

The Better Way

Volume XXXIX, Issue 36

September 1, 2024

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

“WHAT DOES THE CHURCH OF CHRIST BELIEVE?”

David P. Brown

People often ask, “What does the church of Christ believe?” The answer to that question is this, “anything and everything.” For example, consider the Lord’s church in Corinth. If non-Christians of that day had attempted to learn God’s will by what some Corinthian brethren believed and practiced, those non-members would have come to several erroneous conclusions concerning the will of God regarding several topics.

Of course, God demands that all members of His Son’s church live only as the New Testament of Christ teaches them to live (Col. 3:17). However, the fact remains, that church members can and do fall from God’s grace by getting involved in moral and/or religious error. Only a cursory reading of the New Testament reveals that fact. So, even as the New Testament was being written, much of it exposed and rebuked brethren because of their erroneous beliefs and sinful conduct.

People who pose the question under consideration have asked the wrong question. They should ask, “What does the Bible teach?” For a person’s faith (belief, confidence, trust) in God and godly things to be acceptable to Him it must be formed, sustained, and strengthened, only by what the Bible teaches (Luke 8:11; Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12; John 8:31, 32; 12:48; 17:17; 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16, 17; 2 Tim. 4:1-4; Heb. 11:6; Rom. 10:17; 2 Cor. 5:7; Heb. 5:9; Jam. 1:18, 25; 2:17-25; 1 Pet. 1:22, 23). Jesus plainly made the foregoing point in the following question. **“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say”** (Luke 6:46)?

I conclude by asking, “Do we see the importance of and are we willing to ask, ‘What does the Bible teach?’ regarding what we believe and practice?” Furthermore, if we see our beliefs and practices are not in harmony with what is taught in the Bible in general and the New Testament in particular, are we willing to give up our error(s) and embrace the truth? Willing to repent of error—that is where ‘the rubber meets the road.’~

WILL ERROR “DIE OUT” IF “LEFT ALONE”?

Thomas B. Warren

There are those among us who, even though they believe church cooperation and orphan homes to be right, have an erroneous idea of what to do about opposition to these matters: they believe that if such error is “left alone” (with nothing being said about it) it will “die out” of its own accord.

DO THEY ACCEPT THIS THEORY ON OTHER MATTERS?

It is to be wondered: do these men accept this theory on other matters?

- (1) If their house were on fire, would they expect the fire to “die out” if they just “left it alone”? (As Brother Jack Meyer pointed out: the fire will “die out” when the house is burned to the ground!)
- (2) If a rattlesnake were in their home, would they just “let it alone” expecting it to “die out” of its own accord?
- (3) If they were suddenly stricken with pneumonia, would they “let it alone” while expecting it to “die-out” of its own accord?
- (4) Do they expect atheism, agnosticism, and modernism in general to “die out” while they “let it alone” and do not “stir it up”?
- (5) Do they expect the doctrine of salvation by faith only to “die out” if they will just “say nothing about it”?
- (6) Do they expect Catholicism and Protestantism to be drastically wounded by their tactic of “letting it alone”?
- (7) Do they expect worldliness in the church (dancing, drinking, fornication, immodest apparel, etc.) to “die out” if they will only be careful not to “say anything about it”?

WHAT OF THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS?

If the above questions are to be rightly answered with “Yes” then will someone please tell this editor why we are preaching at all! If we preach God’s Word at all, there is something that is not going to be “left alone”! If one doctrine will “die out” if “left alone”, why will not all false doctrines “die out” if “left alone”? If such is true, we all should immediately stop preaching so that there will be a soon end to all error!

On the other hand, if the above questions are to be rightly answered with, “No”, then why will not brethren apply that same reasoning to the questions of orphan homes and church coopera-

tion? Someone, at some time said something about like this: “Evil grows and spreads because good men do nothing.” Think of the good men among us who have done almost nothing in fighting this destructive hobby which has divided churches, alienated brethren, and shackled brethren with its human creeds. May God help them to awaken!

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ON THESE MATTERS?

For I know that after my departing grievous wolves will enter in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them (Acts 20:29, 30).

For there are many unruly men, vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision, whose mouths must be stopped (Tit. 1:10, 11).

... I resisted him to the face, ... I said unto Cephas before them all (Gal. 2:11-14).

... because of the false brethren privily brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage: to whom we gave place in the way of subjection, no, not for an hour (Gal. 2:4, 5).

Them that sin reprove in the sight of all, that the rest may also be in fear (1 Tim. 5:20).

... mark them that are causing the divisions and occasions of stumbling, contrary to the doctrine which ye learned: and turn away from them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Christ, but their own belly; and by their smooth and fair speech they beguile the hearts of the innocent (Rom. 16:17, 18).

APPLICATION OF PASSAGES

As relates to the present controversy, the previous passages have at least the application: *error must be met*. We cannot be pleasing to God by adopting an “ostrich” attitude, expecting the error to “die out” if we only “let it alone.” Bible teaching shows such an attitude to be a wrong one.

WHAT THE LORD NEEDS: SOLDIERS!

Paul said: **“Fight the good fight of the faith...”** (1 Tim. 6:12). Further, he said, **“Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus”** (2 Tim. 2:3). The Lord needs men and churches who will dare to stand up and be count-

ed on the side of truth and righteousness in spite of the hardships which one may have to suffer at the hands of the proponents of error! My brother, what about you?

We can thank the Lord that this movement has been met and turned back. Let us now stand together and complete the job.~

Deceased

A SURPRISING WOE!

