

## ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A NEW CHURCH?

There are many reasons why one might be looking for a new church. Some seek out a place of worship because of family ties. Still others may choose to worship with a particular group because of the relationship they have with friends and neighbors. There may be a church in the community where you are living, and for that reason you attend there.

I grew up in a family that were members of the church of Christ, having been taught by a Christian mother and father, hearing preaching from the pulpit right out of the Bible, and having a Bible school teacher teaching me straight from the Book. When I went to college, I wanted to know whether or not I had been taught the truth. I wanted to know if my convictions were well-founded, or if I was the victim of just being taught by others. For several years I tried to “suspend judgment” and go back to the Bible. I wanted to re-check everything. How could I lose? If I had been taught something that was wrong, then I would find it out. If I had been taught what was right, then I would be doubly assured that I was in the right way—which turned out to be the very case.

A friend of mine did not have that kind of experience while growing up. He decided to find the answer to his questions by visiting every congregation of people in the town. He, through time, learned what was being taught, but had decided that he wasn't finding the answer. So he bought a little New Testament and during the summer months read his Bible. As he read it, he found many of the teachings that he had been exposed to were not in harmony with what was taught and what he was reading. He began to look at the practices and the teachings of various people, and he decided that the answer was in the guidebook he had, which was his Bible. It happened that by hearing a gospel sermon he realized that this was what he was looking for. Consequently, he became a member of the church you read about in the Bible.

It has always been interesting to me that both of us, coming from different backgrounds and experiences, could go

to the Bible, read it, and reach the same conclusions about what God wants us to do religiously. This illustration has been repeated countless times, as literal thousands have come to Jesus by obeying His Word which is found in the Bible.

Surely, one family under God is the goal of the Son of God who died for us all! We read in Ephesians 4:4-6 that “there is one body, one Spirit, even as you are called in one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all.” There is one body that Jesus died for and He is the head over the one body (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4). Therefore, the Scriptures teach that there is one way, and that one way can be found by diligently searching the Scriptures.

If you are searching for a church, the wise thing to do would be to go to the Bible and see what God has called it—“the churches of Christ” (Rom. 16:16b), see how God had designed it (Eph. 3:1-21), learn how Jesus has built it, read about its organization (Phil. 1:1), its mission (Matt. 28:18-20), its simple and beautiful worship (Col. 3:16; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Tim. 2:15; Acts 20:7), and its terms of entrance. If a person decides to please God more than anything or anybody in this life, then he will look to what God has said in His Word to find the divine pattern for the church that belongs to Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

If you are looking for a new church, then find the one that is as old as the Scriptures themselves—the church that belongs to Jesus—the church of Christ (Rom. 16:16b).

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**Jim Laws** *from Eastside Edifier*

## WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE?

One man said to his friend, “What do you believe about God?” “I believe what my church believes.” “What does your church believe?” “My church believes what I believe.” “What do you and your church believe?” “We both believe the same thing.”

It is sad to say, but this is about all some people know about God and His written word. Many, it seems, are counting

on someone else to do their own study of the Bible. Paul warns us, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad” (2 Corinthians 5:10). We must all, as individuals, stand before the judgment seat of Christ. We cannot rely on anyone else at that time, but we will all receive what we individually deserve from the Lord. Paul continued, “Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men” (2 Corinthians 5:11). If I can persuade you of only one thing today, it is this: please study your Bible for yourself.

Do you have the same love for the Bible that the writer of Psalm 119 had? Each of its twenty-eight sections is devoted to praise for God's revelation. Each section extols the power of the Bible. Verses 113-120 are typical of the beautiful thoughts about the Word:

*“I hate vain thoughts: but thy law do I love. Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word. Depart from me, ye evildoers: for I will keep the commandments of my God. Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live: and let me not be ashamed of my hope. Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe: and I will have respect unto thy statutes continually. Thou hast trodden down all them that err from thy statutes: for their deceit is falsehood. Thou puttest away all the wicked of the earth like dross: therefore I love thy testimonies. My flesh trembleth for fear of thee; and I am afraid of thy judgments.”*

Can you truly say with the psalmist, “I hate vain thoughts: but thy law do I love”?

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**Bob Prichard** *from HouseToHouse*

## ANNIVERSARY

Tom and Cindy Bright, 06-21.

## BIRTHDAY

Monica Nemechek, 06-20.

## ILL

**Sunday:** Millie Robertson (PM).

**Wednesday:** Melissa Cole; Monica, Brooke and Taylor Nemechek; Allen and Clara Scott.

Debra Gragg's sister remains in a rehabilitation center for treatment.

**Those battling cancer:** David Cole, Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph Franklin.

## HOME BOUND

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

## OUT OF TOWN

John and Louise Dodson were visiting relatives in Arkansas last week. The Stillwell family was vacationing in Orlando, FL last week. John and Barbara James were at Clinton last week. Leah Hempelmann returned from a mission trip in Peru on Saturday.

## FAMILY BIBLE STUDIES

The theme this year is: *"Walking In Son Light."* The dates are July 28 – August 1. Plan to be here every night!

## ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 46; Sunday PM, 32; Wednesday PM, 25.

*"Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."*

**Ephesians 6:2-3**

## Those To Serve

June 15, 2008

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Brown

### MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Trent Thrasher

SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson

OPENING PRAYER ..... Jared Nelson

PRESIDE..... Jeff Nemechek

ASSIST..... John Cody Carter

ASSIST..... John James

CLOSING PRAYER..... George Thomas

### EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER ..... John Dodson

CLOSING PRAYER..... Chris Edwards

LORD'S SUPPER..... Jeff Nemechek

### WEDNESDAY 18th

SONG LEADER..... Ted Thrasher

INVITATION ..... George Thomas

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Sunday

Bible Study ..... 9:30 AM

Morning Worship ..... 10:30 AM

Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

### Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study ..... 10:00 AM

Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

**Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher**

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