

**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

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[gmail.com](mailto: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 (12-16-07)

B.C. – 28

A.M. – 72

P.M. – 28

Wed. - 29

Offering – \$1,386

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

- ***Jean Jagers** (continues to need our prayers)
- ***Bill Hawkins** (batling cancer, will undergo treatment in near future)
- ***Margaritte Morgan**, the sister of Dot Swint (and Helen Dotson) was buried last Friday. We extend our sympathy to this family.
- ***Bill Hawkins** (diagnosed with cancer, but doctors say it is treatable)
- ***Neta Walraven's sister** is still recovering from a stroke and heart attack.
- ***Doyle Raney** underwent a medical procedure on his other eye this week, and is doing fine.
- ***Carlos Rodgers** has been having it rough lately, keep him in your prayers.
- ***Letha Robbins** (has been sick lately)

Announcements

- ***Birthdays:** Jim Reaves (12-27) and Jack Williams (12-28)!
- ***Singing Practice Today @ 5PM**
- *Be sure to attend tonight's "**Song & Scripture**" service. The men of the congregation will be leading the service.
- *Sunday, **December 30th service times are regular time.** We normally change our times of service on 5th Sunday's, but not this month.
- *If you have not returned your **questionnaire to the elders**, please do so as soon as possible.
- *The congregation is invited to the **Dalby's house on New Year's Eve.**
- ***Bible Bowl** - study Matthew (chps. 13-16) for January's competition. We will be hosting the Bible Bowl in February. More details to follow in January.
- ***Ladies Bible Class** will resume Wednesday, Jan. 16th @ 10 AM.

Brotherhood Events *(see bulletin board for flyers)*

- *Bible Bowl of Northeast Texas - Jan. 14th @ 7pm. (Matt. 13-16).
- *We have a Gospel Meeting planned for Feb. 24-27 with David Williams of Nashville, AR!
- *Teacher's Workshop (for ladies' only) @ N. Jefferson congregation, Jan. 28th (9am - 3pm, lunch will be served).

DeKalb Digest

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December 23, 2007

Privileged To Serve...

December 23rd

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): Mitchell Weeks

Prayers -- AM & PM

2nd prayer.....Jim Reaves

Closing..... Alex Evans

AM Sermon: Buddy Ray Preaching

PM Sermon: Scripture & Song Service

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**

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night"

(Luke 2:8)

Even though we don't know exactly when Jesus was born, and even though we are told to commemorate His death on a weekly basis (not His birth, Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:23ff), and even though Christians in the New Testament never celebrated His birth as people do today (although they, as well as us, are thankful for it), we can't help but be reminded of His birth this time of year. That being the case, let's take five simple lessons from the shepherds who visited the baby Jesus.

The shepherds were watchful (Luke 2:8). Christians today should be watchful, for Jesus taught, "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh" (Mat. 25:13).

The shepherds obeyed Heaven's instructions (Luke 2:15). Concerning the Bible, faithful Christians have "received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God (1 Thess. 2:13)...and are "...doers of the word, and not hearers only..." (James 1:22)

Not only did the shepherds believe and obey the Bible, but they "...made haste..." to spend time with the child and "...made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child..." (Luke 2:16-17). In so doing, the shepherds glorified God (Luke. 2:20). How much do you resemble the shepherds?

Brethren,

It is hard to believe that another year has "come and gone". Christmas is upon us, and we can't stop time! For some, this is the happiest time of the year and for you, we are happy! For others, the Holidays (especially Christmas) can be a very sad time b/c your departed loved ones can't be here to enjoy the festivities...for you, we are praying...remember that God is "the God of all comfort" (2 Cor. 1:3).

Aren't you thankful to God to live in a free country? A country in which we can travel with ease to visit family several miles away...we hope you are able to spend time with your family! We are happy to be traveling to East TN this Christmas, but at the same time we look forward to being back here with you.

May God bless you over the next few days with happiness, and may His people always be grateful for the bountiful blessings given to the good ole' USA!

Wishing all of you a happy and safe Holiday Season!

MERRY

CHRISTMAS!

-Michael, Elizabeth, and J.M. Gilbert-

The Paradox of the Church

by Hardeman Nichols

When a congregation is established according to the divine pattern of the New Testament, it is composed of **elements of perfection** and **elements of imperfection**. Since it is a divine institution, it deserves respect and appreciation. Everything that such a church is and does, as authorized of God, is divine.

God's part is perfect. He has designed a perfect plan of salvation and a perfect system of worship (2 Tim. 3:16-17). The Bible is its only guide, is "the perfect law of liberty"(James 1:25). The church has a perfect Savior who holds before us His perfect life for our goal, saying, "Follow Me"(Matt. 16:24).

But here is the paradox. Man is not perfect, nor does he perfectly follow the Lord. **The human element in the church is as imperfect as its members.** The church would have been an imperfect institution if it had been designed only for perfect people! It would have no members at all, "For there is not a just man upon the earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not"(Eccl. 7:20).

The church's perfection is retained by the way it deals with our imperfections. It does not overlook sin, but believes that grace of God is perfect in dealing with it. And it must distinguish between the penitent and the rebellious, between the humble weak and willful reprobate. God now "commandeth all men everywhere to repent"(Acts 17:30-31).

The church believes that Christ promises pardon for all imperfect beings who, in godly sorrow for their sins, penitently seek mercy and forgiveness. His invitation is to imperfect men. When one repents and is baptized, Jesus forgives his sins and adds him to His church(Acts 2:38, 47). Covered by the blood of Christ, the penitent and faithful Christian is perfect before His God, as he walks in the light(I Jn. 1:7).

The church offers strength to help us in our weaknesses, courage when we are fainthearted, comfort when we are sad, and "joy unspeakable and full of glory"(I Pet. 1:3) along the way. Its call is to all men to come and be saved. Its God-ordained teachings and services restore lost humanity back to God. Thanks be unto God for His perfect church and its wondrous benefits to imperfect men.