

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

Leadership

Elders Hayward Blanton
 Jerry Casey
 Clint Smith Sr

Deacons Clint Smith Jr
 Robby Stocksdale
 Joe Sweeney

Pulpit Minister Eric Welch
Associate Minister Irvin F. Williams

Mission Work

Panama Mission
 Pablo Sanchez

Those Privileged to Serve

A.M. Worship Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins
 Opening Prayer Grover Blanton
 Scripture Reading Clint Smith Sr
 Sermon Eric Welch
 Lord's Supper Message Greg Blanton
 Table Attendant Ryan Irwin
 Table Attendant Brandon Montgomery
 Closing Prayer Clint Smith Jr

P.M. Worship Service

Song Leader Rick Martin
 Bible Reading Nathaniel Welch
 Selection 9
 Opening Prayer Leon Stocksdale
 Sermon *Singing Emphasis*
 Closing Prayer Bill Cravens

A.M. & P.M. Services

Announcements Robby Stocksdale
 Lord's Supper Prayer Brandon Slotman
 Offering Prayer Irvin Williams
 Usher Fin Burton
 Count Offering Harold Tincher
 Assist Count Hank Tincher

Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning: The Blame Game Ezekiel 18
 Sunday Evening: Singing Emphasis

Last Sunday

Offering: \$2,728 Attendance: 83

Be Ready

Jesus says "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect" (Matthew 24:44). To be ready we must have "purified your souls in obeying the truth" (1 Peter 1:22). To be saved from our past sins we must believe in Jesus and be willing to do all He says in His word (John 8:24), repent of our sins (Luke 13:3), confess Him before men (Matthew 10:32), and be baptized for the forgiveness of our sins (Acts 2:38, 22:16), so we can be saved (Mark 16:16, 1 Peter 3:21). If you haven't done this, you are not ready.

Christians have to "Watch therefore for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming" (Matt. 25:13).

How do we continue to be ready? "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 Jn 1:7).

If as a Christian we are not walking in the light of His word and having fellowship one with another, then we are not ready. But if we are ready when Jesus comes, "we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure" (1 Jn 3:2-3). "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Our eternal fate is sealed when we draw our last breath or if the Lord comes before we die. It will be too late if we are not ready. Are we ready? If Jesus came 10 minutes ago, where would you be?

--Ron Boatwright

http://www.netbiblestudy.net/bulletin/new_page_220.htm

The Worker

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The Divine Basis of Religious Unity

By Gary Colley

Newspapers and billboards often advertise "Attend the church of your choice." These suggest, and many tell us, that one church is as good as another. To those who are moving into new communities and searching for churches to attend, it may be an impressive building that attracts their attention or a friend might invite them, but most seem to believe that one church is as good as another. If one church is as good as another, then to attend the church of one's choice would be correct, but what saith the Scriptures (Rom. 4:3)?

The Lord said He would build His church (Matt.16:18). Could a man-built church be as good as the church Christ built? Christ is the foundation of His church (I Cor. 3:11). Could any other foundation be as good as this foundation? Christ established His teaching in His church (Matt. 28:18-20). Could the division and confusion of denominationalism made by the creeds of men be as good as the unity of the Spirit (Eph. 4:1-6, Matt. 15:13)? Christ shed His blood to save man and purchase His church (Heb. 2:9, Acts 20:28). Can any man claim that his blood could purchase his church and cleanse as Christ's blood does? Christ proclaims that He is the Head of His church (Eph. 1:22-23, Col. 1:18).

Now, men claim to be the head of their churches, and one even claims to be the pope of his, but who would claim that a human head is as good as the Divine Head, a position only Jesus Christ holds over His church? The Lord commanded His apostles to teach people who obeyed the Gospel by faith, repentance, confession, and baptism, "...to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen" (Matt. 28:20). This included the commands for His worship. The five items He commanded in worship were singing, preaching, giving, partaking of the Lord's Supper each Lord's Day, and praying (Acts 2:42, Acts 20:7).

There are many different kinds of worship in the many man-made churches. Would any be foolish enough to contend that what man has commanded in worship equals what Christ commanded in worship (John 4:24, Matt. 15:9)? No, one church is not as good as another! Let us choose the church of Christ's choice!

