

Announcements and Church News

Our Stik

Pat Ledford, Karen Stallings and Grace Vogt for covid; Alison Harris in ProMedica/Palm Harbor rehab; Wayne Bishop— doing better; Winston Sandlin— In Belleair Rehab; Sandy Caldwell— for pain; Teresa Broyles, Alison Harris and Vicky Lube—cancer trmt; Joyce Stanley, Kim Taylor, Fran Barclay, Nancy VanWinckle, health issues.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR FAMILY/FRIENDS;
Teresa Broyles— Step-mom Mary Jane Wright for a fractured skull from a fall; Samantha Jones daughter Ariel, brother Eddie and son Joshua; Carol Mitchell- tumor on liver; The Stewart's—bro-in-law Russell Holt; Clifton Reynold's son Bryce; Susan Villoch's dad James/heart issue; The Stewart's neighbors Rich & Betty /health issues; The Kozola's son Tim; Carol Untied's—dad and Uncle David/health issues; Sam York-recent surgery; David Sain's—wife Phyllis; Yllka Bejo's—mother for broken hip; Van Stewart's—aunt, Linda Parsons; Dianne Stewart's—brother, Bobby Goodfield and sister Lynn Owens; The Stingles—niece's baby; Paula Davis'—niece/ lupus; Darrell Broking/for health issues;

PRAYERS FOR CANCER:

Ranny Reeves neighbor, Linda Wall; Randall Deily's— uncle; Linda Haddock's niece, June McCray; Carol Untied's stepmother Emily; Debbie Methvin's-co-workers father Vasilos and Michele Fuguero; Deb Adams friends son, Jason; Van Stewart's sister Tracey and cousin Paula; Ronnie Sommerville's dad, Ron; Mattie Simmons friend William; Sandy Caldwell's bro-in-law Larry; Kay Jessup's friend, Lou Fiore and wife Rose, also co-worker Marie Woleck.

INMATES: Antwaun Thompson, Willie Newton & Tom George.

OUR SERVICE MEN: Sam Wagner and cousin Mark Wagner (Navy) Austin Reyes (Marine) Matthew Holleran (Army)

OUR SHUT-IN AT HOME: Winston Sandlin

Activities

NEXT LADIES BIBLE CLASS— Is on Friday, October 7th at 1:00pm in the small building.

LADIES DAY—At South Florida Avenue Church of Christ in Lakeland, FL on October 1st. Flyers are in the foyer.

MEN'S FALL LECTURESHIP— At the Eagle Lake Church of Christ on Saturday, November 12th from 9:00am to 2:45pm. If you have any questions see Charles. Flyers are in the foyer.

GOSPEL MEETING— Mark your calendars for our upcoming meeting from October 16th to the 19th. We will have a fellowship meal after the morning worship service on the 16th. The title is A Mountain of Blessings with guest speaker James Dale of Glendale, Arizona. Invite family, friends and neighbors. Flyers can be found in the foyer.

KEEP IN TOUCH— For those that would like to keep in touch with Kelly Sarver while she's away at school her address is: 210 Promenade Vista St., Unit 4210, Charleston, SC 29412-2243.

FOYER TABLE— Please pick up the Calendar and the Schedule For Those To Serve for October. You will also find the latest issue of the Christian Courier and the August Financial Report.

REMINDER—Weekly sermons are available on CD, our website and livestream on Facebook and YouTube Sundays at 10:30 & 5:00pm and Wednesdays at 7:00pm.

Those Serving Today

Announcements—Charles Broyles

Song Leaders—Joe Bonelli/Jesse Lancaster

Opening Prayer—Matt Pryor/Mark Bernhardt

Lord's Table—Van Stewart

Closing Prayer—Dennis Cuckler/John Benson

Birthdays This Week

Demetria Akins—September 29th

James George—September 29th

Debbie Methvin—October 1st

CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 25, 2022
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Gospel Broadcasting Network
<http://gbntv.org> YouTube
<https://spiritualsword.org/>

SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY
 TV Channel 44 (WTOG) at 7:30am Sunday YouTube
 watch & hear Phil Sanders

THE INTERNATIONAL GOSPEL HOUR
 Broadcasting the Gospel Since 1939 YouTube (24/7) to hear Jeff Archey

House to House Heart to Heart
www.HouseToHouse.com

FLORIDA SCHOOL OF PREACHING
 EST. 1969
 fsop.net

Soaring for Souls
soaringforsouls.com

Childhaven, Inc.
 Childhaven Children's Home in Cullman, AL
www.childhaven.com

FAIR HAVEN CHILDREN'S HOME
fairhavenchildrenshome.com

india missions
cocindia.net

www.christiancourier.com

Arnold Town Road Church of Christ—Darrell Broking
 Chalmette Church of Christ—Mark Lance
 South Anchorage Church of Christ—Michael Dale

Elders:

Joe Bonelli Charles Broyles
 James George

Deacons:

Max Herman
 Van Stewart

Preacher: Charles Broyles

Office: 727-446-4808 Cell #: 423-240-9075

Sunday Bible Study—9:30AM
 Charles Broyles

Major Prophets—Ezekiel 25

Sunday Worship—10:30AM
 Charles Broyles

How To Come Back When You're Down
 Psalm 51:1-2

Sunday Worship—5:00 PM
 Charles Broyles

Great Decisions Of The Bible
 Jeremiah 5:30

Ladies Bible Study—Friday
October 7th at 1:00pm

Wed. Bible Study—7:00PM
 Charles Broyles
Attributes of God

All of our services are available on Facebook Live and
 YouTube YouTube Live!



From the Preacher's Pen

WHAT IF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST DID NOT EXIST?

Richard Latham

What was the end result of all the work of God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit in the redemption of mankind? Was it not the church? Yes.

Paul writes concerning the church of Christ and makes clear that it did not come about by accident. It was God's plan from eternity. When the time was right, God sent his Son into the world to die for and establish the church (Gal. 4:4; Eph. 5:25) —“To make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Eph. 3:9-11).

The question asked in the title of this lesson should help open the minds and thoughts of those who are members of the church. Whereas it would be difficult for the faithful to fathom such a thought of the church not existing, it might be easier for those who are less concerned about the will of God. The enemies of Christ would wish that the church of Christ did not exist, and the unfaithful would glory in the freedom to “do as one pleases.”

When speaking of the church of Christ, it is with the understanding that Christ is the builder of the church, and the church of the New Testament is his bride (Matt. 16:13-19; Rev. 22:17). As we think about this question, let us explore some things that might not be considered by Christians or the enemies of God.

First, let me clarify that I am in no way attempting to place the church before her head, nor am I attempting to diminish from the work of God in the redemption of mankind. I ask that you ponder these questions. What was the end result of all the work of God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit in the redemption of mankind? Was it not the church? Yes.

If the church did not exist, what would be the purpose of Ephesians 3:10, and what would be known “by the church” if it did not exist? If the church mentioned in Ephesians 3:10 did not exist, how would that effect the “eternal purpose” of God (Heb. 9:14-15)? Would there be a new covenant (Matt. 26:28)? What purpose would Matthew 16:13-19 serve if the church did not exist? Would it not then indicate that if the church did not exist, then there would be no Christians, since the saved are added to the church (Acts 2:47; Acts 11:26; 1 Peter 4:16)? Who would carry out the great commission of Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16, and Luke 24:46-49?

If the church of Christ did not exist, who would be the “salt of the earth” or “the light of the world” (Matt. 5:13-16)? Since the church of Christ was paid for by the blood of Christ (Acts 20:28), and it does not exist, then what did Christ purchase with his blood? If the church did not exist, would we have the book of Acts (book of conversions), the epistle written to various congregations of the Lord's people, the general epistles, letters to individual Christians, such as Timothy and Titus, instructing them in the church's work, worship, faithfulness, etc.

If the church of Christ did not exist, how could the book of Revelation be written to the seven churches of Asia? What about the spiritual promises to Abraham, would they exist

(Gen. 12:3; Rom. 4:16; Gal. 3:16)? Once Christ died and was resurrected, then what, if the church did not come to fruition? What about the falling away and departure from the faith mentioned in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 and 1 Timothy 4:1-3? If the church did not exist, then how do you explain what they fell away from? How could some depart from it? Now, if the church did not exist and there was no falling away or departure from it, then denominationalism would not exist.

In reading J. W. Shepherd's book “The Church, The Falling Away and The Restoration” and F. W. Mattox's book “The Eternal Kingdom,” along with what our Lord taught about people teaching for doctrine the commandments of men, it is evident that there would have to be the leaving and rejecting of truth for error (John 12:48). Are we to think that such organizations who lack “salt” and “light” could ever be pleasing to God, or that a world without Christians (biblically speaking) could preserve this world?

If the church did not exist, what purpose would Daniel 2, Zechariah 1:16, Isaiah 2:2-3, and Micah 4:1-2 serve? Could man by his own righteousness preserve this world, or would there be any reason for it to be here without Christians who make up the church (Isaiah 64:6; 1 John 3:1-2)? While the enemies of God and wayward members of the church despise, ridicule, reject, and deny the church of our Lord, it would be beneficial for them to reconsider those actions. Remember, what happened when there were not ten righteous souls found in Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 18:32; Eccl. 5:1; Prov. 21:2)?

I know that I have not even begun to explore all the important things that are necessary to be brought out in this lesson, so it is my prayer that some of my faithful brethren would consider this topic and expound upon it. It is my belief they could do a more sufficient job than I have done. Yes, the church of Christ does exist.

For those who love God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the church, we fight every day against Satan by trying to live a faithful life unto God and convince people of the need to put away falsehood and embrace the truth. May God reward our efforts and may we receive our crown in the great judgement day. Now the question is, will you come with us?

THEY KNEW WHERE TO FIND HIM

On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus met with His twelve apostles in a large upper room to eat the Passover meal. From there, they would go to the Garden of Gethsemane, but Judas left the upper room gathering before Jesus and the eleven left. How would Judas know where to find them, so that he could betray Jesus? It's possible that someone told him before he left. But Luke and John tell us the real reason that Judas was able to find Him. John tells us that “Judas...knew the place; for Jesus often met there with His disciples” (John 18:2), “as He was accustomed” (Luke 22:39).

If someone were looking for you, where would they look? What place or places do you frequent? What does the places that you frequent say about you? The place that Jesus “often” went was a place of solitude and prayer. His disciples knew that was a priority for Him. What (and where) do people know is a priority for you? Will that knowledge help them draw closer to Jesus?
—David Sproule