

The Church of Christ Bulletin

**“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”
-Ecclesiastes 12:13**

**VOLUME 25
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FEBRUARY 25, 2018

SHEPHERDS

*Boyce Edwards
Lee Fisher
Zachary Petties*

DEACONS

*Jacob Bryant
Rey Cruz
Roger Deem
Gaylen Williams*

PREACHERS

*Dan Carter
Boyce Edwards*

TREASURER

Trevor Heilman

MONTHLY SUPPORT:

*Cherokee Home
For Children
Cherokee, TX*

*Christian Homes &
Family Services
Abilene, TX*

*Foster's Home
For Children
Stephenville, TX*

*Sunny Glen
Children's Home
San Benito, TX*

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

BIBLE CLASSES _____ 9:30 A.M.

WORSHIP _____ 10:30 A.M.

EVENING WORSHIP _____ 5:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY

CLASSES/WORSHIP _____ 7:00 P.M.

It's Already Been Decided

Shepherds Notes by Lee Fisher

Our lives are filled with many different decisions that must be made. Some, we might say, are not all that important, while others are of utmost importance. Quite often, when we are called upon to make important decisions, we do not know how to respond in order to make the proper decision. But when it comes to the major decision as to where we will spend eternity, God has already made the decision as to how we get there! People must be obedient to God's will, not their own! He made all nations and races and has given them one religion for all by establishing His kingdom (Luke 1:31-33).

This kingdom is also called the church which is in keeping with his promise *“upon this rock I will build my church”* (Matt 16:18). From the day the church was first established God has been adding to His church all those who are saved by the blood of Jesus Christ. *“Praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved”* (Acts 2:47). Daily they were being saved—they were being cleansed of all past sins through the blood of Christ. Peter said to them, *“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”* (Acts 2:38). It is after repentance and baptism that God will add one to the Church. Therefore, it is false doctrine to believe a person can first be saved and then later become a member of the church, the body of Christ. According to the scriptures the plan of salvation has been decided by God! The word church or kingdom is also referred to as the body of Christ. When one compares the church to the physical body, he realizes that while there are many members, there can be only one head for the one body (Col 1:18). And (Eph. 1: 22 & 23) declares that God has, *“put all things under Christ's feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the church which is his body.”* And just as the blood in our physical bodies protects us against diseases and heals our wounds, the blood of Christ is present in His spiritual body, the church, to cleanse and heal our souls. Salvation comes only through Jesus as stated in Acts 4:12. *“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”* God has ordained that all those who are baptized into Christ are members of His body, which is the church.

In any kingdom there are laws that must be obeyed, and yes, that has already been decided too! Notice that the First Amendment of the bill rights is a law of the land, but if we want to go to heaven, God's law has all authority in heaven and in earth. It has been provided for us in the New Testament as His only law for citizens of Christ's kingdom. The apostle Paul refers to it as the law of the spirit of life (2 Cor. 3:6). Since God's word is truth, that which disagrees with His word is false!

Decision making can become very confusing at times as we try to determine what we should, or should not do. But Gods plan is clear—we just need to believe it and obey it! Today, we should do what the men and women did in Acts (8:12). When we believe and are baptized, Jesus blood will deliver us from the power of darkness and translate us into the Kingdom of God (Col 1:13, 14). And once we are added to the kingdom and live faithful until death, we may continually enjoy the forgiveness of sin and other spiritual blessings found only in Christ.

In Christian love, Lee.

FALSE INFORMATION

From the Desk of Dan Carter

Down through the years, it has been my observation that false information is used to keep the public under submission. While information fed to the general public would have one to believe that all is well, yet those in the know, know that it is used to keep the public from getting in the panic mode.

Religion is no different. When Moses confronted Aaron about the golden calf, Aaron said to God, "You know how the people are. I only did what they wanted." Shifting the blame was Aarons device and it has been so all the way along human history. Adam said it was Eve's fault; Eve said, "The devil made me do it;" Cain cried out, "Am I my brother's keeper?" and, on and on, we go!

