

**DeKalb Church
of Christ**

1265 E. Front St.
Hwy. 82 East
DeKalb, TX 75559
903-667-2388

**Schedule of
Services**

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30

Worship 10:25

Worship 6:00

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00

Preacher

Michael Gilbert
69 CR 3204

DeKalb, TX 75559
903-701-6700
gilbertfamily2000@
gmail.com

**What must I do to
be saved?**

1. **Hear the Gospel.**
(Rom. 10:17; Acts. 18:8)
2. **Believe in Christ.**
(Jn. 8:24; 20:30-31)
3. **Repent of my sins.**
(Acts 17:30-31)
4. **Confess my faith in Christ.**
(Acts. 8:37; 1 Tim. 6:12)
5. **Be baptized into Christ.**
(Acts. 2:38; Mk. 16:16)
6. **Be faithful.**
(Rev. 2:10)

Record (12-2-07)

B.C. – 39
A.M. – 62
P.M. – 38
Wed. - 36
Offering – \$1,858
Wkly Bdg. - \$1,702

News & Notes

Shut-Ins/Extd illness - *(Remember with calls, cards, prayers, visits, etc.)*

Carlos Rodgers; Bessie Daniel; Paula Hodgson; Netia Ward; Neta Wilsford
Pat and Mary Ann Davis; Homer Batchelor; DeWayne Garner; Joey Almaraz;
Kellie Fletcher

Prayer List

- ***Letha Robbins** (has been sick lately)
- ***Al Washington** (recent stroke, is in Dallas hospital; Al is a brother in Christ)
- ***June Tice** (came home from the hospital)
- ***Zack Booth** has a friend whose mother has been diagnosed with cancer, he asks that we remember her in prayer.

Announcements

- ***Birthdays:** Giles Feazel (5th), Dakota Williams (10th), and Betty Feazel (12th)
- ***Anniversaries:** Pat and Mary Ann Davis (7th)
- ***Singing Practice Today @ 5PM**
- ***Bible Bowl** - study Matthew (chps. 9-12) for tomorrow's competition.
- ***Ladies Bible Class** Wednesday @ 10 AM.
- ***Devotional** at Sunny Acres next Sunday at 3PM.
- ***Birthday party** at Sunny Acres has been moved to this Thursday @ 2pm.
- *Remember the "special donation" today for Boles Children's Home.
- *Remember to make "homemade" candy for Boles Children's Home, which will be carried to them in the near future.
- *Remember to donate money for the fruit baskets for the residents at Sunny Acres and the shut-ins. Donations can be given to Doyle Raney or Giles Feazel.
- *There will be an elders/deacons/preacher meeting following PM services tonight.
- *The congregation is invited to the Dalby's house on New Year's Eve.
- *If you returned your questionnaire to the elders, please do so as soon as possible.
- ***Bessie Daniel** is looking for someone to stay with her to cook, clean, and do household chores...she is losing her current help. If you know of anyone looking for this type of work...contact sister Bessie.

Brotherhood Events *(see bulletin board for flyers)*

- *Bible Bowl of Northeast Texas - tomorrow night @ 7pm. (Matt. 9-12).

DeKalb Digest

Volume 2, Issue 49

<http://dekalbcoc.wordpress.com>

December 9, 2007

Privileged To Serve...

December 2nd

Announcements & 1st Prayer.... Buddy Ray

Song Leader (AM / PM)...John Gibbert

Lord's Table.... Giles Feazel, Dickie Dalby, Mitchell Weeks

Scripture Reading (Communion): Michael Gilbert

Scripture Reading (Sermon): Charles Lee (1 Cor. 11:1)

Prayers -- AM & PM

2nd prayer.....Parker Turner

Closing..... Craig Loe

AM Sermon: Following Paul's Example

PM Sermon: A Heart That Deviseth Wicked Imaginations

Welcome!