- from the weekly bulletin of the Belvedere church of Christ, Belvedere, SC

Circumcised in Heart

Eric Welch

In Genesis 17 God commanded Abraham and all his male descendants to be circumcised, foreigners and servants as a “sign of the covenant” between him and God (11-14). This rite continued as part of the old covenant with the Israelite nation (Leviticus 12:3). So entrenched was the practice that the Israelites called the other nations such as the Philistines the “uncircumcised” (Judges 14:3; 1 Samuel 14:6; 18:25). This definition later included all Gentiles (Ephesians 2:11).

This trait of Israelite life came to be used as a metaphor. The law commanded that the produce from first tree was to “forbidden” and had to be discarded (Lev. 19:23-25). “Forbidden” translates the word for “regarded as uncircumcised (or foreskin).” The metaphor extended to other parts of the body such as heart, ears or lips. The idea of “uncircumcised” or “foreskinned” meant “thickness.” Moses described his difficulty of speech as having “uncircumcised” lips (Exodus 6:12). He probably meant that he had a thick tongue or a speech impediment (Exodus 4:10).

This meaning of the “thickness” of the foreskin also came to the spiritual application of the heart. Thickness of the heart meant a mind that was “unfeeling,” “unresponsive” or “stubborn.” This idea is presented for the first time in Lev 26:40-41: “But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers in their treachery that they committed against me, and also in walking contrary to me, 41 so that I walked contrary to them and brought them into the land of their enemies—if then their uncircumcised heart is humbled and they make amends for their iniquity...” God wanted their stubbornness to be cut off and thrown away. A circumcised heart was associated with love for God (Deuteronomy 10:12, 16 and 30:6). God circumcises the heart by His Word. People circumcise their own hearts by hearing and accepting that Word in humble obedience.

The prophets used the uncircumcision imagery to refer to those who refused to listen to God. They are said to have “uncircumcised ears.” Their ears had become thickened or closed: “To whom shall I speak and give warning, that they may hear? Behold, their ears are uncircumcised, they cannot listen; behold, the word of the LORD is to them an object of scorn; they take no pleasure in it” (Jeremiah 6:10) Jeremiah could have preached until he was blue in the face, but the people’s uncircumcised ears were deaf to God’s Word. Their hearts were stubborn. Read also Jeremiah 4:4; 9:25-26. One could be circumcised physically but have an uncircumcised heart, which God wants.

In the NT Stephen and Paul used the imagery of “heart circumcision.” Stephen told his audience that they were no better than their ancestors who preferred to live among the uncircumcised Egyptians (Acts 7:39-41, 51). He equated their “uncircumcised hearts” to resistance of the Holy Spirit. This is likely what Jesus means in the Pharisees’ blasphemy against the Holy Spirit (Matthew 12:31-32)—having a thickened, stubborn heart closed to the evidence and refuses God’s Word.

Paul went beyond Jeremiah and said that physical circumcision was no longer necessary, but heart circumcision was crucial for salvation (Rom. 2:25-29; Colossians 2:11-14). In the New Testament, then, internal circumcision is the removal of sin from one’s life. This removal of sin happens at the obedience of the gospel where one repents and is immersed into Christ. The person rises to a new life in Christ, ready always to receive God’s Word.

Hamburg Pike Happenings

The Monday Night for the Master group will meet Monday February 27th at 6:30 p.m. The meal theme is Mexican.

A Singing Emphasis service is scheduled for Sunday evening February 26th. Men and young men of the congregation, who would like to lead a song or read scripture, please sign the sheet in the foyer.

A teen devo is scheduled for March 7th 6:30 p.m. at Michael’s house. Please remember your notes from I Peter.

A Fellowship meal is scheduled for Sunday February 26th after the morning worship service. The meal theme is Italian and there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the foyer.

The Spring Quarter teaching material is ready for pickup and is available in the multi-purpose room. See Clint Sr. with questions. We appreciate all the work our teachers do, please keep them and their work in your prayers.

Psalm 136: 1-3 “His Steadfast Love Endures Forever”

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.
- 2 Give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever.
- 3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever;