



Welcome To The Killeen Church of Christ!

"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



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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*

Can You Guess the Original?

By Phil McIntosh



This past Sunday evening about twenty of us gathered in the Fellowship Hall for our monthly youth devotional. The ages of those in attendance ranged from pre-teen to pre-golden years. In our lesson period of the evening we read though a selected portion of *Ecclesiastes 4* and discussed the importance of a) finding numbers (friends, confidants, advisors, encouragers, etc.) to support us in our life and b) ensuring that those numbers in our personal grouping are healthy for us spiritually. Following our singing and Bible discussion we played a game. We had a record number of participants in our game that even included five people who were not teenagers. The game was actually three different levels of play, each centered around food. During all three of the sets of game the players were either blindfolded or closed their eyes. In the first set, participants ate peanut M&M's and tried to guess which color they were eating. In the second, they were given Skittles and they tried to guess which color they were eating (apparently Skittles not only have different colors, but also different flavors). For the third, and final set of the game, the participants were given four different types of chip: a) potato, b) corn, c) nacho cheese, and d) crunchy cheese. Each of those categories of chip were represented by three distinct brands: a) Name brand [Lays/Fritos/Doritos/Cheetos], b) Great Value, and c) HEB. The goal was to see whether or not the participant was able to guess which chip brand they had just eaten. Interestingly enough, the chip level of the game proved more difficult than the others, with the highest score only correctly guessing which brand of chip they had just eaten 7 out of 12 times. As it turns out, they were not all able to guess easily or accurately the original.

Why do you need to know that? Well, you might not *need* to know it, but it does give you a window into what we do at the youth devotionals. I will stop for just a moment and encourage the youth, and those who have youth in their houses, to attend these monthly fellowships. All of us are likely to need "numbers" in life (*Eccl. 4:9-12*), and it is imperative we choose the right kind (*1 Cor. 15:33*). However, there is another reason to write of our event to you: an example. I want to use the game and subsequent results of the latest youth devo activity to underscore a trouble and a reality in life. The reality is that you and I will always be the hearers of strange doctrine. The trouble is you and I might allow it into our ears long enough to modify our theological and Biblical beliefs.

Even as the Lord's church was in her infancy, before the Bible was completely revealed to mankind, there were detractors, defilers, modifiers, defectors, and perverts of *the* truth from God (*Gal. 1:6-8*). The apostle Paul warned the Ephesians pastors that a time would come when their church would be spiritually attacked by false doctrine, originating from forces without and even within (*Acts 20:28-30*)! As Paul warned the Ephesians, he also warned the young evangelist Timothy. He told him that he needed to "gird up his loins" (to borrow a phrase from the apostle Peter) and teach the truth boldly; for a time was coming when people, as a result of their disagreeability with the truth and what it required of them, would ignore, and even modify, the message they had been given from God (*2 Tim. 4:2-4*). All of these realities and warnings were given by the church to the church in that very first century of existence of our Lord's church!

SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS - 9:30 AM
SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10:30 AM
WEDNESDAY - 7:00 PM

Just imagine how much perversion, modification, and substitution has taken place in the last two thousand years. There are a variety of doctrinal teachings in our world, even amongst those who claim to use the Bible as their primary source. The unfortunate (and dangerous) reality is that most of them are false. They are merely manmade attempts at presenting a *version* of God's word; when, in reality, they are a *perversion* of His truth. Jesus spoke of truth and Pilate asked what it was (**Jn. 18:38**). The *truth* is the eternal, divinely inspired, real, and accurate word of God that will provide us with enlightenment and salvation (**Jn. 17:17**). Any alteration, subtraction, or addition to God's divinely delivered doctrine cannot be called truth and should be whole-heartedly rejected.

Secondarily, a reality of our world is that many will be drawn away as captives into the waiting, welcoming arms of false doctrine and will end up confused. This might necessarily include those who *feel* as if they are truly enlightened, while, in reality, their minds and souls have been hijacked and they are on a collision course with eternal separation from God (**2 Cor. 4:3-4; 11:12-15**). The Bible speaks of a type of person who escapes the captivity of sin and defilement in the world, only to fall victim to false teaching and be absent from God (**2 Pet. 2:18-22**). The weaponry God has afforded to us is not just to keep us from giving in to sin (**Eph. 6:11-17**); it also empowers us to shield our hearts and souls from false teaching.

If you would remind yourself of the chip game we played last Sunday night, most of the participants were not able to determine which brand of chip they were eating. While this makes for a fun game (and a good article example), the real-life version of this could be cataclysmic. It is a catastrophic failure to leave the safe confines of God's word and adopt a teaching originating from the devising of man. That is one of the purposes of the church- to help us keep that ship sailing true:

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹⁹for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹⁸till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the

knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ...” **Ephesians 4:11-15**

How though can you train yourself to know when you're eating the “true” and not one of the “fakes”? You do not, and should not, eat all of the ones pretending to be real, hoping you can decipher amongst the many options. You should eat enough of the true to know a fake as soon as it hits your mouth (ears/mind/heart). Study, read, and meditate on God's word and so familiarize yourself with it that, when you are presented with something that is not original, you are able to spot it and spit it out (**1 Jn. 2:21; 4:1**).

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2023





CHURCH COMMUNICATION:
Please check your email for the
Monday Morning Message!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - LUKE MARTIN
- 3 - RUFUS BROWN
- 5 - JADEN SEAY
- 9 - AL WILSON
- 9 - RALPH HUGHART
- 18 - BRUCE BROWN
- 23 - JODI CULP
- 27 - TONI MENDEZ
- 30 - ALFREDA PETTAWAY

January Nursery Schedule

1-Brenda Sellers
8-Josephine Spear
15-Nichole Williams
22-Amanda Petties
29-Natalie Fisher
*Substitute or Assist:
Victoria Polanco

*We are in need of
more ladies to help in
the nursery. If you
would like to be on
the nursery list,
please contact the
office. Thank you!

January Cleaning Calendar

•May be done any time before the next Sunday.
•Please consult with your team leader for further questions.

1-TEAM ZACK Amanda Diedre Paul Ruby	15-TEAM PHIL Michelle Beverly Josephine Yvonne Lois	29-TEAM ROGER Patrick Brenda Linda
8-TEAM JAMES Kim-Marie Xavier Jaden Kingsford Barbara	22-TEAM LEE Natalie Derek Ken Tim	

ORDER OF SERVICE
SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2023:

- ♦ANNOUNCEMENTS: REGGIE BASS
- ♦1ST PRAYER: BILL RAWLINGS
- ♦SONG: IVAN MCINTOSH
- ♦SCRIPTURE READING: SEAN MALDONADO
- ♦SONG: IVAN MCINTOSH
- ♦SERMON: PHIL MCINTOSH
- ♦INVITATION SONG: IVAN MCINTOSH
- ♦SONG BEFORE COMMUNION:
IVAN MCINTOSH
- COMMUNION:
ROGER DEEM & GIANNI GRIFFITH
- ♦SONG: IVAN MCINTOSH
- ♦OFFERING:
ROGER DEEM & GIANNI GRIFFITH
- ♦CLOSING SONG: IVAN MCINTOSH
- ♦CLOSING PRAYER: GAYLEN WILLIAMS
- ♦AUDIO/VISUAL: PATRICK SELLERS
- ♦SECURITY: TIM MATTER & ROGER DEEM
- ♦NURSERY: AMANDA PETTIES

SCRIPTURE READING

**“Give God What He Deserves”
Psalm 104:31-34**

- “³¹ The glory of the Lord shall endure for ever:
the Lord shall rejoice in his works.*
- ³² He looketh on the earth, and it trembleth: he
toucheth the hills, and they smoke.*
- ³³ I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live: I will
sing praise to my God while I have my being.*
- ³⁴ My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad
in the Lord.”*

