

# The Better Way

Volume XXXIX, Issue 25

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## SPRING CHURCH OF CHRIST

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### 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

## “WHAT MY DADDY TAUGHT ME”

*Danny L. Box*

***My Daddy is not a very educated man.*** Having been brought up during the depression and the rough times that followed, he had very little formal schooling. Each year he had to work in the fields in the spring to plant the crops, and again in the fall was taken out of school to harvest the crops. Times were hard and sacrifices had to be made. But even though my Daddy was not formally educated, he taught me more than all the professors, educators, and teachers that I have had in my life.

***My Daddy taught me that there is a God.*** When we would be out on the river fishing, or in the woods hunting, Daddy would call to our attention everything around us and gently say “God made this.” He knew and wanted me to know that **“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth,”** and that **“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth His handiwork”** (Psa.19:1). In his own way, he made me realize that there is a God, and we should love and obey Him.

***My Daddy taught me the need to obey the Gospel.*** Daddy did not obey the Gospel until I was five years old, but with the help of my mother who would read and study the Bible with him every night, he finally heeded the invitation of the Lord. As a young boy, I saw my Daddy being baptized for the remission of his sins (Acts 2:38), and I determined that I would do the same thing when I got old enough. Encouraging words, and simple training pointed me in the right direction.

***My Daddy taught me the value of a good name.*** In almost any business in his home town, my Daddy is known on sight. The owners will take the time to come talk to him, or shake his hand. He has a good reputation among the business community, because he has kept his name above reproach. He knew that **“A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold”** (Pro. 22:1). But not only was he concerned about his family name, he was also concerned about the other name he wore, Christian. He kept this good name as best he could, and people knew where he stood.

***My Daddy taught me about discipline.*** Daddy knew that **“He that spareth his rod hateth his son; but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes”** (Pro. 13:24). Daddy must have really loved me! No, seriously, it was because he loved me that he corrected my faults, and taught me the need for discipline in my life, and it is his methods and ways that I use now with my own children. His stern words, and at times corrective action, is what helped me make it through my teenage years without giving in to all the lust and pleasures of this world.

***My Daddy taught me how to love.*** My parents have been married 55 years, and over those years there have been some serious illnesses

and problems. During all of these problems though, I have seen my Daddy continue to express his love to my mother, and her to him. Daddy knew that the husband was to love his wife as Christ loved the church (Eph. 5:23), and he was to love her even as himself (Eph. 5:33). I never remember us starting anywhere without Daddy telling Mother that he loved her.

**My Daddy taught me about being a good example.** Over the years, the example my Daddy has put forth has caused many to come to a knowledge of the Lord. Daddy understood and practiced what Paul told Timothy **“But be thou an example of the believers, in word, in con-**

**versation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity** (1 Tim. 4:12). Everyone who knows Daddy will know where to locate him at service time. They know that he will not be guilty of any questionable behavior, nor any foul language, or any other thing that would damage his reputation. You can ask anyone about my Daddy and they will say “He is a good man.”

Yes, my Daddy taught me a lot, and it is because of him that I am faithfully serving my Father in heaven to the best of my ability, and will all the days of my life. Thank you Daddy!

**Deceased**

## *Happy Father's Day!*

“The just man walketh in his integrity:  
his children are blessed after him”  
Proverbs 20:7

## CHURCHES OF CHRIST

*Gus Nichols*

In the days of the apostles each congregation of Christians was to be so patterned after the will of Christ that it would be a church **“of Christ”** and not a human organization. The congregations belonged to Christ, being authorized by Him, and constructed according to His Divine Will. Hence, Paul said, **“The churches OF CHRIST salute you”** (Rom. 16:16; Emphasis added). They would not have been **“churches OF Christ”** (Emphasis added) if they had been the inventions of human wisdom, and built according to some pattern gotten up by man, or set of men. To be **“churches of Christ”** back then, those congregations had to believe in and follow Christ (Mat. 16:24). They had to accept Christ as their great head and lawgiver (Col. 1:18, 24; Eph. 5:23). They had to accept His doctrine and guidance in all religious activity, else they could not have been **“churches OF Christ”** (Rom. 16:16' Emphasis added).

