

The Better Way

Volume XXXX, Issue 1

January 5, 2025

SPRING CHURCH OF CHRIST

Physical Address:
1327 Spring Cypress Rd.
Spring, TX 77373

Mailing Address:
25403 Lancewood Dr.
Spring, TX 77373

Office: 281-353-2707

springcoc@gmail.com
www.churchesofchrist.com

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:00 a.m.
Worship.....10:00 a.m.
Afternoon Worship.....1:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:30 p.m.
(via Zoom Meetings)

ELDERS

David P. Brown
Ken Cohn
John West

DEACONS

Bret Bailey
J. D. Gunter
Eric Paluka

EVANGELIST

David P. Brown

SECRETARY

Sonya West

THE NARROW WAY

Guy N. Woods

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat; because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it (Mat. 7:13-14).

It is a narrow path, because truth on any point is narrow, while error includes all the rest of space. The captain of a ship out on the ocean may see numberless stars, but there is but one North Star which will lead him aright. The way to destruction is as broad as all the sins and follies of men, while the highway of holiness is but a single path.

The reason that it is narrow is that it is shut in by the divine commands. It forbids fleshly license and lawless liberty. It is traveled in faith, and faith is opposed to sight, to sense, to self-will, and to self-pleasing. It is a narrow way, because it is directed to one goal, whereas, the ways of the world tend toward all the aimless wanderings characteristic of the thoughtless. That the way is narrow, and excludes wide areas on either side adds to its value. One traveling the highway out to Key West does not complain that it is necessary for one to keep to the roadway lest the car drift into the waters on either side. The narrow way is a highway cast up on which one may safely travel, while on either side are the dangerous quick-sands of the world. The way is narrow enough to shut out the world; broad enough for all the redeemed of humanity.

On this narrow way but few travel. In comparison with the broad way, down which multitudes go, it is a seldom traveled road, and **“few”** indeed, **“there be that find it.”** It requires effort and thought to find it; and, energy and perseverance to enter it, and travel along it. Few, comparatively speaking, are willing to make the attempt. This is, too many, a hard and unpopular doctrine. The popular and prevailing view is to regard all, save the most abandoned sinners, as equally favored of the Lord, and on the way of life and eternal bliss. The Jews, of our Saviour's day, were filled with spiritual pride, and they believed that all were to be admitted to the privileges of heaven from the fact that they were descended from Abraham. Theirs were a fatal delusion. Jesus made it clear in His Sermon on The Mount that there are things much more essential than ancestry and carnal ordinances. He emphasized that there is a straiter gate to be entered than any privilege which natural birth can give admittance to, and a narrower way to be traversed than the religious life mapped out by the scribes. He warned that those whose righteousness does not exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven (Mat. 5:20).

There is much of the Pharisaical spirit in the world today. If those Jews prided themselves on being the children of Abraham, there are those among us today who take comfort from the fact that this is a Christian nation, their parents are religious, and they hold church membership. It is not popular to teach as Jesus did that comparatively few people (in contrast with the vast multitudes who now live, and have lived on the earth) will

reach heaven. But such is true, and no other conclusion can be reached from what our Lord said. **“Few there be that find it,”** can mean only but few of the teeming millions on earth, will eventually enter into paradise.

Who is there in the world today who really believes this? When and where do we hear such truth boldly proclaimed? On the contrary, it is assumed, yea boldly declared, that most people will one day triumphantly sweep through the gates into the city. Let a man die whose life has been at least outwardly respectable, and his friends do not hesitate to say that he “is at rest.” When the funeral oration is delivered, it is expected that the preacher will console his loved ones with he comforting assurance that he is “better off now.” To question his state and heaven as his ultimate destination is at once to mark the one so doing as bigoted, uncharitable, and narrow in attitude.

One may, in vain, protest that Jesus said that *few* there be that find the way of life, but most people are little impressed. We are told that we must not look for perfect people in this life. We are reminded that all of us have our failings, and that there is so much bad in the best of us that we should not expect much from any of us. So, far from believing that only few will reach that blissful state, the vast majority of religious people in the world today hold that somehow, and in some way, the greater part of humanity will eventually get there. Hell (if there be such a place), will be peopled only by social rejects and abandoned criminals, just as our prisons house only a small percentage of the population, these being the unfortunate and misguided ones, for whom few care.

And, why is it that so many believe that the population will be so nearly that characteristic of the world? There is but one plausible answer: it is believe, by most people, that heaven may be had on much easier terms than those announced by Christ. Many there are among us who hold that the kingdom can be entered without passing through **“much tribulation”** (Paul said it could *not*, Acts 14:22); that we may be disciples of the Lord without denying ourselves (Jesus said we could *not*, Mat. 16:24). That it is not necessary for us to take up our cross and follow where He leads. Such do not really believe that if our right hand causes us to stumble, it must be cut off (Mat. 5:29-30). These are, of course, metaphorical statements of our Lord, evidencing in figurative fashion the total separation of ourselves from evil practices. The lesson is obvious.

Some think that all there is to do to be saved is to give lip service to the Christ, to put Him on in baptism, and to maintain nominal association with

the church. They ignore or disregard the fact that we must turn our backs on the world, leave the far country of sinful indulgence, and renounce, once for all, sin and self and Satan, if we are to be saved. We must seek first the kingdom of God and the righteousness of Christ, putting Him first in our hearts and lives, if heaven is ever to be our home.

