is the incentive to work and get back on one's own feet if you have a government willing to do this for you?**

This is very dangerous! God designed us to work. He made us to enjoy the fruits of our labor (Eccl. 2:24; 3:13). If we can receive the fruit without the labor, then why labor? Paul called a person who would not work undisciplined and worse than an infidel (1 Tim. 5:4, 8). We must not lose sight of God's purpose and the blessings and joy received from our labors.

### **FAMILY IS THE FIRST RESOURCE FOR HELP**

The government now provides cell phones, houses, cars, Medicare, toiletries, utilities, etc., all for anyone who can "prove" he is living in poverty as defined by some government standard. The government even gives us all retirement benefits.

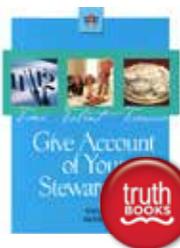
Most of us all pay into this program and have a right to use it, but what does it teach in doing so? It removes our desire or incentive to save for later years because the government is doing this for us.

What about programs designed to care for us when we no longer are able to work? Is it the government's responsibility? If we look at principles given regarding the church providing for a "widow indeed" in 1 Timothy 5:4, Paul teaches one's own family should be first considered for care by giving back to their parents, "for this is acceptable in the sight of God." Again there are situations where such needs for programs are warranted, but we must always first look to the primary source as God would have us to live. His methods are *always* wiser and for lack of a better description, better than anything we could design in its place.

*Sean Lynch worships with the Anndale church of Christ in Anndale, VA.*



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By Steve Klein

# Unemployment Income



The issue of the federal government extending unemployment benefits has become the proverbial political football in American politics of late. It's been kicked all over the place! For those who have not been paying attention, perhaps a brief review of recent history is in order.

In 2008, as the economy sank into the Great Recession and joblessness increased, Congress set up an emergency benefits program to take over when state unemployment benefits ran out after 26 weeks. With the emergency federal provisions, benefits were extended for as long as 99 weeks in states with exceptionally high unemployment. At the end of 2013, Congress allowed that extension to expire. Presently, the question facing legislators is whether or not to extend those emergency benefits; if so, for how long, and how to pay the \$25 billion annual cost.

Our concern in this article is not political. It's spiritual. While those in government debate the relative merits of extending benefits, Christians will allow their thinking on the entire matter of unemployment income to be guided by God's word.

## A REWARD FOR LABOR

The wise man said, "In all labor there is profit" (Prov. 14:23), and

Jesus declared that, "The laborer is worthy of his wages" (Luke 10:7). From one standpoint, unemployment income can be viewed as a reward for laboring. It is only extended to those who have held jobs. And like other government programs, employers pay into the unemployment insurance program on behalf of their workers. In some cases, individual employees also pay premiums. If workers lose their jobs, they may apply to receive the benefits from this program that they or their employers may have been paying into for decades. If they qualify, unemployed workers receive a percentage of what they were making while employed; this continues for each week they remain unemployed, usually up to a maximum of 26 weeks. In this respect, unemployment income is similar to Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. As one brother in Christ observed, "People have paid into some of these programs and have the right to draw from them."

## BENEFITS OF UNEMPLOYMENT INCOME

There are obvious benefits to receiving unemployment.

- **It helps to pay bills and feed families during time of financial strain.** People of faith understand that they have a responsibility to provide for their own households (1 Tim. 5:8). While some might view unemployment income as reliance on government to care for one's family, the reality is

that unemployment income is a direct result of an individual's labor. Unemployment insurance is a means for a laborer to provide for his own at a time when he or she is unemployed or unemployable. While differing in several respects, in this particular aspect it is comparable to a workplace retirement plan in which funds are contributed by employers and employees with a view to future need.

- **It prevents chain reaction job-loss.** During an economic down-turn, it has been shown that job losses in one sector of the economy can quickly cascade into job losses in other sectors. Those who have lost jobs can no longer purchase certain goods and services, and so those who produce those goods and services are soon out of jobs, too. Unemployment income cushions this negative economic domino effect.
- **It gives people time to look for suitable work.** Rather than just taking the first job opening of any kind that is available, unemployment income may allow the job-seeker to be more selective and find a job that suits his or her God-given talents. In the long run, this results in a more productive work force and a more financially secure worker.

## DANGERS OF UNEMPLOYMENT INCOME

**A disincentive to work.** The Scripture says, "If anyone

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will not work, neither shall he eat” (2 Thess. 3:10). Those who receive unemployment income have already shown a willingness to work, or they could not receive their benefits. However, there is no doubt that some who receive unemployment income are tempted to avoid future work, especially if their benefits are extended long-term. This has been proven in numerous studies. For instance, in a May 2013 study published in the *National Bureau of Economic Research* (NBER),<sup>1</sup> the authors concluded that the 2008 extension of benefits by Congress raised the average duration of unemployment by seven percent. The effect, they found, was especially strong among those unemployed for at least six months. Another study published by NBER in October 2013 concluded that “most of the persistent increase in unemployment during the Great Recession can be accounted for by the unprecedented extensions of unemployment benefit eligibility.”<sup>2</sup>

To put it bluntly, unemployment income can become a snare, leading to the sins of sloth and idle dependence; it twists minds into thinking that it is more blessed to receive than give.

**In whom do we trust?** In my experience, most Christians who receive government benefits thank God for them. In their minds, it is not a choice between “God or Government.” They see it as God providing *through* Government. As one disabled widow who is a Christian recently wrote concerning an increase in her SSI benefits, “This is such an incredible gift. It is as though through [my husband’s]

hard work and responsibility, even from the grave he cares for me. I know that it is the Good Lord’s care sent my way thanks to the prayers of all of you and many others.”

However, this sister’s view is not prevalent in the world. Many in the world do not acknowledge God as the giver of every good blessing. They have a shallow and carnal understanding of the true source of their sustenance.

The story has often been told that in the former Soviet Union, as government officials attempted to indoctrinate children in the ways of communism, they would enter schools and tell the children to pray to God for candy. When no candy appeared, they would then tell the children to pray to the government for candy. As the children closed their eyes in prayer, government workers would put candy on their desks. The children were taught to trust government, not God.

Whether or not that story is historically accurate, it graphically illustrates two opposing mindsets. Our real challenge when it comes to issues like receiving unemployment income is to remember that it is God Who is the giver of every good gift (James 1:17)! As the Psalmist says,

Do not put your trust in princes, nor in a son of man, in whom there is no help....Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God, Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; Who keeps truth forever, Who executes justice for the oppressed, Who gives food to the hungry (Ps. 146:3-7a).

In the familiar story of Joseph in Egypt found in Genesis 41-47, God used government to provide for human needs during a time of economic crisis. You will recall from the narrative that God enabled

Joseph to interpret Pharaoh’s dreams – there would be seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine. Joseph was given authority by Pharaoh over the entire land. He gathered up one-fifth of the grain during the seven years of plenty and stored it to provide for the people during the lean years. Later, as the famine drew to an end, Joseph purchased all the land from the citizens of Egypt in exchange for grain. He then gave them grain to sow in the fields, with the stipulation that, from that time forward, they would give a fifth of their harvest to Pharaoh (Gen. 47:24-27).

The actions of the Egyptian government under Joseph – collecting grain, doling it out, grabbing all the land, and forcing citizens to give one-fifth of their produce – would not be welcomed by some of us in our modern American democracy. But it was plainly God’s plan at that time. God can certainly use government in hard times or at any time to provide for His people. **The point is that no matter what mechanism is used to provide for our needs, we must never forget that it is God who is the Provider.**

**ENDNOTES**

- 1 This study may be accessed online at <http://www.nber.org/digest/oct13/w19048.html>.
- 2 This study may be accessed online at <http://www.nber.org/papers/w19499>.

*Steve Klein works as a minister of the gospel with the Eastside church of Christ in Athens, Alabama.*



By David Halbrook

# The Bible Teaches Individual Responsibility

Beside the Constitution, the founders of the United States of America also agreed upon a “Bill of Rights,” which implies that the government cannot do everything that the individual citizen can do and that the differences between individual action and collective action (through the government) must be recognized and respected. This distinction is a sound concept, defined by God and even applied to the individual Christian and the church (Matt. 18:15-17; 1 Tim. 5:16). Because Christians ought to be familiar with this principle, they ought to be able to recognize when that distinction is being blurred, undermined, or destroyed in the church or society.

This issue of *Truth Magazine* is the result of some Christians, myself included, who believe that individual responsibility is not being promoted and respected as it ought by our government (not limited to any single administration or political party). This is no surprise when our leaders mock and misrepresent the Bible. President Barack Obama once mocked the idea that the Bible has a definitive use in forming public policy asking, “Or should we just stick to the Sermon on the Mount, a passage that is so radical that it’s doubtful that our own defence department would survive its application? [Laughter and applause from crowd] So before we get carried away, let’s read our Bibles now. Folks haven’t been reading their Bibles.”<sup>1</sup> By reading his Bible, he could have directed the defence department to Romans 13 and Proverbs 14:34; 20:26, because Matthew 5 is a text focused on individual relationships and decisions, not civil law or military

policy. Whether or not political leaders help us to recognize passages of individual emphasis, we must learn what God expects of us. As you read, ask yourself whether our government is encouraging or discouraging the thinking and practice God expects of all individuals.

*God expects individuals to identify and choose between “wants” and “needs.”* In the sermon of Jesus in Matthew 5-7, Jesus was revealing God’s plan for the lives of all individuals, not God’s plan for the civil policy of government. Jesus began by teaching men the necessity of having a poor, penitent, meek, truth-seeking, merciful, pure, peace-making, and dedicated heart (Matt. 5:1-12). Human government can never make such things conditions of citizenship or assistance, but Jesus demands that every member of His kingdom view and aptly adjust the condition of his heart in order to receive His aid. Jesus also teaches that He governs not only the outward action but also the inward decision (Matt. 5:20-6:16). Jesus expects His citizens to view inward self-control as more than a lofty, long-term goal but as an urgent need. The rewards and punishments (hell, forgiveness, open reward from the Father) promised for man’s response to these teachings are beyond the scope of what a government can offer to compliant or needy citizens.

In Matthew 6:19-34, Jesus teaches men to rely on God and seek His kingdom in order to find happiness. Physical prosperity, as an individual or a nation, is of minor concern to Jesus or people with this focus, because all such things can be lost. Instead of waiting for a czar,

secretary, president, senator, or dictator to solve my financial problem or guarantee payment for my medical needs so that I can feel content today and confident about a happy future, Jesus directs us to get our priorities straight. If my happiness is dependent on health, food, clothes, and shelter, my happiness and hope can be lost at any moment of any day (Job 1:13-19; 2:7-9). True happiness, along with every physical need, is found by seeking and loving God. Waiting for or looking to any other master (my government or myself) to bring me happiness will only lead to sin and disappointment. Jesus urges us to recognize that we need enduring spiritual gifts available only in His kingdom and accept that all physical things are temporary. With this mindset, it becomes simple for every person to distinguish between “wants” and “needs.”

*God expects individuals to identify and choose between right and wrong.* God expects the government to distinguish between right and wrong, to cause evil people to fear, and praise those who do good (Rom. 13:1-4). However, God also expects every individual to recognize what is right and wrong, based first upon the authority of Christ, not the authority of the government (Matt. 28:18; John 19:11). One danger of citizens having an excessive amount of trust in the government is that the citizens forget that God has all authority. When citizens forget God, then they must decide whether they believe the government or themselves individually have final authority. Both ways lead to destruction, both for the government and individual (Prov. 14:12, 34). ▶

**The Bible Teaches Individual Responsibility***Continued from page 18*

When citizens view the government as the final authority, then they let the government do the work of identifying and choosing right and wrong. In our country, that means that the public sale of alcohol was once absolutely wrong (“Prohibition”) and is currently only sometimes wrong (depending on whether you live in a “wet” or “dry” area). God actually expects each citizen to examine the decisions of the government and give honor to God first, before accepting the rulings of the government (Acts 5:29). So in the case of alcohol, God expects us to recognize that intoxicating drink is for foolish people, even if the government approves (Prov. 20:1; Rom. 1:22). In this case, sin has become a reproach to our nation.

