



# The Worker

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## Master, the Tempest is Raging

As we scan the horizon, we see nothing but more ominous dark clouds gathering. Another storm approaches. There have been many storms lately — too many. Too many illnesses and too many financial problems. Too much stress, weariness and grief. Too many loved ones departing this life and leaving us lonely, heartbroken, and destitute.

The Psalmist is urgent in his cries: “Awake! Why do You sleep, O Lord (Psalm 44:23)?” At times like this it seems as if God is a million miles away while we suffer here on Earth.

Our eyes remain fixed on the clouds around us. We focus on the distant rumblings of more troubles on the way. We cringe and cower as we anticipate the next blow to come. The Psalmist desperately announces the obvious, “We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter (Psalm 44:22)!” And still the winds howl and the storms rage. Our situation seems desperate and hopeless. We have weathered many storms, but all we can look forward to, it seems, is more of the same. Giving up on God actually crosses our mind.

Suddenly, the apostle Paul sees our plight and begins to speak: “We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”

“Of course we’re like sheep about to be slaughtered,” we cry, “that’s what the Psalmist said as well! Look at all of the problems that keep coming our way!”

Paul, as if he didn’t fully hear us, continues: “Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:37-39).”

Our eyes turn back to the storm clouds. The words of Paul still ring in our ears: “In all these things we are more than conquerors.” Suddenly, we remember who we are. We’re not reeds to be shaken by the wind (Matt 11:7), we’re a royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9)! Jesus died in our place, and in His love we live and conquer all the storms of life! All at once something else Paul said comes back to us: “I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us (Romans 8:18).” The storm clouds continue to gather and rumble, but because of Paul’s words we take renewed confidence in our Shelter — the Son of God.

You see, storms say an awful lot about our relationship with God. Being in a covenant relationship with God has never eliminated suffering, but our relationship with Him does give us strength to overcome: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil 4:13).” Sometimes God seems to be asleep (Psalm 44:23) that we might be awakened spiritually. It seems that God is ignorant of our plight when really it is our own faith that is weak: “Master, carest Thou not that we perish (Mark 4:38)?” What about you? How are you responding to the storms in your life?

John Baker Edgewood church of Christ, Edgewood, TX

### Leadership

**Elders** Hayward Blanton, Jerry Casey

**Deacons** Clint Smith Sr, Clint Smith Jr,  
Robby Stocksdale, Joe Sweeney

**Pulpit Minister** Eric Welch

**Associate Minister** Irvin F. Williams

### Panama Mission

Pablo Sanchez

### Schedule of Services

#### Sunday

Bible Class 10:00 AM

Morning Worship 11:00 AM

Evening Worship 6:00 PM

#### Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 PM

We Offer Free Personal Bible Studies and Bible Correspondence Courses - Phone (812) 284-3125

Visit Our Website: [www.hamburgpikecofc.org](http://www.hamburgpikecofc.org)

Email: [church@hamburgpikecofc.org](mailto:church@hamburgpikecofc.org)

### Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning: “Listen to Him” Mark 9:1-13

Sunday Evening: “Feeling Disconnected?” Isaiah 59:1-2

### Those Privileged to Serve

#### AM Service

#### PM Service

#### AM & PM Services

Song Leader Michael Hawkins

Song Leader Matt Johnson

Announcements Jerry Casey

Opening Prayer Grover Blanton

Bible Reading Robby Stocksdale

Lord’s Supper Leon Stocksdale

Scripture Fin Burton

Selection 37

Offering Rick Martin

Sermon Eric Welch

Prayer Hayward Blanton

Usher Joe Sweeney

Lord’s Supper Luke 24:1-35

Sermon Eric Welch

Count Offering Joe Sweeney

Message Harold Tincher

Closing Prayer Ernie Marshall

Assist Count Art Patrick

Attendant Brandon Montgomery

*If you are unable to serve, please*

#### Last Sunday

Attendant Jeremy Montgomery

*call Art Patrick 502-819-9481*

Contribution

Attendance

Closing Prayer Clint Smith Jr

*or Harold Tincher 502-409-3511*

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## The Strengths of Small Churches: Fellowship

Eric Welch

In last week's article, we saw how a congregation of the Lord can feel insignificant due to its size. Along with that feeling, it seems, they can also develop "big-church" envy. The leaders of that church might see all that the larger church is doing and desire to imitate their ideas and programs. However, what they would fail to realize is that such programs could actually hinder the strengths the church already has.

