

**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 5:00

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 (2-17-08)

B.C. – 40
A.M. – 58
P.M. – 27
Wed. - 38
Offering – \$1,492
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

- *Dorothy Jackson (cancer; friend and Delores Brewer from New Orleans)
- *Helen Richardson (still having lingering problems with her eyes)
- *Bill Hawkins (cancer surgery this Tuesday)
- *Pat Davis (seems to have improved with new meds)
- *Tanner Bailey (4th grade student at Hubbard, had a brain procedure done and has suffered an infection from it)
- *Letha Robbins (has bronchitis, and has undergone some tests, the results have not come back yet. it will be a few more weeks before they will find out what is wrong)
- *Nancy Kier (her brother, Jim Morse, Jr., passed away in CA)
- *Jane Turner (was admitted into Wadley rm. 586, with a high fever, hopes to come home today)
- *Bobby Hodgson (the cataract surgery was successful, however, he is having problems with his retinas, and will be seeing a specialist soon)
- *Bonnie Rodgers (has had bronchitis this week)

Announcements

- *Birthdays: Jessica Mitchell (2-26), Elizabeth Gilbert (2-26)!
- *Today is **Potluck Sunday** - it kicks off our Gospel Meeting with David Williams! We are pleased to have David, Tina, Matthew and Zack with us!
- *There will be a **burnout shower** for Kelly and Angie Dalby, today, from 2 - 3:30pm @ our Multi-Purpose building. They are registered at Walmart and Target. For more info, contact Kassie Loe.
- *Ladies' Bible Class is postponed until next week.
- *The next **Bible Bowl** of Northeast Texas (BB-NET for short) event will be March 10th (7pm). Our team did well considering that 2 out of 3 members of our team were brand new this month! Much good is being done through the Bible Bowl - everyone is learning God's Word, and some of the kids are now having Bible studies with their non-Christian friends!

Brotherhood Events(see bulletin board for flyers)

- *Gospel Meeting @ Avery, March 3-6 @ 7pm.
- *Bible Bowl of Northeast Texas - March 10th @ 7pm. (read often Matt. 21-24).
- *Gospel Meeting @ Atlanta - March 16-19, with Barry Grider of the Memphis School of Preaching and co-editor of the *Gospel Journal*.
- *Congregational Singing @ Westside in Idabel, March 28th @ 7pm.
- *Ladies Day @ Blodgett, Sat. March 29th, Phyllis Holt Davis will be speaking on "Swept Away in Kingdom Living"
- *Gospel Meeting @ Westside in Idabel, March 30-April 4

DeKalb Digest

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February 24, 2008

Privileged To Serve...

February 24th

Announcements & 1st Prayer.... Dickie Dalby

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

Lord's Table.... Giles Feazel, Mitchell Weeks, Craig Loe

Scripture Readings

Communion.....Michael Gilbert (1 Cor. 11:23-26)

Sermon..... Seth Salinas (Romans 1:16)

Prayers -- AM & PM

2nd prayer.....Doyle Raney

Closing.....Dwayne Jeffery

AM Sermon: David Williams Preaching

PM Sermon: David Williams Preaching

Welcome!

The DeKalb Church of Christ is committed to the 'old paths' (Jer. 6:16). 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**

A Lesson from Ephesians 4:1-24...

According to Ephesians 4:1-24, God wants two things from a congregation: for it to be united (v. 1-3) and for every member to contribute to its success (v. 16). Paul explains the doctrinal basis for this unity with 7 ones listed in verses 4-6.

However, according to v. 7, all congregations have a problem, "But unto every one of us...". The problem is that a local church is made up of several people with differing backgrounds that bring "baggage" into the congregation and have a hard time being united. How does God solve this problem? Well, the rest of the verse answers the question, "But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ" (v. 7).

The "grace given" is the gifts of teaching given to the members of the local congregation (v. 8-11). We understand that miraculous gifts have ceased, but we see clearly that the teaching/preaching that was done in the 1st century has not ceased.

Paul reveals to us that the teaching program of the local congregation brings every member into a "job" in the local congregation (v. 16), and the whole teaching program is rooted & grounded in "the truth", v. 15.

This results in mature Christians who, now keenly aware of their responsibilities within the local church through the dynamic, uncompromising teaching from the word of God, do not "walk as other gentiles walk" (v. 17, 18-24).