When citizens view themselves as the final authority, then they will cooperate with the government as long as the government agrees with them. Such people quickly come into conflict with both God and His governing authorities, thus we are told to “fear the LORD and the king; do not associate with those given to change; for their calamity will rise suddenly, and who knows the ruin those two can bring?” (Prov. 24:21-22). Those who do not pay their taxes because they do not like how the government spends the money find both physical and spiritual calamity.

Jesus put this individual duty in the simplest of terms: “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it” (Matt. 7:13-14). No civil leader can legislate you into the narrow way, but many are following them down the broad path.

*God expects individuals to work.* I believe that God has a better plan than our current social security

and food stamp plans. At the least, God’s principles would improve them. While there are many complex problems that arise, they do not change the simple wisdom and order God designed. All of it begins with the individual’s determination to work with his own hands (1 Thess. 4:11). “If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat” (2 Thess. 3:10). Withholding food from someone until he is willing to work is actually an expression of mercy and love, for it may be the only way to train someone, or those who watch them, in God’s plan. Neither we, nor the government, should imagine that we can be more wise, merciful, or loving than God.

*God expects individuals to be content.* When we work according to our ability, God expects us to be content with what we have (Heb. 13:5). Some individuals say they are willing to work but repeatedly refuse available work, citing the low wages. They refuse to work unless the pay allows them to own a nice car, have cable TV or the internet, have a talk-text-data cellphone plan, and/or live in the neighborhood of their peers. So, “the fool folds his hands and consumes his own flesh. Better is a handful with quietness than both hands full, together with toil and grasping for the wind” (Eccl. 4:5-6). Our consumer-driven economy is consuming itself to death because many of us are not content with the basic necessities of life but pursue the pleasures of life at the expense of our daily spiritual needs, our family, our nation, and the churches (1 Tim. 6:8; Rev. 3:17). Is there a lack of elders, class teachers, evangelists, and spiritually mature Christians because the pursuit of the pleasures of life consume the time wherein we could bear fruit (Luke 8:14-15)? If Christians do not learn and live this lesson, how can we expect our nation to escape this foolishness? When our government persistently passes budgets that put our nation in

debt, then it is no surprise when our citizens similarly spend irresponsibly.

*God expects individuals to share.* Work is not only intended to provide for ourselves. God also expects each individual to be “working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need” (Eph. 4:28). As you plan your daily, weekly, or monthly spending, do you depend on the government (or church) to do your sharing for you? If so, you have missed one of the purposes for work. In this passage, the one who works also does the giving to the person in need. If each family took care of the members of their family (1 Tim. 5:4-8), each neighbor provided for their neighbor (Luke 10:29-37), each community took care of the members of their community (Lev. 19:9-10), Christians took care of Christians according to God’s plan (Acts 2:45; 4:37; 20:35; 1 Tim. 5:16), and every individual worked according to his ability and was content, I believe there would be little need for federal, benevolent aid. While society will likely never choose to function this way on a large scale, the best that you can do is share according to your ability and teach this plan to everyone you can, especially your children.

**CONCLUSION**

“In God We Trust,” our currency claims. Whether or not America puts its trust in God, Christians must trust Him by following His plan for us, even as citizens. “God Bless America,” our nation sings. Whether or not God blesses America, He has promised to bless us if we keep His commandments. Is our government following God’s plan for individual responsibility? More importantly – are you?

**ENDNOTES**

- [http://usliberals.about.com/od/faithinpubliclife/a/ObamaReligion\\_3.htm](http://usliberals.about.com/od/faithinpubliclife/a/ObamaReligion_3.htm) accessed 5-18-14





By Terry Benton

# The Provider Sets the Rules

When the government at Babylon was allowed to stand in the place of God, they controlled even the religious activities, beliefs, and expressions of belief. They set up a religion and forced that religion upon the people. Even the Israelites allowed it, by forgetting their higher responsibility to God above all else. Only three young Hebrew men stood where they should when the king commanded compliance (Dan. 3). **God has never allowed governments of men to set the rules about what to believe and how we should conduct our duties before God. In the words of Peter, “we ought to obey God rather than men.”**

There is One Who provides you with life and health and the power to get gain.

And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth (Deut. 8:18).

Because God is the “*Father of spirits*” (Heb. 12:9), He alone has the ultimate say about the rules for living (see John 12:48). The Creator delegates a certain amount of power to government. The role God gives to government is in the areas of social justice and protection from harm. They are to administer justice to criminals and provide for the common defence (see Rom. 13). But, the individual is to work and

“*provide for his own*” (1 Tim. 5:8). The Lord gives the sun and the rain and the strength to get gain. He is the One to whom we will answer if we do not set our hands to obey His commandments (Eccl. 12:13).

The Law was clear, in Exodus 20:8-10, that there were six days for work for the household and one day of rest. The poor were not put on a handout program, but even they had to exert energy in labor. The Law of God commanded a provision for the poor in this manner:

When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field when you reap, nor shall you gather any gleaning from your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the stranger: I am the LORD your God (Lev. 23:22).

The wealthy did not do all the work and set the food on the door-steps of the poor. But, neither did they ignore the needs of the less fortunate.

If the poor did not work, they did not eat. There was no such thing as one group doing all the work and another group receiving benefits off the back of another laborer. The system provided for the poor, but with care from the wealthy and with labor from the poor. There was provision for all by God. When we forget God, we become self-centered and government dependent, and government can then assist in our lack of faith and in our own lack of self-motivation and sufficiency. A government that operates with

carelessness as to who pays taxes and who gets a free ride will break down into economic self-destruction. Rome fell beneath the weight of its own debauchery and carelessness. We cannot survive where the size of the government dependents overcomes the size of the working class and taxpayers. Proverbs 18:9 says, “He who is slothful in his work is a brother to him who is a great destroyer.”

Christians believe in God Who gives us a work ethic. 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12 states the belief we must each hold. “For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.” In the first letter he said, “But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more; that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing” (1 Thess. 4:10-12).

The principle of work was issued from the beginning and God has never rescinded that responsibility. Proverbs 13:11 says, “Wealth gained by dishonesty will be diminished, But he who gathers by labor will increase.” It is not honest to gain by deception, by pretending ailments in order to get a government hand-

**The Provider Sets the Rules**

*Continued from page 20*

out. God knows the truth and holds us accountable even if we succeed in deception of those in charge of government-issued welfare.

Paul gave the mentality of the mindset of the Christian which is much different from the futility of mind common among the "Gentiles." Ephesians 4:28-29 says, "Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need." He went on to say to work "as to the Lord" and not with eye-service to men.

There is *one* ultimate authority, and men must learn that even the governments of men are answerable to God, our Creator and Judge. "For the kingdom is the LORD's, And He rules over the nations" (Ps. 22:28). "The LORD has established His throne in heaven, And His kingdom rules over all" (Ps. 103:19).

God, through Jonah, called upon the Ninevites to repent toward Him, and they were wise for a time to repent toward God. Our government and nation would be wise to repent toward God. Nebuchadnezzar, the mighty king of Babylon, learned this the hard way. In his prophecy to King Nebuchadnezzar about his pride, Daniel 4:25 says, "...till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses."

**God is higher in power and authority than any government among men.**

Paul preached that all men everywhere will be judged before God and must be urged to repent before God (Acts 17:30-31). In spite of the delegated authority of Nero Caesar, Paul knew and confessed that Jesus is "only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, dwelling in

unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen" (1 Tim 6:14-16). In the end we will answer to Jesus, not to human government, and we will each give account before Him. If we view government as our provider, we set ourselves up for their rules and humanistic and anti-God principles. We will not be obeying Christ when we look to government to provide our living and thus set the rules for our expected compliance.

**The provider of food, seasons, life, and even of earthly governments rules that we are to work and not transfer our responsibilities to governments of men.**

*Terry W. Benton has been preaching with the church of Christ at Gardendale, AL for the last three years, doing local evangelistic work for the last thirty-five years.*



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By Steve Deaton

# God's Law vs. Man's Laws

“We the people” once consisted of an overwhelming majority who respected God and His word. Though they did not all strictly follow the word in religious beliefs and practices, they did have deep moral convictions. Note these quotes from two of the Founding Fathers (<http://bit.ly/washington-adams-quotes>).

**George Washington:** While we are zealously performing the duties of good citizens and soldiers, we certainly ought not to be inattentive to the higher duties of religion. To the distinguished character of Patriot, it should be our highest glory to add the more distinguished character of Christian.

**John Adams:** The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity. I will avow that I then believed, and now believe, that those general principles of Christianity are as eternal and immutable as the existence and attributes of God.

These convictions were reflected in the Constitution and other laws that rest heavily on the Judeo-Christian ethic and were put in place at the founding of this nation.

## A COMPLIANT MINDSET

Under such conditions, it was relatively easy for a Christian to be comfortable living in our society and abiding under the various laws.

For instance, adultery was generally illegal and is technically so in many states to this day (*The Boston Globe*, <http://bit.ly/adulteryillegal>). However, it is widely accepted and practiced by society and rarely, if ever, prosecuted as a criminal matter.

The same thing is true with homosexuality. The laws of the land made such illegal and was prosecuted as a crime, even including the death penalty (<http://bit.ly/sodomylaws>). The previously cited website notes when we were still the Colonies, “The 1683 Pennsylvania law called sodomy an ‘unnatural sin’ and the East New Jersey law listed it among the ‘Offenses against God.’”

These past examples simply show the citizens of this nation had strong convictions on what is morally right and wrong. Under these conditions, it was easy to view the law of the land – man’s law – as establishing or at least reflecting right and wrong. However, things have changed.

## THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE

As noted above, other than in civil proceedings for divorce, adultery is a nonissue in light of the law.

Additionally, there are some vocal and powerful elements in society pushing the homosexual agenda. It is not a matter of ignoring laws on the books, as with adultery, but a rewriting of the laws. We are at the point that states are positively affirming the legality of two men or two women getting “married.” As of this writing

nineteen states have legalized homosexual marriage (<http://bit.ly/legalsamesexmarriage>).

These are mentioned just to notice that the landscape is changing. The law of the land cannot be confused or conflated with right and wrong. We cannot think what the government approves or disapproves is lawful or binding according to Law of Liberty (Jas. 1:25).

## GOD VS. GOVERNMENT

Which law will we recognize? Will we accept man’s perverted concept of right and wrong or adhere to the Lord’s will? Consider these relevant issues.

- Abortion: choice or murder (Exod. 21:22-25).
- Euthanasia: compassion or homicide (Phil. 2:26, 27; Job).
- Marriage: homosexual or heterosexual (1 Cor. 7:2; 6:9, 10).
- Death Penalty: cruel and unusual or just and necessary (Rom. 13:1-4; Gen. 9:5, 6).
- Discipline of Children: harmful or helpful (Prov. 13:24).
- Preaching the Gospel: hate [speech] or love (2 Tim. 4:2).

The list could be extended to include alcohol, nudity, gambling, and much more. The point is, who defines right and wrong? Who defines marriage? One man

**God's Law Vs. Man's Laws**

*Continued from page 22*

in Missouri wanted to marry his horse (<http://bit.ly/marryahorse>). I have articles in my files showing a woman “married” to a dog and another woman who “married” a Ferris wheel. Are they really married? No. No more than two men or two women are actually married. It might be legal, but it is not lawful by God’s standard.

**EFFECT ON CHURCHES**

Some churches already accept into their fellowship couples who were unscripturally divorced and remarried. At one time this was unheard of among brethren. However, as society shifted and laws changed to allow for such, brethren were influenced.