### **BUILT BY CHRIST**

Christ built the church. He said, **“Upon this rock I will build My church”** (Mat. 16:18; Em-

phasis added). Of course, Christ built the kind of church that He wanted His church to be. He certainly knew what sort of church He wanted, and was able to so construct it that He would be pleased with it. The church was typified by the earthly tabernacle which was made **“according to the pattern”** God gave (Heb. 8:5). Since it was to be a type of the spiritual tabernacle which the Lord pitched, and not man, it was built according to the **“pattern.”** Hence, God had a certain kind of church in mind when He gave the type of it in the Old Testament (Heb. 10:1).

### **JERUSALEM CHURCH**

The church at Jerusalem was the first congregation of the Lord's church ever to exist. It had its “beginning” on Pentecost, after the resurrection of Christ when the Holy Spirit came from heaven to guide the apostles into all truth (Acts 11:15; Luke 24:46-49; John 16:13). Christ had said, **“I will build MY church”** (Mat. 16:18; Emphasis added). The Jerusalem church being the first congregation built, it was the fulfillment of the Lord's promise to build His church. It was

the church of Christ. It was the **“pattern”** by which all other congregations were to be fashioned, as the tabernacle, which was a type of it, was built according to the **“pattern”** (Heb. 8:5).

### **CHURCH REPRODUCED**

But the gospel which began to be preached in its fullness on Pentecost, in Jerusalem, was to go to all nations (Mat. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-49; Acts 1:8; Acts 2). This congregation was to be a going, growing concern in the world. It was to be a fountain from which a great stream of blessings was to flow into all the world, ever deepening and widening to the enrichment of human souls. Hence, a member of the Jerusalem church, namely Philip, who later was called an **“evangelist,”** went to Samaria and **“preached Christ unto them”** (Acts 8:5). When they believed they were, baptized, both men and women (Acts 8:12). The Lord added them to the church as He had added those who obeyed the gospel at Jerusalem (Acts 2:41, 47). This was the beginning of the church in Samaria. Furthermore, this was the church **“OF CHRIST,”** the same as the church at Jerusalem. The two congregations were simply **“churches of Christ”** (Rom. 16:16). Neither one of them was a religious sect, or denomination. They were not founded upon the doctrines and commandments of men. It is true that Philip preached the word, and started this church in this place, but it was not a **“philipite church.”** It was not a new sort of church, but a reproduction of the church in Jerusalem. If Philip had taken wheat seed from Jerusalem to Samaria and sown it, the result would have been wheat just like that which grew back in Jerusalem. It would not have produced a new kind of wheat. **“Now the parable is this, the seed is the word of God”** (Luke 8:11). **“The sower soweth the word”** (Mark 4:14). It is called **“the word of the kingdom”** (Mat. 13:19). Like other seed, the word of God produces after its kind (Gen. 1:1-12; Gal. 6:7). It simply made those who believed and lovingly obeyed it members of the church of Christ in Jerusalem. And it could produce nothing but Christians in Samaria, who, when saved, were added to the church. They did not become **“Philipites.”** Neither did they become sectarians in any sense. The same word now will make people members of the same church. A congregation now built upon Christ in the same way, is the church of Christ in a given community. A plurality of such congregations are simply **“churches of Christ”** (Rom. 16:16).

### **CHURCH AT CORINTH**

As another example of the many that might be chosen, Paul took this same gospel and preached it in Corinth, **“And many of the Corinthians hearing, believed and were baptized”** (Acts 18:8). This made them the **“church of God”** or **“body of Christ”** at Corinth (1 Cor. 1:1-2; 12:27). They did not become **“Paulites,”** neither was the church Paul planted at Corinth a **“Paulite”** church. Seed always reproduces after its kind, and the word of God can never start anything in any place other than the church of Christ. Such congregations as are built upon Him, and constructed according to His doctrine, are called **“churches of Christ”** (Rom. 16:16). But if Philip and Paul had gone out and gotten them a human creed, and a human system of doctrine, with a man-made organization tying the congregations together, one sect following Philip and wearing his name, and the other denomination following Paul, and wearing his name, such congregations would not have been **“churches of Christ,”** for Christ was not the author of such churches. Neither is He the author of such now. A perverted gospel is not the gospel of Christ; neither is a humanly-invented church the church of Christ. But Philip and Paul preached the same gospel, being guided by the same Holy Spirit, and the result was the same—**“churches of Christ.”**