Counting The Cost (part 1 of 2)

By Marvin L. Weir

Man is not a plant or an animal. Man was created in the image of God (Gen. 1:27) and has the ability to reason and think. This being the case, God expects humans to be reasonable creatures! Christ hurled His challenge to men in this manner: "For which of you, desiring to build a tower, doth not first sit down and count the cost, whether he have wherewith to complete it? Lest haply, when he hath laid a foundation, and is not able to finish, all that behold begin to mock him, saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish" (Luke 14:28-30). If we are wise, then surely we do not want our lives to end in confusion and shame like those who began the tower of Babel (cf. Gen. 11:4, 8-9).

To live the Christian life is a serious and solemn matter. Let us count the cost of being a child of God. We must count on:

Giving up sin. Christ gave His life for us that He might "redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a people for his own possession, zealous of good works" (Titus 2:14). Sin is the very worst of all the investments man can make! Every facet associated with sin is rotten to the core. A Christian must be willing to repent of his sins. Repentance involves a "turning from" sin, and the determination to practice it no more (cf. Matt. 21:29). Many people today want to go to Heaven while living in sin (Col. 3:7). But those who continue to practice sin will not inherit the kingdom of God (1 Cor. 6:9; Gal. 5:21)! We must count the cost, as there is a price to be paid for giving up sin.

Surrendering the will. We must count the cost of denying self and following Christ (Matt. 16:24). Paul makes it clear that the body should not control the mind, but the mind the body (1 Cor. 9:27). We must count what it will cost to put Christ and His kingdom first in everything that we do (Matt. 6:33). A failure to do such will lead to "will-worship" (Col. 2:23). Coffman comments on "will-worship" as follows:

Whatever human precepts and ordinances may exhibit as to their "wisdom," it is a delusion, for "they are not of any value." Will-worship means the kind of actions engaged in because they please the worshiper, and not because they were commanded by the Lord. Humility is a fine thing, if it is true humility; but a false humility pretending to be too God-fearing to approach God as God has directed, and then seeking to approach through some angel, or human mediator, or through some deceased saint, such so-called humility is actually spiritual arrogance.

One who does not count the cost of denying self will bind where the Lord has not bound, and loose where the Lord has not loosed! A refusal to surrender the will is the chief cause of division in religion today.

Preaching Should Be Increased (or, *Kill the Church - Downplay Preaching*)

by Michael Gilbert (part 1 in a series)

There's really only one fundamental reason to worship with a congregation - the character of its preaching and teaching program. It's the Word that saves, not programs. It's the Word of God that counts, not numbers. It's the Word of God that matters, not how many visitors return. It's the Word of God that should be promoted, not the ability or likability of any one preacher or teacher. It's the Word of God that should gain our attention, not how many activities the congregation provides for "my kids".

Hear Paul's plea to a struggling Corinthian congregation, "*For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness, but unto us which are saved, it is the power of God*" (1 Cor. 1:18). Again, God's messenger emphasized the innate, saving power of God's Word when he wrote, "*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth...*" (Rom. 1:16).

Congregations of the churches of Christ all across the U.S. are clamoring for a decrease in preaching in order to gain numbers and please the members. "Shorter sermons are better", they say. The all too familiar refrain, "It's hard to sit through a 30-minute sermon", seems to be the sentiment of most 'Christians' these days. High School football games are three and one half hours, movies range from one hour and a half, to 2 hours in length - and that is fine - just give us a short sermon and let's go home! The majority believe we need more prayers and less preaching, more singing and less preaching, more emphasis on the Lord's Supper and less preaching. After all, we are already accustomed to "preparing our minds for the Lord's Supper", after which, we "prepare our minds" to endure the sermon. So, why not shorten (even cancel) the preaching service and alleviate the pain altogether? Skits work better anyway, right?

Why is it the case that modern Americans are so intent on offering things to God, but less intent to hear what God has to offer us through His Word? Why do we clamor for more singing, more Lord's Supper time, more praying time, yet less time for allowing God to direct our lives by the "word of God, which liveth and abideth forever" (1 Pt. 2:23)? Oddly enough, no one ever complains about the lack of time devoted to the contribution!

It's as if we're saying, "Lord, what I have to offer you is important. But, what you have to offer me through your chosen messenger is simply too boring. Your Word is too hard to understand"!

Our prayer could be, "Lord, have mercy on us - for we are just humans. We're not that bad - we send ourselves (and our kids) to 4-year universities and pressure ourselves (and our kids) to learn, but we just can't get up the nerve to pressure ourselves (or our offspring) to "endure long sermons". You'll overlook that, right Lord?"

Study with me over the next few weeks as Paul gives us 5 reasons why the preaching of the gospel must be increased, not downplayed, from 2 Tim. 3:1 through 4:5.