In the near future, will there be a “conservative” church of Christ

that accepts a “married” homosexual couple or polygamists? How long will it be before a preacher advocates homosexual relationships as legitimate because there is “love” or “God made them that way”?

We might think these things are far off, but the next generation does not view moral issues the same way many of us do. Gallup recently reported that 42% believe one is born as a homosexual (<http://bit.ly/viewsonborngay>). In March 2013 Gallup reported that approval of same-sex marriage reached 53% (<http://bit.ly/samesexmarriageviews>). That is up from 27% in 1996.

Therefore, we can see why the laws are changing – it is because society is changing. These cultural shifts will effect the next generation that is coming up in the church, the next generation of elders and preachers.

**WHERE WILL YOU STAND?**

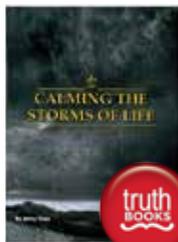
Those with Bible convictions are

increasingly on the wrong side of the law. We are being persecuted, if ever so slightly compared to ancient times. However, we have to make up our mind now before things get worse.

Who knows if preachers will be jailed and churches outlawed for preaching against homosexuality? What will you do if that happens?

We are to respect the powers that are ordained of God (Rom. 13:1-7). However, our submission and devotion to God comes before compliance with government. If the law of man conflicts with the Law of God, we obey God, not man (Acts 5:29).

*Steven has worked with the Hebron Lane church of Christ in Shepherdsville, KY since 2004.*



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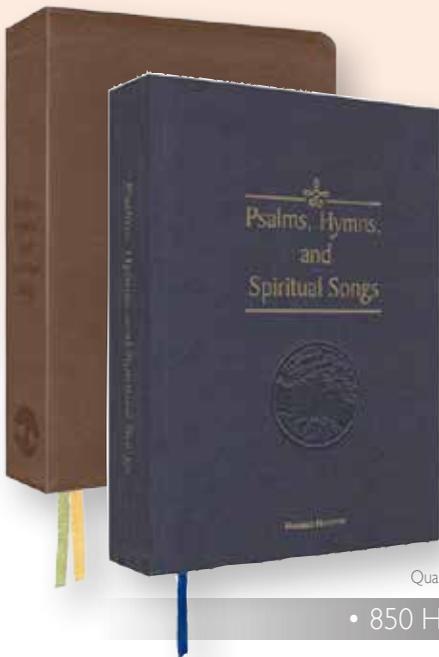
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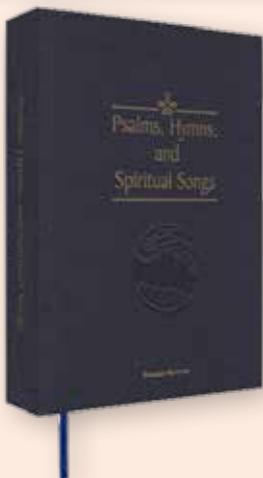
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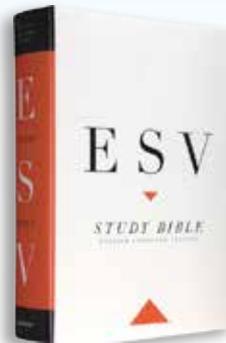
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By Ron Halbrook

# May Sinners Participate in Public Worship?

When sinners enter the assembly of the saints, are they permitted to participate in any way?

Are saints obligated to forbid and prevent them from singing, eating the Lord's Supper, or giving into the collection? The case of Cornelius and instructions to the church at Corinth shed light on such questions.

## THE CASE OF CORNELIUS

Acts 10:2 says of Cornelius, a Gentile who had not yet been saved by the gospel of Christ, "A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway." While Cornelius was praying on one occasion, an angel appeared and said, "Cornelius, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God" (Acts 10:30-31). This did not mean he was in a right relationship with God, but God recognized his honest heart and told him to send for Peter, "who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved" (Acts 11:14).

The case of Cornelius illustrates how that God recognizes the sincere desires of people to do right, even when they are not fully informed or qualified to fulfill certain duties. All men are always obligated to worship God as the

creator and sustainer of our lives (as in Psalm 100). People like Cornelius attempt to do so, but, because of lack of teaching, they do not realize they are not in a right relationship to God, and therefore they are not qualified to worship in fellowship with God. Their attempt to serve God is not sin if what they are doing is right, but their sins must be forgiven before their efforts to worship God will be accepted as fellowship with God. As they attempt to serve God, God can open doors for them to learn more truth and to enter a right relationship with Him so that they will be qualified to offer acceptable worship.

The sense in which Cornelius' prayers were heard is that God saw an honest searching heart and sent someone to teach him how to be saved. After he was baptized into Christ, he could pray as a child of God. His sins having been washed away, he was qualified to worship in fellowship with God and His saints. "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?"

For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread" (1 Cor. 10:16-17). This was not possible before he was baptized into Christ.

## UNBELIEVERS IN THE ASSEMBLY AT CORINTH

Our loving and patient God always opens doors for people who seek Him to find Him. This principle is very evident in passages such as 1 Corinthians 14:23-25,

If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad? But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all: And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.

Sinners are not prevented from entering the assembly of the saints, but are welcomed! This is God's way to open a door for them to learn many things. If they choose to participate in certain activities of the assembly, this is not evidence that we accept them into the fellowship of the saints, but only it is evidence that they are sincerely seeking God. Since they are not in fellowship with God and His saints as members of the church, their participation in worship activities is not received by God as the worship of His saints. But, we have no instructions from God to prevent these sincere seekers from joining and participating in the activities of the assembly.

Let us apply this in a concrete way.

1. Saints are commanded to assemble to worship God (Heb. ►

**May Sinners Participate in Public Worship?***Continued from page 26*

10:25). Sinners sometimes join the assembly and we will not prevent them to do so. This is God's way to open a door for them to learn many things (see 1 Cor. 14:23-25).

2. Saints are commanded to sing praises to God when we assemble to worship Him (Eph. 5:19). Sinners sometimes join the assembly and join the singing, and we will not prevent them to do so. This is God's way to open a door for them to learn many things (see 1 Cor. 14:23-25).

3. Saints are commanded to listen to the teaching of the Word of God when we assemble to worship Him (1 Cor. 14:26; Acts 20:7). Sinners sometimes join the assembly ready to listen and learn (sometimes holding a Bible and a note pad), and we will not prevent them to do so. This is God's way to open a door for them to learn many things (see 1 Cor. 14:23-25).

4. Saints are commanded to pray when we assemble to worship Him (Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 14:15). Sinners sometimes join the assembly and even say, "Amen," after the prayer, and we will not prevent them to do so. This is God's way to open a door for them to learn many things (see 1 Cor. 14:23-25).

5. Saints are commanded to eat the Lord's Supper when we assemble to worship Him on the Lord's day (Matt. 26:26-29; Acts 20:7). Sinners sometimes join the assembly and partake the Lord's Supper, and we will not prevent them to do so (if they take the unleavened bread, will we forcibly wring it out of the hand and rebuke them?). This is God's way to open a door for them to learn many things (see 1 Cor. 14:23-25).

6. Saints are commanded to give as they prosper into the collection when we assemble to worship Him on the Lord's day (1 Cor. 16:2). Sinners sometimes join the assembly and put a donation into the collection, and we

will not prevent them to do so (if they put money in the collection, will we forcibly put it back into their hands and rebuke them?). This is God's way to open a door for them to learn many things (see 1 Cor. 14:23-25).

We will teach the sinners who are sincerely seeking the truth how to obey the gospel so that their worship will be recognized or accepted as fellowship with God and His people. In other words, while they are yet sinners, their singing and giving are not recognized by God as fellowship with Him and His people, but only it is recognized as acts of seeking Him. When they are baptized into Christ, their worship will be received as fellowship with God and His saints.

**It is our obligation to conduct the worship service in a Scriptural way, but it is not our prerogative to "police" the assembly and prevent people from entering, singing, studying with us, saying "Amen" when we pray, eating the Lord's Supper, or giving into the collection.**

If we attempt to police the assembly, there will be another necessary step. Sometimes saints are present who have fallen into sin (in some cases we know it, and in some cases it is secret sin and we do not know). God does not accept the worship of brethren who persist in sin. If we will police the assembly so that only faithful saints will be allowed to participate, we must post someone at the door to prevent erring brethren from entering. If they forcibly enter, we must post someone to prevent them from singing. Next

prevent them from all the other acts of worship! How is that possible?

Our efforts to police the assembly and the participation of people will totally fail because some of our brethren are secret sinners! We will allow them to participate because we did not know their hearts as God alone knows their hearts, and so our policing of the assembly will collapse.

Is it inconsistent for us to allow sinners to make their own decisions about participating in the collection, because we do not include them in benevolence distribution? No, it only means we consistently and strictly follow the instructions of the Lord (Matt. 28:19). The Lord instructed us to conduct Scriptural worship, and He did not authorize us to "police" the participation of sinners. The same Lord instructed us to distribute benevolence from the treasury to saints (2 Cor. 9:1). We are consistent to follow all of these instructions. If the sinner thinks it is not consistent, we will gladly have a Bible study with him to clarify it!

Is it inconsistent for us to allow sinners to make their own decisions about participating in the singing, because we do not include them to lead the songs? No. If the sinner thinks it is not consistent, we will gladly have a Bible study with him to clarify it!

When we teach lessons on worship, it will be helpful to explain that only people who have been forgiven of their sins are qualified to worship in fellowship with God. We must be in a right relationship with Him. This will help sincere sinners who are seeking the truth to understand another very important reason they need to obey the gospel without delay.

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by Bobby Graham



## Question:

Will people be lost for being rude?

## Answer:

An analysis of this question from several standpoints will explain why rudeness can cause people to be lost. In other words, rudeness is not an option for Christians! That is true even though society has become increasingly rude in recent decades. As in all other matters, the Christian's model is not society, but the Savior (1 Pet. 2:21ff).

We first consider what rudeness means. Rudeness is not equivalent to plainness of speech in condemnation of error. Because rudeness is a matter of advanced degree, it is more than impolite, discourteous, or unmannerly behavior. One can easily begin to travel the road leading to rudeness, however, by the practice of impolite, unmannerly, or discourteous conduct, because it constitutes mileposts along the way to rudeness. Deliberate insolence, offensive and ill-mannered speech or conduct, or intentional unkindness – any of which is designed to hurt feelings or offend persons – is rudeness.

Such conduct or speech does not accord with Biblical teaching concerning kindness or love. Please do not misunderstand what is meant here: Reproof of error and rebuke of the erring will upset feelings, but, if done in the right way and for the correct purpose, it is not rudeness. Personal references, destructive

comments, impugning motive, and “below-the-belt” remarks have no place in such

God-approved and God-required speech. The same Bible that requires such efforts to attack error and sin also forbids personal attacks. Paul affirmed that love “does not behave rudely” in 1 Corinthians 13:3, and Peter enjoined courtesy in 1 Peter 3:8. For these two reasons, rude speech and behavior stand as violation of the Lord's will – *sin!* Such sin, like any other sin, can cause one to be lost eternally.

Rudeness, like other sins of the tongue and life, sometimes results from anger, selfishness, and inconsiderate treatment of others. While it is possible to cite passages concerning all three of these, our readers are surely acquainted sufficiently with the Scriptures that it is unnecessary to cite them at this point. One passage should suffice: the Golden Rule as taught and practiced by our Lord (Matt. 7:12). If all rude people would consider their conduct in view of this one principle – treatment of others by the standard of treatment one also desires from others, rudeness would disappear and cease to be a problem among brethren.