Cled E. Wallace

Normal human nature craves friends, and delights in being well spoken of. One of the basic passions is a feeling of self-importance. To be sinned against in this respect is as grievous as going hungry. It is the more surprising, therefore, that Jesus said, **“Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for in the same manner did their fathers to the false prophets”** (Luke 6:26; ASV).

It is commonly considered a compliment to a man if he has no enemies. But militant goodness is offensive to some and makes enemies **“for righteousness’ sake.”** The Lord Jesus was wholly clear of all manner of sin, and yet He began to make enemies as soon as He came into the public eye. His very righteousness was a rebuke to a selfish, scheming class, and His teaching met the most violent opposition. He was subjected in turn to ridicule, opposition in debate, and death. The worst passions of depraved hearts were loosed in fury upon Him. He had friends, but His enemies were many and powerful.

And it is interesting to note how many reacted to Paul. If there was ever a good man, praiseworthy in all respects, Paul was one. After he became a Christian, a search for sin in his life would yield meager results. And yet from the very beginning of his ministry in the gospel he was harassed as few men have ever been. Some of his enemies were members of the church—**“false brethren,”** he called them. From one place he fled with a companion **“when there was made an onset both of the Gentiles and of the Jews with their rulers, to treat them shamefully and to stone them”** (Acts 14:5). He was beaten and put in jail on a charge that he taught unlawful customs. He was charged with turning **“the world upside down.”** His enemies said he taught **“men to worship God contrary to the law.”** **“Some mocked”** in the face of his most brilliant sermons. A hired orator, speaking for a powerful group, called him, **“a pestilent fellow,”** said he ought to be in a pesthouse somewhere, and stig-

matized him as a ringleader of a sect which stirred up trouble all over the world.

Jesus and Paul made enemies for a great cause, and their enemies emphasized their greatness and righteousness.

Blessed are ye when men shall reproach you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets that were before you (Mat. 5:11-12).~

Deceased

WHERE WILL YOU SPEND ETERNITY?

J.A. McNutt

Everything on earth, all material possessions, every relationship, every pleasure, and even our lives are limited. Experience has taught us that everything physical has a beginning and a limited existence. How can we comprehend “eternity,” which has to do with infinite duration, eternal existence, and our state after death?

LIFE IS A JOURNEY

All men are like travelers, pilgrims, and sojourners on this earth (1 Pet. 2:11). This earth is not our home, and we seek a heavenly country and that eternal city (Heb. 11:13-16). We are swiftly passing through time and are well on our way toward our eternal destination. It may be later than you think. Have you ever stopped and asked yourself the question, “When I get where I’m going, where will I be?” Agnostics offer no comfort or consolation, because they say, “We do not know that God exists, or that men will live again.” Infidels say, “There is no God, and man is destined for dust and annihilation, death ends it all,” while the Bible affirms, **“The spirit returns to God who gave it”** (Ecc. 12:7), death is the gateway to life eternal, and the faithful will wear the crown of life (Rev. 2:10).

Let no man deceive you, both heaven and hell are definite realities, and Jesus plainly says of the punishment, **“And these shall go away into everlasting punishment; but the righteous unto life eternal”** (Mat. 25:46). Check your destination, NOW! The pathway to salvation, entrance into the kingdom, and eventually entering heaven must begin with being born of water and the Spirit (John 3:5). Being born again is best understood by reading Mark 16:16 and Acts 2:38.~

Deceased

**A Study In
THE
MAJOR
PROPHETS**

Isaiah

Jeremiah

Lamentations

Ezekiel

Daniel

Sunday Morning Bible Class
David P. Brown

**A Study Of
1ST JOHN**

Teacher:
David P. Brown

WEDNESDAY NIGHT
BIBLE CLASS VIA ZOOM

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- **Saturday, September 14th:** Baby Girl Shower honoring Devon & Andrew Paluka. RSVP Anna Cononie if you plan to attend.
- **Tuesday, September 24th:** Ladies' Bible Class.
- **Saturday, September 28th:** Fall Fellowship at Walker County Fairgrounds, Huntsville, TX.
- **Sunday, September 29th:** Monthly meal.
- **Saturday, October 26th:** Fish Hatchery Road Lectureship. "James: Practical Christianity Part 3."
- **Saturday, November 23rd:** Chili Cook-off at Burroughs Park.

THOSE TO SERVE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

Announcements Eric Paluka
Scripture Reading Andrew Paluka
Revelation 21:1-8

Song Leader Bret Bailey
Prayer Stephen Cohn/Zack Nero (AM)
Eric Paluka/Joshua West (PM)

Speaker David Brown

Lord's Table (AM)
(Matthew 27:39-44)

Stephen Cohn Jonathan West
Eric Paluka Joshua West

Lord's Table (PM)

J.D. Gunter Bret Bailey

Audio/Video Monitor Steven Johnson
Camera/Door Monitor Joshua West

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2024
(via Zoom Meetings)

Announcements J.D. Gunter
Speaker Jonathan West
Bible Class Teacher David Brown

FOR SEPTEMBER

Prepare Communion Gunter
Lock Buildings Gunter
Prepare Bulletin Board N. Cohn

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Steve & Kate Baxley, Corey Farmer, Edith Young, Zack Nero, April McCain, Debbie Brannon, Noah & Glenda Hackworth, Cynthia Jackson, Elnora Oxendine, Charles & Ann Nero, Chuck & Nancy Verkist, Freda Smith, Orlanda Chumbley, and Roelf & Janice Ruffner.

TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

The bones of what prophet caused a dead man to revive and stand?

Answer to last week's question:
Mt. Carmel; 1 Kings 18:17-46