I was standing near enough to hear a religious fellow say that he had to hurry and get to the church and practice his dancing! I said, "Your what?" "Dancing," he said. It seemed that his church had actors on stage doing various things that would excite the audience! Religion? Well, surely, you have read that when Aaron built that golden calf, the people threw off their clothing and danced around it! Oh, yes, that is what it says! Sometimes, religion is as bad as all other things in the world; and when carried on to man's liking, and not after God's will, brings confusion and error!

There is a religious group that for many years encouraged its people not to read the Bible. It is too difficult to understand, they were told; "If you need to know something, then go ask your pastor!" That's the way to do it-keep the people

in the dark! Tell them only what you want them to know. I sometimes get amused at our president as he keeps crying out "fake news," but, you know what, I am about ready to agree! Everywhere we look, people are being lied to just to keep them under control!

You know folks tried that on our Lord. They were fighting as hard as possible to keep the people from listening to Christ. They even said: "Why, that is Mary's boy. He is just a Carpenter's Son; besides, that, do any of us Big Boys follow him?"

Yes, all the way through human history, false news has corrupted the people. Paul talked about how the man of sin would appear on the scene and many would follow him because they did not love the truth. He goes on to say that this 'false leader' would show 'signs' in order to deceive people (2 Thess.2:8-12). Go and read these verses and you will see that was, and is, the plan of the devil all the way along. Keep the people in the dark. Keep them thrilled by signs that will make them wonder.

Oh yes, the devil deceives and religion is just one of his many ways of keeping people from God; false religion, that is!

I keep going back to the statement that will be made at judgment, found in Matthew 7. "*Lord, Lord, we did many works in your name! But, then, I will say to them: I never knew you, Depart from me.*" The fact is, if we truly love the Lord, we will obey Him (John 14:15). We will teach the word of God, unmixed with our own philosophy of false information!



**New Testament Study
(Chronological Order)**

- Day 8 - John 5
- Day 9 - Matthew 12:1-21; Mark 3; Luke 6
- Day 10 - Matthew 5-7
- Day 11 - Matthew 8:1-13; Luke 7
- Day 12 - Matthew 11
- Day 13 - Matthew 12:22-50; Luke 11
- Day 14 - Matthew 13; Luke 8
- Day 15 - Matthew 8:14-34; Mark 4-5
- Day 16 - Matthew 9-10
- Day 17 - Matthew 14; Mark 6; Luke 9:1-17
- Day 18 - John 6
- Day 19 - Matthew 15; Mark 7
- Day 20 - Matthew 16; Mark 8; Luke 9:18-27
- Day 21 - Matthew 17; Mark 9; Luke 9:28-62

**If you would like to join the forum to ask questions, share insights, or to receive encouragement, please see Gaylen or Nichole Williams.*

**THOSE TO SERVE THE WEEK OF
FEBRUARY 25, 2018:**

PARKING LOT DUTY: PATRICK SELLERS

HALL MONITOR: JACOB BRYANT

AUDIO/VIDEO SYSTEMS FOR FEBRUARY:
PATRICK SELLERS

AUDIO/VIDEO SYSTEMS FOR MARCH:
JACOB BRYANT

ANNOUNCEMENTS: BOYCE EDWARDS

SONG DIRECTOR: ZACK PETTIES

COMMUNION:
(NORTH) LEE FISHER, ROGER DEEM
JOHN HOBSON, DERREL HEGINBOTHAM

(SOUTH) GAYLEN WILLIAMS, DENNIS MARLER
ANDRE PETTAWAY, GRAHAM TUCKER

SCRIPTURE READING: JOHN LLEWELLYN

PICK UP CARDS: GIANNI GRIFFITH
GAVIN VINCENT

PRAYERS:
(A.M.) TREVOR HEILMAN, AL WILSON
(P.M.) ZACK PETTIES, DENNIS MARLER

NURSERY ATTENDANTS (A.M.):
GAYLE & TRACY WILSON

EVENING SONG DIRECTOR:
GAYLEN WILLIAMS

EVENING COMMUNION:
ROGER DEEM, TREVOR HEILMAN

WEDNESDAY SONG LEADER: REGGIE BASS

WEDNESDAY PRAYER: GAYLEN WILLIAMS

PREPARE COMMUNION FOR MARCH:
AMANDA PETTIES

Save the Dates: June 2-6

WE WILL BE HOSTING A MARRIAGE RETREAT & GOSPEL MEETING, STARTING JUNE 2 (WITH A MARRIAGE RETREAT, THEN JUNE 3-6 (OUR ANNUAL GOSPEL MEETING), WITH OUR RETURNING GUEST SPEAKER, DR. BILL DAVIS, EDITOR OF FOCUS PRESS MAGAZINE, AND ELDER AT ARLINGTON ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST, IN JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA.