“Three Golden Gates” will help us to qualify our speech: (1) Is the word true? (2) Is the word necessary? and (3) Is the word loving? If my words do not pass through all three gates,

then I have no reason or right to speak them. Human wisdom is not the source for this idea, but divine revelation. The Bible teaches these three principles. Much that passes as rude speech or behavior is a poor excuse for laziness. People simply do not search for the best way to say or do something – that is, the way best calculated to accomplish good, not evil, in others. We too often forget that we must reach people's hearts, not just their minds, to achieve the ends of the gospel in the Lord's work. Those who trust us most will also respond more positively to our work for Christ. “A soft answer turns away wrath, but grievous words stir up anger” (Prov. 15:1).

“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver. As an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprov-er upon an obedient ear” (Prov. 25:11).

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By David Dann

# Same-Sex Divorce?

The apostle Paul exhorted the Christians in Philippi to “become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world” (Phil. 2:15). The apostle’s exhortation is just as needed today as it was when it was first delivered, especially in view of the crookedness and perversity of the current generation.

With these thoughts in mind, a recent *New York Times* news article titled, “First Openly Gay Episcopal Bishop, Whose Election Caused a Stir to Divorce,” reports the following:

Bishop V. Gene Robinson, who made history as the first openly gay bishop in the Episcopal Church, has announced that he and his husband are planning to divorce.” The article goes on to state that, “Bishop Robinson, 66, a native Kentuckian who had worked for years as a well-liked diocesan official in New Hampshire, became a global lightning rod in 2003, when the diocese elected him as a bishop. His election, and the decision by the Episcopal Church nationally to approve the election results, was controversial because it came at a time when many Christian denominations viewed homosexuality as sinful, were not ordaining openly gay clergy members, and were not blessing same-sex relationships.<sup>1</sup>

It would be difficult to imagine how one might fit more crookedness and perversity into such a small excerpt of news. Notice what is wrong with what is reported in the news article.

**1. Wrong about marriage.** A “marriage” between

two individuals of the same sex can never be a legitimate marriage, according to the Law of Christ. Jesus said, “Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate” (Matt. 19:4-6). Since the Lord defines marriage exclusively as a relationship between a “male and female,” it is impossible for a “marriage” between a male and a male to be a legitimate marriage.

**2. Wrong about bishops.** The news article states concerning the homosexual Episcopal “bishop,” Mr. Robinson, that “he and his husband are planning to divorce.” The Bible, on the other hand, says, “A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach” (1 Tim. 3:2). Just as a man can never legitimately be married to another man, so it is that a man can never legitimately be a bishop, in the biblical sense of the term, if he is the husband of one husband.

**3. Wrong about the church.** The Episcopal Church nationally approved the election of Mr. Robinson, a practicing homosexual, to serve as a “bishop.” Moreover, Mr. Robinson then went on to “marry” a “husband” while serving as a “bishop” of the same denomination. The problem with the foregoing scenario is that the church has no authority to condone that which the Lord has already

condemned. Christ is “head over all things to the church” (Eph. 1:22). His word determines the truth concerning marriage, sexual morals, and bishops, and no church council has the right to transgress the doctrine of Christ (2 John 9).

**4. Wrong about divorce.** Should it be surprising that Mr. Robinson and his “husband” are seeking to divorce? They have ignored everything the Bible says concerning fornication in general (Matt. 15:19-20) and homosexuality in particular (Rom. 1:18-32; 1 Cor. 6:9-11), and so it should come as no surprise that they would do the same with the subject of divorce. Of course, their “marriage” to one another has simply been a sexually immoral relationship and, as such, it should have been brought to an end. However, what is needed in such a case is not merely same-sex divorce, but true repentance. “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon” (Isa. 55:7).

## CONCLUSION

While the perverseness of the present time seems to continually reach new depths, salvation is still available to all who will humbly obey the gospel of Jesus Christ. Truly, the exhortation delivered by the apostle Peter so long ago is one that needs to be repeated today: “Be saved from this perverse generation!” (Acts 2:40).

## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/05/us/first-openly-gay-episcopal-bishop-whose-election-caused-a-stir-to-divorce.html>.

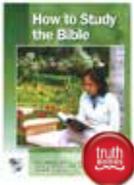


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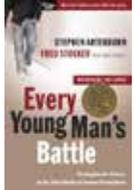


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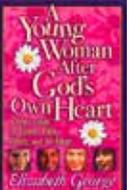


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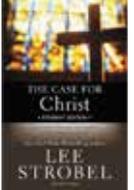


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**God and Government***Continued from page 2*

provide sterilizations, contraceptives, and abortion-inducing drugs to all female beneficiaries except those insured by “religious employers.” (That exemption, of course, will lead to additional conflicts such as who defines “religious employers”; the Administration’s exemption effectively prevents members of the Roman Catholic Church from owning and operating insurance companies because of the same moral conflict as they have with paying the insurance for these services.) The Supreme Court ruling has already ignited a storm of protests from the vocal, political and moral left wing in our country.

**Americans are worried about how medical costs will affect medical care for the aged. Will the financial burden of treating aged patients with costly treatments be more than the system can afford, resulting in patients being unable to get adequate care because of their age?**

Are the recent problems of the Veteran Administration hospitals the prelude for what will face all Americans in the future? From the beginning, some have worried about government regulators making decisions about which services will be provided for senior citizens based on cost in relationship to one’s age. In a society moving toward euthanasia and doctor assisted death, this is an ominous possibility.

**EDUCATION**

For more than 150 years, public education has been common in America, and generally in most other countries. My generation grew up

knowing very little except public education, and though there were a few private schools, only the wealthy could afford them. Many generations of us benefitted from public education, and it has certainly helped our country move to the forefront of technology. Public education had become so common to many of us that we thought that was the only option for parents. I remember quite vividly the turmoil in the local church I was attending in the early 1970s when a family decided to home school their children. There was quite a bit of talk among the members. Were the parents violating civil law? Would their children receive a decent education? Were they sinning against the children by allowing them to enter adulthood unprepared to provide for themselves?

Over the years, the home schooling movement has grown rapidly as more and more parents, many of whom do not have the resources to provide for private education, begin home schooling their children. Approximately 3 percent of the school-age population was home schooled in the 2011-12 school year. Among children who were home schooled, a higher percentage were White (68 percent) than Black (8 percent), Hispanic (15 percent), or Asian or Pacific Islander (4 percent). Parents give a number of different reasons for home schooling their children. In the 2011-12 school year, 91 percent of home schooled students had parents who said that a concern about the environment of schools was an important reason for home schooling their child.

What motivates the home-schooling movement? Parents are reacting to government regulations that have created a state-sponsored atheistic school under the guise that schools acknowledging God and the Bible violate the establishment clause of the first amendment

(freedom of religion) to the United States Constitution. As a result of a negative view toward religion, prayer was excluded from any public event sponsored by the school and evidences of creation (or reasons for believing that evolution is not a viable explanation for what exists) are excluded from the science department. Removing religion from a school leaves the atheistic theory of evolution in total control of explaining human origins and morality (relativity in ethics). Hence, our government now provides state-sponsored atheistic schools. Freedom of religion has become freedom from religion. In many respects, the schools are used to propagate the humanist view of life; the schools propagandize the children in secularism. The home schooling parents are taking seriously the responsibility that all parents have to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4) and to protect their children from the false theories spread through humanist education.

**Parents who continue to send their children to public schools must work harder than ever to counter humanism and other evils promulgated by many schools today.**

It is indisputable that schools are being used to promote a humanist agenda to our children. What this means is that humanist (another way of describing atheistic) attitudes are inculcated in our children on such subjects as creation/evolution, homosexuality, male/female roles, family, sexual relationships outside wedlock, climate change, gun control, pluralist views toward world religions, etc. Long before children have learned enough to form their own judgments, they have been methodically exposed to what is the politically correct way of

## God and Government

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thinking (i.e., the theologically liberal way) about each of these subjects.

**Schools teach sex education to our children without any religious and moral rules to govern sexual behavior (except what the schools decide is inappropriate, such as inappropriate touching of children).** Homosexuality is portrayed as an alternative lifestyle, no more right or wrong than heterosexuality (cf. God's teaching in Rom. 1:26-28; 1 Cor. 6:9-11). Sex before marriage is not condemned as fornication (Gal. 5:19; 1 Cor. 6:9), but presented as the natural activity of teens growing into adults. Some schools already distribute condoms to the children and public policy seems to be moving more toward that direction because of the number of teen pregnancies. Teaching the biological processes of sexuality without moral standards of conduct is contributing to promiscuous behavior, even though the sex education advocates refuse to accept any responsibility for the increase in premarital sexual activity.

How is abortion presented in the public schools? It generally is portrayed as a woman's right at any stage in her pregnancy. Those who oppose abortion are denigrated. Relativity in ethics treats abortion as a matter of personal choice – what one woman chooses might not be what works for another and, therefore, both should be tolerant of (i.e., approve) the other's choice. In some cases, schools have assisted teens in getting an abortion without parental permission (see the case of a Seattle mother reporting that Ballard High School arranged for her daughter to have an abortion without any notification of the parent and without their permission [<http://abcnews.com>]).

[go.com/Health/teen-abortion-high-school/story?id=10189694](http://go.com/Health/teen-abortion-high-school/story?id=10189694) (accessed 6/9/2014)].

Gender roles are blurred in textbooks (men may be seen wearing an apron, but women are not likely to be so portrayed; women are more likely to be pictured as judges, lawyers, doctors, etc.). Rarely ever do you have a stay-at-home mom doing housework, cooking, and caring for her children portrayed on TV or in textbooks. A recently published children's book may tell a story about someone who has "two mommies" or "two daddies," but it is not likely to portray a child with a stay-at-home mom and a father who earns wages to provide for the family.

In addition to schools propagating a state-sponsored atheistic culture and sex education that contributes to promiscuity, parents must also contend with the filthy language, sexual misconduct, immodest dress, lack of discipline, etc. of the public school environment. The environment is so bad that many parents who have the ability to do so put their children in private schools, and others home school. As a result, the moral deterioration of the public schools is escalating rapidly as God-fearing parents withdraw from the public education system.

## UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

The Bible is the revealed word of the omniscient God (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Whereas man cannot foresee what the effects of his rules and regulations are, God knows the end from the beginning (Isa. 46:10; 48:3-5; etc.). What He commands in His word is what is best for man's welfare (Deut. 30:15-18). Human wisdom is not able to know the ramifications of its choices.

I assume that most of the programs initiated by governments are developed by men with good intentions, but finite men cannot always foresee the damaging consequences of their programs. Providing financial support for women, infants, and children (WIC) is one such program. Created in the late 1960s, the WIC program now serves 53% of all infants born in the United States (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WIC>). Does this mean that prior to the late 1960s, 53% of children were starving, naked, and homeless? Of course not. What this program has done is provide the resources for those who are divorced and those who participate in sex outside wedlock to care for their children.

**This program has made divorce and the consequences of having sex outside the marriage bond more affordable, but its unintended consequence is that it has resulted in more fatherless homes.** While the WIC program was well-intentioned and has provided help to some families, no one can deny that, during the years of its operation, we have seen a steady deterioration of the American family. Fathers conceive children and walk away from any responsibility to provide financial support for the family or provide the discipline and training that fathers should provide in the home (many cities have mentoring programs begging for men to work with fatherless children). Women were not so quick to divorce their husbands and such willing participants in sex outside marriage when they knew the consequences for their lives if they had sex outside of marriage. Before the WIC program was started, parents did not sit back and watch their children starve to death; they

figured out a way to get a job and feed their own flesh and blood. Many families had a rough beginning – that is, they married to provide for their unplanned “bundle of joy” – but they established homes and reared their children in a home with their biological parents. As it is today, the government encourages irresponsible behavior by providing the financial support formerly provided by the father in the home. As more and more homes are fatherless, the social problems continue to mount (poverty, disciplinary problems in schools, crime, over-populated prisons, etc.). There is an increase of child abuse (despite the claims that abortion would eliminate the problem because there would be no unwanted children) and an ever increasing demand that federal government foot the bill for rearing the children. For example, despite the WIC programs, instead of mom and dad feeding the children breakfast at home and preparing a lunch for the children at school, many children get both their breakfast and lunch at the school, paid for by the taxpayer.