What caused the rich young ruler to go away from Christ sorrowing, after coming to Him with such high hopes and with some indication of a willingness to be His disciple? Was it not the love of earthly possessions? What restrained the invited guests to be the great supper but immoderate affection for material matters and worldly pleasures (Mat. 22:5)? The board way is easily found, and is entered without effort. It is the way the world, the path of self-will and self gratification. It is *wide*, being without restriction. It is *easy*, requiring no effort to travel it. The passage is *smooth*, being down hill! It is a *crowded* way, because in it men may indulge their lusts, give rein to their inclinations, with nothing to restrain them. The road is a *deceptive* one, because who moved down it give no thought to where it will carry them. Those who have chosen it have accepted the philosophy that we are young but once, that life is short, and that we should eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die. It is, alas, the way **“that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death”** (Pro. 14:12). It is a *fatal* road, because it is the way of destruction. It conducts eventually to the bottomless pit, to the unquenchable fire, and to the undying worm. It is the way of the ungodly; and the Scriptures tell us that **“the way of the ungodly will perish”** (Psa. 1:6). The end of the broad way, despite its popularity, is *perdition*. To avoid the inevitable end to which the way leads, we must search for, and find, enter, and continue along, the narrow path which escorts to life.

Broad is the road that leads to death,
And thousands walk together there;
But wisdom shows a narrower path,
With here and there a traveler.

The great Messianic prophet Isaiah saw these two ways, and vividly described them:

And a highway shall be there (this is the broad way that leads to destruction; it is, then, a *highway*), **and a way** (this way is the narrow way, the way to life everlasting); **and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for the redeemed: the wayfaring men, yea fools, shall not err therein** (Isa. 35:8).

Though pleasant the path which leads along the broad way, it ends in unutterable woe, and everlasting torment. How very important then, that

1st PETER

Hope In Hard Times

(Lectureship: Part I)

January 25, 2025



Fish Hatchery Road Church Of Christ

These timely lessons will be presented at the church of Christ
Located at 1380 Fish Hatchery Road, Huntsville, Texas
Phone: 936-581-4346 Email: bruces_l@netzero.com

9:00 AM: “*A Living Hope*” (1 Peter 1:3-12)
Jack Stephens

10:00 AM: “*Set Your Hope On His Grace*” (1 Peter 1:13-19)
Eric Paluka

11:00 AM: “*Love One Another Deeply*” (1 Peter 1:20-2:3)
David P. Brown

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

1:30 PM: “*Identifying God’s People: A Spiritual House*” (1 Peter 2:4-8)
Bruce Stulting

2:30 PM: “*Identifying God’s People: A Chosen People*” (1 Peter 2:9-11)
Jose Gamez

3:30 PM: *Question & Answer Session*

we give heed to the admonition of the wise man, **“Ponder the path of thy feet”** (Pro. 4:26). Men do this readily enough in material matters, why not then much more in spiritual things? They do not board a plane or enter a bus without first determining the destination. Why not then exercise equal caution regarding the journey of life, by pausing and asking, “Where will the course I am now following bring me? In what direction are my feet leading me?”

There is a gate that stands ajar,
And through its portals gleaming,
A radiance from the crown afar,
The Savior’s love revealing.

Yes in the blood of Christ I see,
The gate that stands ajar for me,
For me...For me...
That stands ajar for me!~

Deceased

**VOLUNTEERS
FOR
DUTIES IN
2025**

**Sign-up sheets
are in the foyer**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.churchesofchrist.com

- Live broadcast
- Sermon videos
- Articles
- Lectureship videos
- Debates
- Bible Study Course
- Bible Reading Schedule
- Links to Faithful works

TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

What two preachers were called “the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation”?

Answer to last week’s question:
Moses; Exodus 2:12

THOSE TO SERVE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2025

Announcements	Eric Paluka
Scripture Reading	Eric Paluka <i>Genesis 5:12-20</i>
Song Leader	Bret Bailey
Prayer	Joshua West/Gary Blasingame (AM) Andrew Paluka/J.D. Gunter (PM)
Speaker	David Brown
Lord’s Table (AM) <i>(Mark 14:32-36)</i>	
Joshua West	Gary Blasingame
Stephen Cohn	J.D. Gunter
Lord’s Table (PM)	
Andrew Paluka	Steven Johnson
Audio/Video Monitor	Steven Johnson
Camera/Door Monitor	J.D. Gunter
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2025 <i>(via Zoom Meeting)</i>	
Announcements	Ken Cohn
Speaker	Steven Johnson
Bible Class Teacher	David Brown
FOR JANUARY	
Prepare Communion	Bailey
Lock Buildings	Blasingame
Prepare Bulletin Board	West

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Ashlyne Cohn, Cynthia Jackson, John West, Emma Gomez, Glenn Kryszak, Barbara Perkins, April McCain, Gayle Barnett, Noah & Glenda Hackworth, Tania Turcios, Robbie Kirby, Edith Young, Zack Nero, Debbie Brannon, Elnora Oxendine, Charles & Ann Nero, Chuck & Nancy Verkist, Freda Smith, Orinda Chumbley, and Roelf & Janice Ruffner.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- **Saturday, January 25th:** Fish Hatchery Road Lectureship.
- **Sunday, January 26th:** Monthly meal
- **Saturday, February 22th:** Spring *CFTF* lectureship.