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OUR SICK: Mildred Butlar continues to recover from a stroke. Please keep her in your prayers.

-Pat Bruner has been moved to Waco for rehabilitation from her stroke. Please keep her in your prayers.

- George Kacir's wife, Tiffany, was readmitted into Metroplex Hospital due to complications from her gall bladder surgery. She is in room #520. Please keep her in your prayers.

-The Forkey family is battling the flu. Please keep them in your prayers.

-One of our visitors, Betty Garnett is asking prayers for her daughter in law, Jessica Garnett, who has been diagnosed with lung cancer. Please keep her in your prayers.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR OUR SICK & HOMEBOUND: Kenneth Sellers, Trudy Perrault & her daughters (Trudy & Carol), Linda Moore's brother (Carl Britton), James & Tammy Garner & family members (Christel Algozer & Mary Mosley), Dora Ray Chanslor, Connie Cruz and her friends (Juanita Cardenas & Yolanda Perez) & Rey & Connie's family, Willard Dunn, Linda Walts, Tina Pallo, Jim Dukes, Kyle Pocanowski's mother, Scott Davis, David Shilling, Brett Lingle, Brenda Sellers' mother, stepmother, & her sister (Jesse), Al & Gayle Wilson's sister-in-law (Regina Farmer), Alice Saffor, John Llewellyn's sister (Janet Schleyer), Nelda Cox, Mary Culp, Sybil Cason, Jonathan Simmons Sr., Janet Simmons, Jonathan Simmons Jr., Garnie & Nada Miller, Gail Mende's son (Eric), Shirl Foster, Zack & Amanda Petties' son-in-law's stepmother (Vivian), Amanda's nephew. Please keep these members and loved ones in your prayers as they battle health problems.

VISITATION TEAMS: Visitation Team #3 will meet with their leader, Andre Pettaway, today, to get their visitation assignments. Team members are: Andre & Alfreda Pettaway, Beverly Williams, Donna Hines, and Brenda & Patrick Sellers.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES:

-Today at 3:30pm, in the fellowship hall, Gaylen & Nichole Williams will host a mini devotional for children of all ages followed by slime making, building candy shacks, catching love bugs, and more! *Please see Gaylen & Nichole beforehand - they will need to see the youth earlier that day to prepare something special!

FAREWELL: Please join us following the evening service for a farewell fellowship to say farewell to Mike, Rachel, Annie, & Austin Lane. Mike has accepted a preaching position at the Trenton church of Christ, in Trenton, Texas.

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON: We will have our monthly Fellowship Potluck Luncheon on Sunday, March 4, following the morning service in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring casseroles, meat dishes, vegetables, and desserts. Kitchen Group #3 will have kitchen duties (Judy Wall, Debbie Edwards, Heather Heilman, Luke & Sharon Martin, and Dennis & Sandra Marler).

LADIES: Ladies who are attending the May retreat in Salado need to confirm with Brenda Sellers or Amanda Petties by March 30. Payment has to be made to Amanda Petties by April 29. The cost is \$55 per person.

WELCOME TO THE LORD'S CHURCH THAT MEETS HERE!

Our mission is to share the Good News of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with our neighbors for their soul's salvation.

**Our speaker today is Al Washington.*

Please fill out an Attendance Card and pass it to the inner aisle so we may have a record of your attendance.

THANK YOU!

☞FEBRUARY☞

25-Youth devotional & activity.

25-Farewell fellowship for the Lane family following the evening service.

☞MARCH☞

3-Men's Breakfast

4-Fellowship Luncheon following the morning service, Kitchen Group #3 will have kitchen duties (Judy Wall, Debbie Edwards, Heather Heilman, Luke & Sharon Martin, and Dennis & Sandra Marler).

4-Farewell fellowship for Lucero Escalera following the evening service.

12-16 The secretary will be on vacation.

24-Ladies Breakfast & Workday