Government subsidies encourage entitlement expectations. Aid for dependent children, government housing, a phone provided by the government, food stamps, help with the utilities, etc. create a mentality that one is entitled to government assistance from the cradle to the grave. Those who live off the resources of the federal or state government do not experience the self-satisfaction, self-confidence, and assurance that comes from having provided for oneself. A culture of dependency has developed when three and four successive generations rely upon government subsidies for their income.

David B. Muhlhausen (Ph.D.) and Patrick Tyrrell described this cycle as following:

Welfare assistance causes intergenerational dependence

because the welfare system generates a culture of dependence in both recipient parents and their children. First, parental welfare participation may encourage children to accept unneeded welfare assistance later in life. Second, parental welfare participation may decrease the employment prospects of the children through multiple avenues. For instance, the lower attachment to work of many welfare-receiving parents may lead their children to be less aware of proper on-the-job behavior. Additionally, such parents may be less able to teach their children job-search skills and provide contacts with those able to provide employment opportunities. Any combination of these factors can significantly inhibit the ability of children to become economically self-sufficient. Third, parental participation may encourage some children to “learn how to ‘play the system’ at an early age” (<http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2013/11/the-2013-index-of-dependence-on-government>).

If this cycle continues and spreads throughout the society, it will bring national bankruptcy. Presently 44.7% of the population pay no federal income taxes and many of these same people expect to enjoy government services and benefits – even though they pay no taxes!

**But, more important than the economic consequences for our nation of people relying on government to provide for them are the spiritual consequences.** What happens to mother, father, and children when the home collapses, the father deserts the mother and her children, and the children are raised in a fatherless home? What is the impact on children who have no father to be a role model

for earning a living for the family, providing training for the children, and showing the next generation what being a father means? What work habits are instilled in the child? What disposition to work to improve one’s station in life is inculcated? And what role model does the mother have when she has a string of live-in boy friends who provide intermittent income for the family?

The Lord was not cold-hearted toward His creation when He inspired Paul to write, “For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat” (2 Thess. 3:10). He was teaching human responsibility. Later Paul wrote, “But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever” (1 Tim. 5:8). Even in Paradise, the Lord Himself ordained that man should care for the garden of Eden which He had created (Gen. 2:5, 15) and, after cursing the earth with thorns and thistles which made earning a living more difficult for man, God ordained that man earn his living from the sweat of his brow (Gen. 3:19). What God did was for man’s good, whether we understand all of the ways in which it is for man’s good or not.

**Government programs that discourage man from providing for his own needs ultimately hurt, rather than help, him.**

## **CONCLUSION**

This series of articles on God or Government is designed to address some of these situations and circumstances. We hope you enjoy it and benefit from it. Undoubtedly much more needs to be said than is included here, but perhaps this will plant a seed that others will water that it might be helpful to churches, communities, and the nation.



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The following congregations have paid for advertising in *Truth Magazine*. Inclusion of churches in this list is not an attempt by *Truth Magazine* to certify their faithfulness to God. We do believe the vast majority are striving to uphold the Word in faith and practice.

To make changes to your ad, contact us at: [tmnikewillis@gmail.com](mailto:tmnikewillis@gmail.com)

<b>AK ANCHORAGE</b> Rose Street Church of Christ 3124 Rose Street Bible Study 9 A.M. Worship 10 A.M. Evening 5 P.M. Wednesday 7 P.M. Evangelist: David Webb (907)350-8358	<b>AL NORTHPORT</b> Northwood Church of Christ 4601 Northwood Estates Dr. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: David Maxson (205) 339-6122 <a href="http://www.justchristians.info">http://www.justchristians.info</a>	<b>AR HARRISON</b> Capps Rd. Church of Christ 407 Bella Vista Dr. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Norman E. Sewell <a href="http://www.cappsroad.org">www.cappsroad.org</a> 741-9104 or 741-5151	<b>AR ROGERS</b> Central Church of Christ 201 South 19th St., Ste. N Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Earl Mitchell: (479) 636-7484	<b>CA DUBLIN</b> Dublin Church of Christ 11873 Dublin Blvd. CA 94568 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Joshua Higgins (925) 828-8747	<b>CO MONTROSE</b> San Juan Church of Christ 1414 Hawk Parkway, Unit C Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 2:00 P.M.  (970) 249-8116
<b>AL BIRMINGHAM</b> Pine Lane Church of Christ 3955 Pine Lane Bessemer, AL (N. side of Exit #6 at I459) Bible Study 9:15 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: David Deason (205) 425-2352	<b>AL PARRISH</b> McArthur Heights Church of Christ 5082 Hwy. 269 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. (205) 686-5978 or 686-5620	<b>AR JACKSONVILLE</b> Church of Christ 1807 McArthur Dr. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (501) 982-6413 - church bldg (501) 533-8801 - Jason Lankford <a href="http://www.mcarthurdrccoc.com">www.mcarthurdrccoc.com</a>	<b>AR TEXARKANA</b> Church of Christ 2301 Franklin Dr. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Rick Boswell	<b>CA FOLSOM</b> Church of Christ 900 E. Natomas St. • P.O. Box 492 Worship 9:30 A.M. Bible Study 10:55 A.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: David Posey (530) 676-9514 or (916) 608-4866 <a href="http://www.folsomchurch.com">www.folsomchurch.com</a>	<b>DE MILTON</b> Lighthouse Church of Christ 14574 Coastal Hwy. Rt. 1 Worship 9:30 A.M. Sunday School 10:45 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (302) 644-7379
<b>AL BIRMINGHAM</b> Vestavia Hills Church of Christ 2325 Old Columbiana Rd. (near I-65 & Hwy. 31) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Harold Comer, Jason Cicero & David Banning (205) 822-0018 or 822-0082	<b>AL SCOTTSBORO</b> Eastside Church of Christ John T. Reid Pkwy. (Hwy. 72, 2 mi. E. of Hwy. 35) Worship 9:00 A.M. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Wayne Chappell, Sr. (256) 574-1603 or 575-2664	<b>AR JONESBORO</b> Stone Street Church of Christ 1607 Stone St Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Dick Blackford (870) 933-9134	<b>AZ GLENDALE</b> Church of Christ 6801 N. 60th Ave. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:40 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Steven Harper	<b>CA FREMONT</b> Centerville Church of Christ 3885 Beacon Ave, Ste D Fremont, CA 94538 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. (510) 794-7659	<b>FL BROOKSVILLE</b> 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
<b>AL FLORENCE</b> 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 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelists: Kenny Mooror (256) 766-0403	<b>AR CONWAY</b> Hwy. 65 Church of Christ 271 Highway 65N 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	<b>AR LITTLE ROCK</b> Church of Christ 7115 West 65th St. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Don McClain Res. (501) 847-6677 Study (501) 568-1062	<b>AZ TUCSON</b> 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 (520) 326-3634 or 722-3179	<b>CA LONG BEACH</b> Church of Christ 3433 Studebaker Rd. Bible Study 9:50 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. JP Flores (562) 420-2363 Mark Reeves (562) 420-9577 <a href="http://www.JustChristians.org">www.JustChristians.org</a>	<b>FL DESTIN</b> 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 <a href="http://www.southwaltonchurchofchrist.com">www.southwaltonchurchofchrist.com</a>
<b>AL HUNTSVILLE</b> Chapman Acres Church of Christ 2137 Penhall Dr., NE (I-65, Exit 21, right on Maysville Rd., left on Chapman Ave., right on Penhall Dr.) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. <a href="http://www.chapmanacres.org">www.chapmanacres.org</a>	<b>AR CONWAY</b> Eastside Church of Christ 1540 E. Oak St. 72302 <a href="http://www.conwaychurchofchrist.org">www.conwaychurchofchrist.org</a> Sun. Bible Classes 9:30 A.M. Sunday Worship 10:30 A.M. Sunday Worship 6:00 P.M. Wed. Bible Classes 7:00 P.M. Preacher: Gary Prince <a href="mailto:gwprince@uno.com">gwprince@uno.com</a>	<b>AR PARAGOULD</b> Village Creek Church of Christ Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:50 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Dwight Harrison <a href="http://www.villagecreekchurchofchrist.com">www.villagecreekchurchofchrist.com</a>	<b>CA ALAMEDA</b> Alameda Church of Christ 2167 Santa Clara Ave. Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Call Us! (510) 523-9547 <a href="http://www.alamedachurchofchrist.com">www.alamedachurchofchrist.com</a>	<b>CA OCEANSIDE-VISTA</b> Church of Christ 2020 Sunset Dr. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (760) 940-8003	<b>FL FORT LAUDERDALE</b> 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. (954) 763-1404
<b>AL MOBILE</b> West Mobile Church of Christ 129 Hillcrest Rd. Worship 9:00-9:30 A.M. Bible Study 9:30-10:30 A.M. Worship 10:30-11:30 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (251) 342-4144 or 342-2041	<b>AR CONWAY</b> 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) 339-6917	<b>AR PINE BLUFF</b> 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	<b>CA BELLFLOWER</b> Rose Ave. Church of Christ 17903 Ibbotson Ave. Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (562) 866-5615 <a href="http://www.roseavenue.org">http://www.roseavenue.org</a>	<b>CO GRAND JUNCTION</b> Church of Christ Western Slope P O Box 40912 (zip:81504) Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wed. Bible Study 6:00 P.M. Evangelist: Richard Thetford <a href="http://www.churchofchristwesternslope.com">www.churchofchristwesternslope.com</a>	<b>FL FORT MYERS</b> Church of Christ 200 Pine Island Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Vernon E. Ford (239) 567-2170
<b>AL MONTGOMERY</b> Eastbrook Church of Christ 650 Coliseum Blvd. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Wednesday 6:00 P.M. Bldg: (334) 272-4232 Contacts : Brian Moore: (334) 279-1077 Charles Martin: (334) 283-2983	<b>AR FT. SMITH</b> Church of Christ 2323 South 46th St. Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Shawn Chancellor (870) 648-2898 or (479) 782-0588	<b>AR POCAHONTAS</b> Westside Church of Christ 3644 Hwy 90 West • PO Box 43 Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:45 A.M. Afternoon 1:00 P.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. Herbert Starr, Evangelist	<b>CA CANOGA PARK</b> (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) 795-5566 Spanish congregation (818) 701-0112	<b>CO LOVELAND</b> Poudre Valley Church of Christ 4202 North Garfield Avenue Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Afternoon 1:30 P.M. Evangelist: Richard Thetford (970) 667-0469 <a href="http://www.poudrevalleychurchofchrist.org">www.poudrevalleychurchofchrist.org</a>	<b>FL FORT MYERS</b> 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 (239) 433-2838 or 482-2158

<p><b>FL</b> <b>FT. WALTON BEACH</b> Church of Christ 6 Lane Dr. Mary Esther, FL Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Joey Rankin (850) 244-9222</p>	<p><b>FL</b> <b>ORLANDO</b> 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</p>	<p><b>GA</b> <b>CONYERS</b> 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) 918-1932; Wendell Holland, elder (770) 761-6987; Building (770) 929-3973</p>	<p><b>IL</b> <b>ABINGDON</b> Abingdon Church of Christ 209 N. Main Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evangelist: John B. Wilson (309) 462-5368</p>	<p><b>IN</b> <b>GREENWOOD</b> Greenwood Church of Christ 371 W. Main St. Sun. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 4:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelists: Dan Barker &amp; Steve Niemeier (317) 888-8288 <a href="http://www.churchofchristatgreenwood.org">www.churchofchristatgreenwood.org</a></p>	<p><b>IN</b> <b>TRAFALGAR</b> 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: Ed Rangel (317) 878-5969 <a href="http://www.trafalgarchurch.com">www.trafalgarchurch.com</a></p>
<p><b>FL</b> <b>FROSTPROOF</b> Frostproof Church of Christ 40 W. "A" St. Frostproof, FL 33483 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (863) 635-2607 or 635-4278</p>	<p><b>FL</b> <b>ORLANDO</b> Azalea Park Church of Christ 6800 Lake Underhill Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: James P. Needham (407) 277-7931 or 628-2995</p>	<p><b>GA</b> <b>PINE MTN. VALLEY</b> 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</p>	<p><b>IL</b> <b>CHICAGO</b> 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</p>	<p><b>IN</b> <b>HOBART</b> 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: Jerry Cleek (219) 942-2663</p>	<p><b>HELP</b> <b>VACATIONING</b> <b>CHRISTIANS</b> <b>FIND YOUR</b> <b>PLACE OF WORSHIP</b></p>
<p><b>FL</b> <b>GENEVA</b> Church of Christ Ave. C and 2nd St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. (407) 349-9998</p>	<p><b>FL</b> <b>ORLANDO</b> Church of Christ at S. Bumby 3940 S. Bumby Ave. Sunday Worship 9:00 A.M. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship w/ communion 10:55 A.M. (No Evening Service) Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Adam Willingham Office: (407) 851-8031</p>	<p><b>GA</b> <b>SAVANNAH</b> Coastal Church of Christ 7201 Johnny Mercer Blvd Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. Evangelist: Ron Nelson ronaldnelson1@gmail.com (912) 306-4631 <a href="http://www.coastalchurchofchrist.com">www.coastalchurchofchrist.com</a></p>	<p><b>IL</b> <b>DOWNERS GROVE</b> Church of Christ 1236 63rd St. (1 and 1/2 mile E. of I355) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:55 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (630) 968-0760 • <a href="http://www.dgccc.org">www.dgccc.org</a></p>	<p><b>IN</b> <b>PLAINFIELD</b> Church of Christ West 2028 Stafford Rd., Suite C (Marsh Shopping Center) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:50 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Johnie Edwards (317) 964-9404 or (317) 839-1769 <a href="http://www.churchofchristwest.org">www.churchofchristwest.org</a></p>	<p><b>KS</b> <b>TOPEKA</b> 17th Street Church of Christ 5600 SW 17th St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 4:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (785) 235-8687 or 273-7977 <a href="http://www.17thstreetchurchofchrist.org">www.17thstreetchurchofchrist.org</a></p>
<p><b>FL</b> <b>JACKSONVILLE</b> Marietta Church of Christ 8150 Driggers St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jamie Rhoden (904) 781-5704 or 693-0432 <a href="http://www.mariettaccc.com">www.mariettaccc.com</a></p>	<p><b>FL</b> <b>PALATKA</b> 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. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Robert Skomp (386) 326-3952 or 546-5689</p>	<p><b>GA</b> <b>VALDOSTA</b> Gonwood Church of Christ 4300 Mulligan Rd. (4 miles S. of Moody, Next to Fred's Store on Bemiss Rd.) Valdosta, GA 31605 Sunday Bible Class 10 A.M. Sunday Morn. Worship 11 A.M. Sunday Eve. Worship 6 P.M. Wed. Eve. Bible Class 7 P.M. (229) 219-8449 or (229) 300-3739 agospelpreacher@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>IL</b> <b>GLENN ELLYN</b> 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</p>	<p><b>IN</b> <b>INDIANAPOLIS</b> Castleton Church of Christ 7701 East 86th St., 46256 SUNDAY Worship 9:30 A.M. Bible Study 10:25 A.M. Worship 11:15 A.M. WEDNESDAY Bible Study 7:00 P.M. (317) 710-1204</p>	<p><b>KY</b> <b>AUSTIN</b> Peter's Creek Church of Christ 856 Thomerson Park Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening (Nov-Mar) 5:00 P.M. Evening (Apr-Oct) 6:00 P.M. Evangelist: Justin Monts (270) 404-2171 or 646-0498 <a href="http://www.peterscreekccc.com">www.peterscreekccc.com</a></p>
<p><b>FL</b> <b>KEY LARGO</b> Key Largo Church of Christ 100695 N. Overseas Hwy. 33037 m.m. 100.7 on US 1 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: William LeDent (305) 451-1194</p>	<p><b>FL</b> <b>PALMETTO</b> Palmetto Church of Christ 1575 14th Avenue W. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. <a href="http://www.palmettochurchofchrist.com">www.palmettochurchofchrist.com</a> (941) 722-1307</p>	<p><b>GA</b> <b>VALDOSTA</b> Church Of Christ 4313 North Valdosta Rd. (Located 1 mile E. of Exit 22 off I-75) Worship 9:00 AM Bible Study 10:00 AM Communion 11:00 AM Wednesday 7:00 PM (229) 244-8630 <a href="http://www.northvaldostaccoc.com">www.northvaldostaccoc.com</a></p>	<p><b>IL</b> <b>MATTOON</b> 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</p>	<p><b>IN</b> <b>JAMESTOWN</b> Church of Christ Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:25 A.M. Evening 4:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Greg King (765) 676-6404 or (765) 891-9443 <a href="http://www.jamestownccc.com">www.jamestownccc.com</a></p>	<p><b>KY</b> <b>BEAVER DAM</b> 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</p>
<p><b>FL</b> <b>MIAMI</b> Church of Christ Eglise du Christ de Miami 8343 NE 3rd Ct. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Minister: Junot Joseph (305) 244-8295</p>	<p><b>FL</b> <b>PANAMA CITY BEACH</b> 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 7:00 P.M. (850) 234-2521</p>	<p><b>HI</b> <b>ISLAND OF OAHU</b> Leeward Church of Christ 94-1233 Waipahu St. Waipahu, HI 96797 (15 mi. from Honolulu; 18 mi. from Waikiki) Bible Study 9 A.M. Worship 10 A.M. Evening 6 P.M. Wednesday 7 P.M. <a href="http://www.leewardchurchofchrist.org">www.leewardchurchofchrist.org</a> Anthony Genton: (808) 671-0239</p>	<p><b>IL</b> <b>PALATINE</b> Church of Christ (N.W. Chicago Suburb) 1050 N. Deer Ave. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 2:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (847) 967-9667</p>	<p><b>IN</b> <b>MARION</b> 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. Evangelist: Alan Jones (765) 922-7602 <a href="http://www.southmarionchurchofchrist.org">www.southmarionchurchofchrist.org</a></p>	<p><b>KY</b> <b>BRANDENBURG</b> 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</p>
<p><b>FL</b> <b>MIAMI</b> 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</p>	<p><b>FL</b> <b>PENSACOLA</b> 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: Hal Hammons (850) 479-2130 and (850) 602-8420</p>	<p><b>IA</b> <b>GRINNELL</b> Church of Christ 1402 Third Ave. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (641) 521-6485 (641) 236-3883 <a href="http://www.grinnellccc.com">www.grinnellccc.com</a></p>	<p><b>IL</b> <b>SOUTH HOLLAND</b> Southeast Church of Christ 16224 S Vincennes Ave. Bible Study 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Evening 4:00 PM Wednesday 7:00 PM Evangelist: Donald Hawkins (708) 339-1008 <a href="http://www.southeastchurchofchrist.com">www.southeastchurchofchrist.com</a></p>	<p><b>IN</b> <b>OOLITIC</b> 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</p>	<p><b>KY</b> <b>CAMPBELLVILLE</b> Sunny Hill Dr. Church of Christ (near the Dairy Queen) AM Worship 9:30 A.M. AM Bible Study 10:30 A.M. AM Worship 11:30 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Steve Lee stevelee4510@windstream.net (270) 789-1651 <a href="http://www.sunnyhillccc.com">www.sunnyhillccc.com</a></p>
<p><b>FL</b> <b>MIAMI</b> 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</p>	<p><b>FL</b> <b>SEFFNER</b> 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 <a href="http://www.seffnerccc.org">www.seffnerccc.org</a></p>	<p><b>IA</b> <b>DES MOINES</b> Church of Christ 1310 N.E. 54th Ave. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:40 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (515) 262-6799</p>	<p><b>IN</b> <b>CLARKSVILLE</b> Clarksville Church of Christ 407 W. Lewis &amp; Clark Pkwy. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Brian Anderson (812) 944-2305 or (812) 948-9917 <a href="http://www.clarksvillechurch.org">www.clarksvillechurch.org</a></p>	<p><b>IN</b> <b>PEKIN</b> Church of Christ (First St. &amp; Karnes Ct.) Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jeremy Goen (812) 967-3437 or 967-3520 <a href="http://www.pekinchurchofchrist.com">www.pekinchurchofchrist.com</a></p>	<p><b>KY</b> <b>CANEYVILLE</b> Caneyville Church of Christ 103 N. Main St. • P.O. Box 233 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jarrod Jacobs (270) 589-4167, (270) 274-3065 or (502) 724-2231</p>
<p><b>FL</b> <b>OCALA</b> Anthony Church of Christ 9778 N.E. Jacksonville Rd. Anthony, FL 32617 Bible Study 9 A.M. Worship 10 A.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. Evangelist: Greg Cruz Phone: (352) 629-5505 <a href="http://www.anthonycocf.com">www.anthonycocf.com</a></p>	<p><b>GA</b> <b>CENTERVILLE</b> 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) 922-1158</p>	<p><b>ID</b> <b>BLACKFOOT</b> Church of Christ 370 N. Shilling P.O. Box 158-83221 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (208) 785-6168 or 681-1552</p>	<p><b>HELP</b> <b>VACATIONING</b> <b>CHRISTIANS</b> <b>FIND YOUR</b> <b>PLACE OF WORSHIP</b></p>	<p><b>IN</b> <b>SALEM</b> Westside Church of Christ 2000 West State Rd. 56 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Evan Casey (812) 883-2033 <a href="http://www.westsidechurchofchrist.info">www.westsidechurchofchrist.info</a></p>	<p><b>KY</b> <b>DANVILLE</b> Church of Christ 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. Evangelist: Scott Vifquain (859) 236-4204</p>

# ChurchDirectory

KENTUCKY - OHIO

<p><b>KY FRANKLIN</b> 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 <a href="http://www.franklinchurch.com">www.franklinchurch.com</a></p>	<p><b>LA STONEWALL</b> N. DeSoto Church of Christ 2071 Highway 171 (South of Shreveport) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (318) 925-2733</p>	<p><b>truth books</b> <a href="http://www.CEIbooks.com">www.CEIbooks.com</a></p>	<p><b>MS BOONEVILLE</b> 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</p>	<p><b>NJ VAUXHALL</b> 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 Home: (908) 964-8570 Church: (908) 964-6356</p>	<p><b>OH DAYTON</b> West Carrollton 28 W. Main Street, 45449 Early Worship 9:00 A.M. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:25 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Michael Grushon (937) 866-5162 or 848-3779 <a href="http://www.wc-ccc.org">www.wc-ccc.org</a></p>	
<p><b>KY HODGENVILLE</b> Hodgenville church of Christ 613 S Lincoln Blvd. Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Evening 6:00 PM Wednesday 7:00 PM Evangelist: Don Brady (270) 358-6053 Dbrady1295@aol.com</p>	<p><b>SEV SEVERN</b> 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) 969-1420 or (410) 551-6549 <a href="http://www.swcofchrist.com">www.swcofchrist.com</a></p>	<p><b>MO COLUMBIA</b> 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</p>	<p><b>MS CLINTON</b> McRaven Rd. Church of Christ 301 McRaven Rd., (I20, exit 36) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Leonard White (601) 925-9757 or 924-2645</p>	<p><b>Subscribe to Truth Magazine today!</b></p> <p>Check us out online at: <b>OR, GIVE US A CALL AT: 855-49-BOOKS</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.CEIbooks.com">www.CEIbooks.com</a></p>		
<p><b>KY LEITCHFIELD</b> Mill St. Church of Christ 733 Mill Street, Highway 62 E. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:55 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Michael Hardin (270) 259-4968, (270) 300-3239 <a href="http://www.millstreetchurchofchrist.org">www.millstreetchurchofchrist.org</a></p>	<p><b>MD RIVERDALE</b> (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: Antoine Holloway (301) 474-7460 or (301) 741-0012</p>	<p><b>MO DONIPHAN</b> 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</p>	<p><b>MS MERIDIAN</b> Grandview Church of Christ 2820 Grandview Ave. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Sun. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. (601) 482-0543, (601) 479-3394 or (601) 934-3675 Contacts: Ron Cooper &amp; Jim Young <a href="mailto:youngins@comcast.net">youngins@comcast.net</a></p>	<p><b>NM ALBUQUERQUE</b> 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. Evangelist: Darrel Yontz (505) 266-7577 <a href="http://www.heightschurchofchrist.com">www.heightschurchofchrist.com</a></p>	<p><b>OH FREMONT</b> 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 849-2980 <a href="http://www.fremontchurchofchrist.com">www.fremontchurchofchrist.com</a></p>	
<p><b>KY LOUISVILLE</b> Valley Station Church of 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</p>	<p><b>ME PORTLAND</b> 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 &amp; places. (207) 839-3075 or 839-8409</p>	<p><b>MO FAIR GROVE</b> Church of Christ 217 N. Orchard Blvd. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Walter Myers (417) 830-8972 or (417) 736-2663</p>	<p><b>MS MERIDIAN</b> 7th St. Church of Christ 2914 7th St. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. (601) 483-3101</p>	<p><b>NV RENO</b> Central Church of Christ 2450 Wrondell 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</p>	<p><b>OH HAMILTON</b> 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</p>	
<p><b>TO MAKE CHANGES TO YOUR AD:</b> <a href="mailto:tmmikewillis@gmail.com">tmmikewillis@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>MI CEDAR SPRINGS</b> Grand Rapids Area W. Michigan Church of Christ Sr. Citizen Center, 44 Park St. Worship 11:00 A.M. Bible Study 12:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Joseph Gladwell (616) 975-2778 <a href="mailto:westmichcofc10@yahoo.com">westmichcofc10@yahoo.com</a></p>	<p><b>MO KENNETT</b> 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 or (870) 650-1648 Nolan Glover, Preacher <a href="http://www.westsidechurchofchrist.us">www.westsidechurchofchrist.us</a></p>	<p><b>MS SOUTHAVEN</b> (Memphis area) Church of Christ 2110 E State Line Rd. (Exit I-55) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: James A. Brown (662) 342-1132 - Church Building</p>	<p><b>OH BEAVERCREEK</b> Knollwood Church of Christ 1031 Welford Dr. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Afternoon 3:00 P.M. Wed. Afternoon 1:00 P.M. Wed. Evening 7:30 P.M. (937) 426-1422 <a href="http://www.knollwoodchurch.org">www.knollwoodchurch.org</a></p>	<p><b>OH HILLIARD</b> 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</p>	
<p><b>KY OWENSBORO</b> Southside Church of Christ 2920 New Hartford Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (270) 683-5386</p>	<p><b>MN DULUTH</b> Church of Christ 4401 Glenwood St. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Bible Study 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Taylor Ladd (218) 728-3233</p>	<p><b>MO LILBOURN</b> Church of Christ 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</p>	<p><b>HELP VACATIONING CHRISTIANS FIND YOUR PLACE OF WORSHIP!</b></p> 			<p><b>OH MANSFIELD</b> Eastside Church of Christ 326 Grace Street Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. Evangelist: James Bond (419) 526-2868</p>
<p><b>Shop online @ CEIbooks.com</b></p>	<p><b>MN ST. CHARLES</b> Church of Christ 636 Whitewater Ave. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7 P.M., call for location Bible Study 2:15 P.M. <b>FREE Bible correspondence studies</b> Evangelist: Robert Lehnertz (507) 534-2905</p>	<p><b>MO RAYTOWN</b> 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 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Norman E. Fultz (816) 358-3096 or 554-0836 <a href="http://www.sterlingavechurchofchrist.org">www.sterlingavechurchofchrist.org</a></p>	<p><b>NC CHARLOTTE</b> Charlotte Church of Christ 5327 S. Tyrone St. Worship 9:00 A.M. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (704) 525-5655</p>	<p><b>OH CINCINNATI</b> Blue Ash Church of Christ 4667 Cooper Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Russell Dunaway, Jr. (513) 891-3174 <a href="http://www.blueashchurchofchrist.com">www.blueashchurchofchrist.com</a></p>	<p><b>OH MANSFIELD</b> 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 6:30 P.M. Leon Bond: (419) 525-3684 Church: (419) 522-8982</p>	
<p><b>LA GONZALES</b> (Baton Rouge area) Southside Church of Christ 405 Orice Roth Road, 70737 Bible Class 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: R.J. Evans (225) 622-4587 • <a href="mailto:rjevans@eatel.net">rjevans@eatel.net</a></p>	<p><b>MO BLUE SPRINGS</b> Southside Church of Christ 4000 SW Christiansen Worship 9:00 A.M. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Brett Hogland (816) 228-9262</p>	<p><b>MO ST. JAMES</b> 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</p>	<p><b>NC HOPE MILLS</b> Gray's Creek Church of Christ Gray's Community Bldg. School Road Worship 10 A.M. Bible Study 11 A.M. (910) 321-9023 (910) 423-2879</p>	<p><b>OH CLEVELAND</b> 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 or (330) 725-3960, 723-0111</p>	<p><b>OH MARIETTA-RENO</b> Marietta-Reno Church of Christ 80 Sandhill Road Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Daniel Ruegg: (740) 222-9160 or Steve Fouty: (740) 473-9028</p>	
<p><b>LA MANY</b> 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</p>	<p><b>MO CAPE GIRARDEAU</b> 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</p>	<p><b>MO ST. JOSEPH</b> County Line Church of Christ 2727 County Line Rd. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:50 A.M. Evening 3:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (816) 279-4737 <a href="http://www.countylinechurchofchrist.com">www.countylinechurchofchrist.com</a></p>	<p><b>NE BEATRICE</b> 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 <a href="http://www.churchofchrist7bell.com">www.churchofchrist7bell.com</a></p>	<p><b>OH COLUMBUS</b> 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 <a href="http://www.lccoc.net">www.lccoc.net</a></p>	<p><b>OH NEW CARLISLE</b> Church of Christ 235 Funston Ave. (Near Wright-Patterson AFB) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Phone: (937) 845-8467 (bldg.)</p>	

<p><b>OH</b> <b>NEW RICHMOND</b> 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 <a href="http://www.nrchurchofchrist.com">www.nrchurchofchrist.com</a></p>	<p><b>PA</b> <b>PHILADELPHIA</b> Church of Christ 7222 Germantown Ave., 19119 Bible Study 10:15 A.M. Worship 11:15 A.M. Tues. night 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: James H. Baker, Jr. (215) 248-2026 <a href="http://www.mtairychurchofchrist.org">www.mtairychurchofchrist.org</a></p>	<p><b>TN</b> <b>JACKSON</b> Sunset View 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) 967-0590 or 968-9851</p>	<p><b>TN</b> <b>NASHVILLE</b> Bell Road Church of Christ 1608 Bell Road Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Chris Pace (615) 833-4444</p>	<p><b>TX</b> <b>ALVIN</b> 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</p>	<p><b>TX</b> <b>DUNCANVILLE</b> (Spring Dallas) Whisper Hills Church of Christ 2126 S. Main Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (972) 298-2522 <a href="mailto:info@whchurchofchrist.net">info@whchurchofchrist.net</a></p>
<p><b>OH</b> <b>NORTHWOOD</b> Frey Road Church of Christ 4110 Frey Rd. (Toledo Area) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Donald Jarabek (419) 893-3566, (419) 691-0688</p>	<p><b>SC</b> <b>BEAUFORT</b> Church of Christ 2107 King Street Parris Island: Call for times, services for recruits only. Sunday 10:00 A.M. Wed. Bible Study 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Bryan Nash (843) 524-4400</p>	<p><b>TN</b> <b>JOHNSON CITY</b> Brookmead Church of Christ 2428 Lakeview Drive Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Kevin Kay (423) 282-6251 or 426-1836</p>	<p><b>TN</b> <b>NASHVILLE</b> 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. (615) 952-5458 or (615) 356-7318 Evangelist: Lee Wildman</p>	<p><b>TX</b> <b>AUSTIN</b> Schultz Lane Church of Christ Faber Rd. &amp; Schultz Ln. Pflugerville, TX 78660 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 2:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Ron Lehde</p>	<p><b>TX</b> <b>EDNA</b> Church of Christ 301 Robinson St. 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: R. Dunham, J. Mercer S. Mercer &amp; G. Nordin</p>
<p><b>OH</b> <b>UHRICHSVILLE</b> 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.</p>	<p><b>SC</b> <b>COLUMBIA</b> Lower Richland Church of Christ 3000 Trotter Rd. (Hopkins, SC) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (803) 730-0452 <a href="http://lowerrichlandchurch.org">http://lowerrichlandchurch.org</a></p>	<p><b>TN</b> <b>JONESBOROUGH</b> 11-E Church of Christ 240 Headtown Rd. Bible Study 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Evangelist: David Wheeler (423) 557-9119 or (423) 948-6464 <a href="http://www.christianadmonisher.jigsy.com">www.christianadmonisher.jigsy.com</a></p>	<p><b>TN</b> <b>NASHVILLE</b> Perry Heights Church of Christ 423 Donelson Pike Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:55 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Johnny Felker (615) 883-3118 <a href="http://perryheights.faithweb.com">http://perryheights.faithweb.com</a></p>	<p><b>TX</b> <b>BAYTOWN</b> Church of Christ at Pruett &amp; Lobit 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. Evangelist: Jesse Flowers (281) 515-8939 Building: (281) 422-5926 Weldon: (713) 818-1321</p>	<p><b>TX</b> <b>EL PASO</b> Eastridge Church of Christ 3277 Pendleton Road Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (915) 855-1524</p>
<p><b>OK</b> <b>MCALESTER</b> North A St. Church of Christ 2120 No. A St. Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Rob Lungstrum Office: (918) 423-3445 Cell: (918) 931-1362</p>	<p><b>SC</b> <b>ORANGEBURG</b> 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 <a href="http://www.southside-church.org">www.southside-church.org</a></p>	<p><b>TN</b> <b>KINGSTON SPRINGS</b> Kingston Springs Church of Christ 350 North Main St. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Dan King, Sr. (615) 952-5720 or 797-2280</p>	<p><b>TN</b> <b>PIGEON FORGE</b> 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 <a href="http://www.KingBranchRoadChurchOfChrist.org">www.KingBranchRoadChurchOfChrist.org</a></p>	<p><b>HELP VACATIONING CHRISTIANS FIND YOUR PLACE OF WORSHIP</b></p>	<p><b>TX</b> <b>FORT WORTH</b> 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 <a href="http://woodmontchurch.org">woodmontchurch.org</a></p>
<p><b>OK</b> <b>OKLAHOMA CITY</b> Seminole Pointe Church of Christ 16300 N. May Ave. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: John M. Duvall (405) 340-3189 or 513-6691 <a href="http://www.seminolepointecoc.org">www.seminolepointecoc.org</a></p>	<p><b>SC</b> <b>SUMTER</b> 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</p>	<p><b>TN</b> <b>KINGSPORT</b> Kingsport Church of Christ 4938 Fort Henry Dr. • P.O. Box 554 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Tom Kinzel Bldg.# (423) 239-3979 or (423) 579-2002 • <a href="http://www.kptccc.org">www.kptccc.org</a></p>	<p><b>TN</b> <b>SHELBYVILLE</b> 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 W. Rader Phone: (931) 607-9099 email: <a href="mailto:dvrader@live.com">dvrader@live.com</a></p>	<p><b>TX</b> <b>BEAUMONT</b> 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, Kris Emerson &amp; Benjamin Lee (409) 866-1996</p>	<p><b>TX</b> <b>FORT WORTH</b> 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</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Shop online @ CEIbooks.com</b></p>	<p><b>SC</b> <b>WEST COLUMBIA</b> Airport Church of Christ 4013 Edmund Hwy. (Hwy. 302) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Seth Mauldin Building (803) 834-6978 <a href="http://airport-church-of-christ.com">http://airport-church-of-christ.com</a></p>	<p><b>TN</b> <b>MARYVILLE</b> Smokey Mt. Church of Christ 2206 Montvale Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Harold Tabor (865) 977-4230 Lon Spurgeon (865) 388-8749 <a href="http://tinyurl.com/smchurch">http://tinyurl.com/smchurch</a></p>	<p><b>TN</b> <b>SHELBYVILLE</b> Shelbyville Mills Church of Christ 1222 W. Jackson St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jeff Curtis Phone: (931) 607-9118 <a href="mailto:djcurtis1963@hotmail.com">djcurtis1963@hotmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>TX</b> <b>CONROE</b> Woodland Hills Church of Christ 410 Woodland Hills Dr., 77303 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Kurt G. Jones <a href="http://www.conroechurch.com">www.conroechurch.com</a> (936) 756-9322</p>	<p><b>TX</b> <b>GRANBURY</b> 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. 817-913-4209 or 817-279-3351</p>
<p><b>OR</b> <b>MEDFORD</b> The Spring St. Church of Christ 1850 Spring St. (Roxey 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</p>	<p><b>TN</b> <b>COLUMBIA</b> Jackson Hts. Church of Christ 1200 Nashville Hwy., Hwy. 31N Bible Study 9:15 A.M. Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Mid-week 7:00 P.M. Evangelists: Andrew Roberts &amp; Shawn Jeffries: (931) 388-6811 <a href="http://www.TheBibleWay.org">www.TheBibleWay.org</a></p>	<p><b>TN</b> <b>MEMPHIS</b> Rocky Pt. Road Church of Christ 516 E. Rocky Point Rd., Cordova Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. <a href="mailto:rockypointchurch@gmail.com">rockypointchurch@gmail.com</a> <b>WWW.ROCKYPOINTCHURCH.ORG</b></p>	<p><b>TN</b> <b>TULLAHOMA</b> 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 563-7312</p>	<p><b>TX</b> <b>CLEVELAND</b> Church of Christ 310 E. Houston St. 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 <a href="http://www.clevelandchurchofchrist.org">www.clevelandchurchofchrist.org</a></p>	<p><b>TX</b> <b>HOUSTON</b> 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. Bob Puddiam: (281) 832-4633 <a href="http://www.fryroad.org">www.fryroad.org</a></p>
<p><b>OR</b> <b>SWEET HOME</b> 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</p>	<p><b>TN</b> <b>COLUMBIA</b> 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 3:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (931) 388-5828 or (931) 381-7898 <a href="http://www.mooresvillepikecoc.com">www.mooresvillepikecoc.com</a></p>	<p><b>TN</b> <b>MURFREESBORO</b> Cason Lane Church of Christ 1110 Cason Lane Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (615) 896-0090 (Building) <a href="http://www.casonlanechurch.org">www.casonlanechurch.org</a></p>	<p><b>TX</b> <b>ALLEN</b> 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)</p>	<p><b>TX</b> <b>CORPUS CHRISTI</b> Hwy. 9 Church of Christ Worship 10:00 A.M. Bible Study 11:00 A.M. Worship 12:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Call for location. Keith Kalies (361) 776-2304 or Patrick Frazier (361) 235-1990</p>	<p><b>TO MAKE CHANGES TO YOUR AD:</b> <a href="mailto:tmmikewillis@gmail.com">tmmikewillis@gmail.com</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"> <b>www. CEIbooks .com</b></p>	<p><b>TN</b> <b>DAYTON</b> Rhea Church of Christ 250 Main St. 37321 Bible Class 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Singing 2:00 P.M. on 2nd Sunday Wednesday 7:00 pm (423) 591-5598 <a href="http://www.rheachurchofchrist.org">www.rheachurchofchrist.org</a></p>	<p><b>TN</b> <b>MURFREESBORO</b> 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. Evangelist: David Bunting (615) 893-1200</p>	<p><b>TX</b> <b>ALVARADO</b> 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</p>	<p><b>TX</b> <b>DICKINSON</b> 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 7:00 P.M. (281) 534-4870 <a href="http://www.dickinsonchurchofchrist.org">www.dickinsonchurchofchrist.org</a></p>	<p><b>TX</b> <b>HOUSTON</b> Spring Woods Church of Christ 9955 Neuens Rd. at Witte Rd. Worship 9:00 A.M. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist (713) 419-1750 <a href="http://www.springwoodschurchofchrist.com">www.springwoodschurchofchrist.com</a></p>