### **“CHURCHES OF CHRIST” NOW**

Any now who preach, believe, and practice, identically what inspired preachers believed, taught and practiced in the first century, without addition or subtraction, or any other change, will be nothing but Christians, and the church of Christ in a given community. We have no right to wear the name of some man, though he may have taught us the truth. Even if Paul were here and had taught us and started our congregation, it would be sinful to wear his name (1 Cor. 1:10-13; Acts 11:26; 26:18; 1 Pet. 4:16). Furthermore, it is religious intolerance and persecution to try to force those who are determined to be Christians only, to wear some human religious name. It is also a plain violation of the golden rule (Mat. 7:12). One could never produce an Austin car, or a motorcycle, by properly assembling genuine Ford parts, without any change, or deviation from the purpose of the inventor of those parts, and of the Ford car. Neither can any man, or set of men, ever produce a denomination, or anything but **“churches of Christ”** by assembling all parts of His doctrine, as He gave it, and putting all items of His

teaching and worship into loving obedience on the part of the people in a given community.

**NO CHANGES PERMITTED**

There are to be no changes in the doctrine and teaching of Christ (1 Tim.1:3; 2 John 9; Mat. 15:9; Jude 3; Rev. 22:18-19). This principle was intended to keep the church one and the same through the ages. Christ wanted His church to remain like He built it. Any desire, or attempt, to change the church from what it was in New Testament times shows one to be dissatisfied with the church as Christ built it (Mat. 16:18). Christ has given no man any authority whatsoever to change His church from what it was when He built it. All authority from Christ is now in the New Testament (John 16:13; 17:8, 14; Mat. 16:19). This book does not authorize anything but **“churches of Christ”** (Rom. 16:16). Only such congregations as are patterned after the **“churches of Christ”** in the New Testament are **“churches of Christ”** now. A church ceases to be **“of Christ”** when it ceases to be fashioned by the will and authority **“of Christ.”** A thing cannot be **“of God,”** or **“or Christ,”** which is contrary to the will of God and of Christ. A Masonic Lodge is built upon the principles and teaching of Free Masonry, not upon those of the Odd Fellows, or the Elks, etc.

**ALL DEPENDS UPON FOLLOWING THE OLD, OR ORIGINAL**

It is not proper to compare a given congregation with congregations of the days of Luther, or Calvin, or Smith, or Wesley. This is sure to lead to error. The only comparison that is proper is: *Is the church of which I am a member in my community identical with “the churches of christ” in the days of the apostles* (Rom. 16:16)? **“Make all things according to the pattern”** (Heb. 8:5).~

*Deceased*

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

- **Tuesday, June 25th:** Ladies’ Bible Class. Teacher: Barbara Bailey. Lesson: “The Joy Of Service.”
- **Sunday, June 30th:** Monthly meal & afternoon singing service.
- **Mon-Wed, July 15th-17th:** VBS at Spring. Theme: “Parables Of Jesus.”
- **Saturday, September 28th:** Fall Fellowship

**THOSE TO SERVE**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2024**

**Announcements** Bret Bailey  
**Scripture Reading** J. D Gunter  
Rev. 16:17-21

**Song Leader** Gary Blasingame  
**Prayer** Andrew Paluka/J.D. Gunter (AM)  
Zack Nero/Steven Johnson (PM)

**Speaker** David Brown

**Lord’s Table (AM)**  
(Luke 22:17-20)

J.D. Gunter Andrew Paluka  
Steven Johnson Gary Blasingame

**Lord’s Table (PM)**

Joshua West Ben Gunter

**Audio/Video Monitor** Steven Johnson  
**Camera/Door Monitor** Andrew Paluka

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2024**

*(via Zoom Meetings)*

**Announcements** Bret Bailey  
**Speaker** Jonathan West  
**Bible Class Teacher** David Brown

**FOR JUNE**

**Prepare Communion** West  
**Lock Buildings** Bailey  
**Prepare Bulletin Board** N. Cohn

**IN NEED OF PRAYERS**

April McCain, Zack Nero, Debbie Brannon, Edith Young, Noah & Glenda Hackworth, Cynthia Jackson, Elnora Oxendine, Charles & Ann Nero, Nathaniel Rimmer, Chuck & Nancy Verkist, Freda Smith, Orlinda Chumbley, and Roelf & Janice Ruffner.

**TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE**

What great man of God had sons who “turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment?”

**Answer to last week’s question:**  
Yes; 1 Samuel 1:11-13