The DeKalb Church of Christ is committed to the 'old paths' (Jer. 6:15). We preach Jesus Christ as the resurrected Son of God (I Cor. 15:1-4) and the Bible as His revealed will for all nations of the earth (Mk. 16:15-16).

We invite you to come worship with us at every opportunity you may have. Should you desire to study the Bible with us in your home, please let us know. We will be happy to give you a Bible answer for your Bible question.

We have two elders: Dickie Dalby and John Loe. These men oversee the congregation (Acts 20:28; Heb. 13:7, 17; I Tim. 3:1ff). We also have three deacons - Giles Feazel, Dwayne Jeffery, and Jim Reaves, who serve the congregation in various ways (Acts 6:3; Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:8ff). Our preacher is Michael Gilbert (2 Tm. 4:2).

**Highlights From
Highlighted Passages**

*"Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son"
(Gen. 22:10)*

Perhaps you have wondered, as many have, how Abraham got the faith to sacrifice Isaac whom he loved so much. We know that he was stopped just before he completed the offering...and we also know that he would have completed it. Just where did he get that kind of faith?

Perhaps the answer lies in the previous chapter - Genesis 21.

After disputing with a king about a well of water, Moses informs us that Abraham, "...planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba and called there on the name of the Lord, the Everlasting God. And Abraham sojourned many days in the hands of the Philistines" (Gen. 21:33-34). Before the biggest trial of his life, Abraham had been worshiping the Lord! In fact, it seems that he was nurturing his relationship with God, and this during the 'good times', for he was in the Philistines' land 'many days'. What's the point?

Dear reader, Abraham could face the most trying test of his faith in God with confidence because he had been calling "on the name of the Lord"!

The next time you are tempted to forsake the assembly, or perhaps neglect your daily Bible reading/studying, think about Abraham. Remember what got him through this test of his faith.

If you nurture your personal relationship with God, He will also help you during the "trying times"!

The Christian and "Higher Education"

by Wayne Jackson

(Intro to article by Jackson: Youngsters who attend secular educational institutions frequently are confronted with seriously erroneous teachings. How do they deal with these dangerous situations? It doesn't have to be a hostile encounter.)

I receive a tremendous amount of mail soliciting my advice on a variety of issues. A recent letter was from a Christian young man who has completed a Master's program and is proceeding towards a Ph.D. He currently is teaching English literature in a high school. One of his requirements is to teach a specific book that has material dealing with drug use, sex, etc. Not all of the book is defective and he is allowed to be selective as to which sections to introduce. He asks whether he is required to reject the book altogether (which could produce serious consequences) or if he might simply assign segments that avoid the filth.

I told him of a Christian friend who teaches high school science. The textbooks are filled with evolutionary propaganda. He presents the authors' viewpoints, and clearly labels them as "theory." Then, pursuing legitimate methods of scientific investigation, he offers alternate evidence that contrasts scientific "fact" with evolutionary "theory." He is extremely popular, having been voted top teacher in his entire high school. He never compromises, but is "wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove."

There may be occasions where head-to-head resistance, with consequences to follow, are inevitable—but it doesn't always have to be that way.

When reflecting upon this matter, I was reminded of a situation in my own life as a twenty-four-year-old student. When I enrolled in the old Stockton College some forty-six years ago, I took a course in evolutionary biology. My professor was a kindly gentleman who also was an ardent evolutionist. This really went "against my grain." However, I tried to be the best student I could. I did my work, participated in class discussions, was respectful, and genuinely liked my teacher. He knew that, and he enjoyed having me as his student.

In taking tests, I would preface my answers with such phrases as, "According to the textbook . . ." Frequently I would respectfully footnote my answers with my own response. In class I would raise other points of view, but they were not presented in a rude or aggressive fashion; they did courteously challenge the material. My teacher always listened carefully, and at times would offer a response.