Take fellowship for example. Let's say that a small church has a plan to implement small groups in the way large congregations do them. They will divide the church on Sunday evenings into groups of ten or more and, while led by an elder or deacon, meet in members' homes. However, does a small congregation really need small groups? I see the opposite taking place in the big churches that use small groups. They are the ones imitating the small church because fellowship is an inherent strength of the small church.

Jesus said in John 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." The members of a small church can truly come to know one another more. They are able to create a family-like atmosphere. It is in this environment that lasting, meaningful relationships are formed and the commandment of Jesus is fulfilled.

Many people in our society want and need to belong. They want connections in a disconnected world. Instead of feeling inferior, congregations that trust in God will see that He can meet that need through them. They can fulfill Paul's metaphor of the church as the body of Christ and, thereby, create an atmosphere in which each person is significant for the whole (Romans 12.4-8; 1 Corinthians 12).

Romans 12:4-8

<sup>4</sup> For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. <sup>6</sup> Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup> if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; <sup>8</sup> the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

## Are You A "Church of Christ?"

Here is the scenario: A group of friends are discussing religion and someone asks, "What are you?" To this question some say, "I am a Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Catholic, etc." And then you are asked the same question. How would you respond? If you say that you are "Church of Christ," or some similar phrase, then, you have answered incorrectly.

Some may defend their response by claiming they are only using accommodative language to help their friends understand. Such terminology denominationalizes the Lord's church. His church is not a denomination. Denomination means there is more than one under consideration. The Bible plainly teaches that there is only one body (Eph. 4:4), and that the body is the same thing as the church (Eph. 1:22-23). Jesus only said He would build one church (Mat. 16:18).

Then what is the correct answer to the question, "What are you religiously?" You are a Christian. Not a "Church of Christ" Christian, but simply, a New Testament Christian. By becoming a child of God as the Bible teaches you were added to the church that belongs to Christ, or, the church of Christ (Acts 2:47).

Take advantage of these opportunities to use language that sets the true church apart from the rest of the religious world. These moments are great teaching opportunities. Your religious friends believe that one church is as good as another. That is why they have no problem attending a denomination. That is why they have no problem using denominational terms. Most will even refer to their religion as a denomination.

All Christians are part of the church that belongs to Christ, but no one person is the church. Therefore it is impossible for you to be a "church of Christ." Those who use denominational terms to describe the Lord's church do it harm. What are you religiously?  
Tim Kidwell Branson church of Christ, Bronson, MO

## Hamburg Pike Happenings

The Monday Night for the Master group will meet September 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 pm. We'll have sandwiches and chips for the meal. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the foyer for what to bring.

During the fall quarter, volunteers are needed for our Wednesday evening devotionals. The Elders invite/encourage your participation for this important service to the church. Please see the sign-up list on the board in the foyer.

The Tincher's fellowship group will meet after the morning worship on September 20<sup>th</sup>. The meal theme is potluck; see Hank or Cassie for details.

A "Go and Teach All Nations" Evangelism Workshop will be hosted by the churches in the Salem-Paoli area, on Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, at the Bearcat Center in Hardinsburg, IN. Registration begins at 8:30 and the classes begin at 9:00 am and will end in the afternoon. Keith Parker of Hendersonville, TN will be the speaker for the three classes. Lunch will be provided. If you would like to attend, please see Eric.