# ChurchDirectory

**TEXAS – WYOMING**  
(INCLUDING CANADA)

<p><b>TX IRVING</b> Westside Church of Christ 2320 Imperial Dr. (closest to DFW Airport) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Mark Roberts (972) 986-9131 <a href="http://www.JustChristians.com">www.JustChristians.com</a></p>	<p><b>TX PLANO</b> (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 <a href="http://www.planochurch.org">www.planochurch.org</a></p>	<p><b>TX THE WOODLANDS</b> Woodlands Church of Christ P.O. Box 7664 (77380) 1500 Wellman Road Bible Class 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (281) 367-2099 <a href="http://www.woodlandschurchofchrist.org">www.woodlandschurchofchrist.org</a></p>	<p><b>VA VIRGINIA BEACH</b> Southside Church of Christ 5652 Haden Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Robert Mallard (757) 464-4574</p>	<p><b>WV WELLSBURG</b> 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 7:00 P.M. (304) 527-4438 or 737-3124</p>	<p><b>SUBSCRIBE TODAY!</b></p> <p>Truth Magazine <b>855-49-BOOKS</b> <b>855-492-6657</b></p> <p> <a href="http://www.CEIbooks.com">www.CEIbooks.com</a></p>
<p><b>TX LANCASTER</b> Pleasant Run Church of Christ 831 W. Pleasant Run Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (972) 227-1708 or 227-2598</p>	<p><b>TX DALLAS</b> Methodist Street Church of Christ 211 Methodist St. • Red Oak TX, 75154 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (972) 576-3119 or 363-7672 <a href="http://www.methodiststreetchurchofchrist.com">www.methodiststreetchurchofchrist.com</a> Evangelist: D. LeRoy Klice</p>	<p><b>VA CHESAPEAKE</b> 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 Schlosser (757) 436-6900</p>	<p><b>WA BELLINGHAM</b> Mt. Baker Church of Christ 1860 Mt. Baker Hwy. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Joe Price (360) 752-2692 or 380-2960 <a href="http://www.bibleanswer.com/mtbaker">www.bibleanswer.com/mtbaker</a></p>	<p><b>WV RANCHESTER</b> Church of Christ Hwy. 14 West Ranch Mart Mall Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. Contact: Bob Reich (307) 655-2563</p>	
<p><b>TX LUBBOCK</b> 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. (806) 795-3377 <a href="http://www.lubbockindianaavecofc.com">www.lubbockindianaavecofc.com</a></p>	<p><b>TX SAN ANTONIO</b> Grissom Rd. Church of Christ 5470 Lost Lane at Grissom Rd. San Antonio, TX 78238-2700 Bible Classes 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday (Ladies Class) 10:00 A.M. Wednesday (Bible Class) 7:30 P.M. Terry Starling, Evangelist <a href="http://www.grissomroadcoc.org">www.grissomroadcoc.org</a></p>	<p><b>VA CHESTER</b> Chester Church of Christ 12100 Winfree St. (Central to Richmond, Hopewell, Petersburg, &amp; 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 (804) 385-2725 or (804) 271-0877</p>	<p><b>HELP VACATIONING CHRISTIANS FIND YOUR PLACE OF WORSHIP</b></p>	<p><b>CANADA CALGARY, AB</b> Northside Church of Christ 803 20A Ave NE Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wed. Bible Study 7:00 P.M. +1 (403) 452-5116 <a href="http://www.northsidechurchofchrist.ca">www.northsidechurchofchrist.ca</a></p>	
<p><b>TX LUFKIN</b> 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 &amp; Reagan McClenny (936) 634-7110 or 632-7070</p>	<p><b>TX SAN ANTONIO</b> Pecan Valley Church of Christ 268 Utopia Avenue (I-37 S.E. Exit Pecan Valley) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Clyde W. Carter (210) 337-6143</p>	<p><b>VA NEWPORT NEWS</b> 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</p>		<p><b>WV CHARLESTON</b> Church of Christ 873 Oakwood Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Jonathan Chaffin (304) 342-5637 <a href="http://www.oakwoodroadchurchofchrist.com">www.oakwoodroadchurchofchrist.com</a></p>	
<p><b>TX MANSFIELD</b> Northside Church of Christ 1820 Mansfield-Webb Road Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. Evangelist: Tom Roberts (817) 466-3160</p>	<p><b>TX SHERMAN</b> Westwood Village Church of Christ 314 N. Tolbert Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jim Smelser</p>	<p><b>VA RICHMOND (Metro)</b> 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 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Gene Tope (804) 790-1629 <a href="http://www.courthousechurchofchrist.com">www.courthousechurchofchrist.com</a></p>	<p><b>WV CLARKSBURG</b> Westside Church of Christ Davisson Run Road Sunday Morning 9:30 A.M. (304) 622-5433 <a href="http://www.westsidechurchofchristwv.net">www.westsidechurchofchristwv.net</a></p>		
<p><b>Shop online @ CEIbooks.com</b></p>	<p><b>TX TEMPLE</b> 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 <a href="http://www.biblemoments.org">www.biblemoments.org</a></p>	<p><b>VA RICHMOND</b> 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: Jack Bise, Jr. (804) 233-5959</p>	<p><b>WV FAIRMONT</b> Eastside Church of Christ 1929 Morgantown Ave. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (304) 363-8696 (304) 842-7936</p>		
	<p> <a href="http://www.CEIbooks.com">www.CEIbooks.com</a></p>	<p><b>Shop online @ CEIbooks.com</b></p>	<p><b>WV GLADESVILLE</b> Gladesville Church of Christ 2906 Gladesville Rd. Independence, WV 26374 Sunday Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Sunday 7:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (304) 864-3078</p>		
<p><b>TX MIDLAND</b> Woodcrest Drive Church of Christ 1401 Woodcrest Drive Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 4:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jay Martin (432) 689-0955 or (432) 620-0762</p>	<p><b>TX WACO</b> Sun Valley Church of Christ 340 E. Warren St. (In Hewitt, a suburb of Waco) Bible Class 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Marc Smith (254) 666-1020 or 420-1484</p>	<p><b>VA RIDGEWAY</b> 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: Jarred McCrary (276) 956-6049 <a href="http://www.churchofchristridgeway.com">www.churchofchristridgeway.com</a></p>	<p><b>WV MOUNDSVILLE</b> Church of Christ 210 Cedar St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Mid-week 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Devin Roush (304) 845-2820, 845-4940</p>		
<p><b>TX ODESSA</b> 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: Kristofer Gordana (432) 366-5071</p>	<p><b>TX WACO</b> West Waco Church of Christ 8900 West Hwy 84, Suite 107 Waco, TX 76712 Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Afternoon Worship 4:00 P.M. Evangelist: Kenny Peden (254) 640-2656; (254) 744-7182; (254) 498-0351</p>	<p><b>VA ROANOKE</b> 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</p>	<p><b>WV PARKERSBURG</b> Marrrtown Church of Christ 825 Marrrtown Road Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (304) 422-7458 or 893-5227</p>		

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