I recall he posed this question to the class one day—though clearly it was aimed at me. "Since the saline ratio in human blood is virtually the equivalent of that found in the sea, what conclusion might be drawn from this analogy?" When there was no immediate response from the class, he pointedly asked: "What would you say, Mr. Jackson?" I responded: "Mr. Hall, I am sure some would suggest this indicates that humans had their origin in the sea." He smiled, pleased that I had concluded correctly the drift of his argument.

But I was not finished. "Another possibility might be that the same Chemist formulated both mixtures." He smiled even broader, knowing he had been out-foxed by the "little" fox. Sometimes "little foxes" do "spoil the vineyards" (Song of Solomon 2:15)!

One day he announced: "Mr. Jackson you will teach our class on Friday." I did; he gave me the entire period! During the semester, that offer was never made to another student. Did I mention that I received an A for the course? Don't bother to ask about other grades!

My point is this. There will be times when, in working within the secular educational system (as student or teacher), there will be confrontations the Christian may not be able to "step around," and truth must be defended. When that time comes, let us do so with grace and wisdom.

Our job is to "sow the seed." Who knows when it may fall upon the "good soil" and eventually produce fruit? We ought to thank God when he grants us opportunities to exert our influence in what could be dangerous territory.

A Plea for New Testament

Christianity

Brandon Renfroe

There are two rival conceptions of the church held by many today. One holds that the church is a conglomerate of sorts, being composed of all Christ-believing individuals, regardless of the "church" to which they belong. The other view maintains that while the church is composed of every saved individual on earth, only those who have done just what the Bible requires are in fact saved. Which view is correct?

It cannot be denied that Christ desired unity among His followers. In the shadow of the cross, the Savior prayed that His disciples might be "one," so "that the world may believe" that He was sent from the Father (cf. John 17:20–21). The early church was a model of this prayer for unity. "And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul" (Acts 4:32). Sadly, the religious world today is anything but united. There are hundreds, if not thousands, of competing religious bodies, each vying for our attention and subsequent allegiance. Most, if not all, teach conflicting doctrines and practice varying rituals. From a rational vantage point, it seems the only unity that can rightly be claimed for all such endeavors is superficial at best.

In stark contrast to the present state of affairs, there is a beautiful simplicity to Christianity. When the apostle Paul delineated the heart of the gospel, he did so in this fashion: Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day. When the same apostle wrote to the Romans, he indicated that we submit to a "form" of this teaching (cf. Romans 6:17) when we die to the unrestrained practice of sin, are buried with Christ in baptism, and then raised to walk in "newness of life" (cf. Romans 6:2–4; Colossians 2:12). All who have done so are members of the body of Christ, the church (cf. Ephesians 1:22–23; Colossians 1:18, 24). The name God would have them wear is "Christian"—nothing more, nothing less.

An Open Letter To All Parents

by "Heartbroken Parents"

Three months ago I sat in a courtroom and heard a judge say, "20 years."

He was pronouncing sentence on our 21-year-old son—punishment for drinking, gambling, and robbery, which ended in the shooting and near death of a man. The sentence might have been less, but our son had a defiant attitude throughout the trial, ridiculing every officer who spoke to him.

But the shocking climax came when the judge asked, "Young man, don't you believe in God?" He laughed aloud as he said, "God? Who's that?"

Everyone in the courtroom turned and looked at us.

We went to Bible class when we were small and had learned about God. After we were married, we decided to go again and take the children. All of us went regularly for a year. Then we skipped two or three services—then went only on special times. Soon we joined a recreation team and competed on Sunday afternoons. We couldn't go to church and get ready in time to play, and sports were so much fun! If only we had those years to live over. Time after time since that trial, we have heard the words of our son, "God? Who's that?" ringing in our ears. When we think of the wasted years of "having fun" instead of meeting God at His appointed place, we are sick with shame.

We're trying to make restitution by urging other people to go. So many say, "We do not believe in making a child go to church if he doesn't want to go." How many would go to school if they were not made to go? Ask any child that question!