

**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
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**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 (3-30-08)

B.C. – 41
A.M. – 62
P.M. – 32
Wed. - 29
Offering – \$1,445
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; Jean Jagers; Homer Batchelor; DeWayne Garner; Joey
Almaraz; Kellie Fletcher

Prayer List

- ***Jean Jagers** (had a few bad days this past week - needs our visits & encouragement)
- ***Jack Williams** (still in a lot of pain, and would appreciate a call or a visit)
- ***Herman Aaron** (has undergone tests to determine what is causing his internal blood loss; he has spent time in Wadley this week, but is home now; Linda Loe's brother)
- ***Linda Batchelor** (was diagnosed with cancer, and she had surgery to remove it, but doctors could not get it all...it is very aggressive, and she will undergo chemo...Homer requests our fervent prayers)
- ***Dickie, Genita, and Mitchell** as they are on vacation this week.
- ***Michael, Elizabeth, and J.M.** as they travel to East TN this Friday. Michael will be holding a gospel meeting on April 13-17.

Announcements

- ***Birthday:** Dwayne Jeffery (4-7), Bonnie Rodgers (4-9)!
- ***Ladies' Bible Class** will meet today @ 5pm.
- ***Birthday party @ Sunny Acres** is next week (April 16th) @ 2pm.
- ***Devotional @ Sunny Acres** will be two weeks from today (April 20 @ 3pm). If you haven't been involved in this good work before, this is a great time to get started!
- *The last **Bible Bowl** event for the 2007-2008 season will be April 14 @ 7pm (be reading & studying Matt. 25 - 28).

Brotherhood Events(see bulletin board for flyers)

- ***Bible Bowl of Northeast Texas** - April 14th @ 7pm. (read often Matt. 25-28).
- *2nd Annual **Young Men's Retreat** @ Beaver's Bend Youth Camp #2, sponsored by the Broken Bow church of Christ, May 16th - May 18th.

DeKalb Digest

Volume 3, Issue 14

visit us @ dekalbcoc.wordpress.com

April 6, 2008

Privileged To Serve...

April 6th

Announcements & 1st Prayer.... Dickie Dalby

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

Lord's Table.... Dwayne Jeffery, Charles Lee, Giles Feazel

Scripture Readings

Communion.....Michael Gilbert (Matt. 26:26-28)

Sermon..... Charles Gonzalez (Rev. 22:1-4)

Prayers -- AM & PM

2nd prayer.....John Gibbert

Closing.....Craig Loe

AM Sermon: A Glimpse of Heaven

PM Sermon: The Power & Intelligence of Our God

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**

"Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you" (1 Jn. 3:13)

Much can be learned about a man by knowing who his enemies are!

Jesus' enemies were the self-righteous, religious hypocrites of His day - therefore, we can pretty much tell from this fact alone Jesus was not like them. In the same way, a Christian can be identified "when the world hates them".

Having said this, let us ask the question, "who hates me?" Beginning with the world, then moving to the church, here are some pointed questions that can help us to know "which side of the fence" we are on.

1) In the eyes of atheists, am I an "enlightened" person who believes in "modern science" or am I a backward, Bible believing fanatic?

2) In the eyes of those in the denominational world, and I "one of them", or do they realize my stance for the one, true church of the New Testament?

3) In the eyes of my peers on the job, am I the 'principled one' who stands for what is right, or do I "go along to get along" regardless of Biblical principles?

4) In the eyes of the brotherhood, who respects the biblical positions I take more...those who are holding to the truth, or those who are compromising truth to "win the world"?

You see, knowing who respects a person and who doesn't sometimes speaks volumes about his character.

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

by Michael Gilbert (part 6 of 6)

Preaching the Bible is essential to our soul's salvation. However, it is evident that so many don't want to hear the Bible. In reality, it has always been this way - and it will continue to be this way, for, "...*strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it*" (Mat. 7:14). It is my prayer that our congregation will never tire of hearing the Bible preached on a weekly basis. You should be commended for supporting the preaching of the Bible, for the gospel "...*is the power of God unto salvation...*" (Rom. 1:16).

Sadly, *there is a tendency among God's children to drift from the truth of the Bible*, and this is the fifth, and final, reason Timothy was told to preach the Bible in our text of study. This tendency to drift is expressed in this way by the aged man of God, "*Preach the word...for the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine...*" (2 Tim. 4:2-3). ***(It should be noted here that Timothy was told to "preach the word" - all of the Bible - not just the New Testament of Christ. Some might question the preaching of the Jewish Old Testament to Christians who are obligated to obey the Messiah's New Testament, but we must believe that God commanded His men to preach from both testaments, and that He did so for a reason. We will not discuss this topic in this article, but I have written about it in past issues of our bulletin, and we refer you our church website archives for that article - <http://dekalbcoc.wordpress.com>)***

Well, brethren, we have come "full circle" in our study. We began by looking at the phrase "*perilous times*" (2 Tim. 3:1), and we also conclude by noting a similar phrase, "*for the time will come*" (2 Tim. 4:3). The word "time" in both phrases is the same - *kairos* - and it refers to "seasons" or "periods" of time. Prolonged times of hardship will plague the saints because of ungodly people *from within our own ranks* (see 2 Tim. 3:5)...notice that brethren would not, even while the word of God was being preached, "...*endure sound doctrine, but after their own lusts shall heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables*" (2 Tim. 4:3-4).

Brethren have a tendency to drift. God's answer for this departure is to "preach the word". In a previous article, we noted several of the perilous seasons that have hurt God's people. We need not mention them again, but we will note the "perilous time" in which we now live. The saints of God are in the midst of an age when Bible preaching is being downplayed. In this author's estimation, the church of our Lord is hurting with division, immorality, lukewarmness, and a lack of Bible knowledge and brotherly love. Our solution? Well...it some cases, it hasn't been to increase Bible teaching and preaching, but to decrease it - for, you see, "people just won't listen to a dry sermon anymore". Some brethren are reducing the Sunday sermon to a "discussion period" where the preacher "has dialog" with the people, rather than "preaching to them". It is no longer "politically correct" to "preach" to an audience. Charles Hodge, Jr. got it right when he said of many in our brotherhood, "we want preachers, but not preaching". Gospel meetings used to be "in

vogue", but not anymore. Everyone wants a relationship with God, but few people want to hear Him speak! Because of this, we are drifting, brethren.

The Father was right when, on the mount of transfiguration, He thundered, "*This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him*" (Mat. 17:5). Again, the Bible says, "*God...hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son...*" (Heb. 1:1-2). Preaching should be increased because it is the only means of obtaining a saving relationship with Jesus Christ and halting the subtle drift from the Truth! The Bible warns us, "*Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip*" (Heb. 2:1).

Worship cannot save anyone, but worship *according to the Bible* can. Sincerity of heart cannot save anyone, but sincerity of heart brought about by *the Bible's message* can. Obedience to some form of Christianity can't save souls, but obedience to *the rightly divided Bible* can. Good works stemming from man's heart can't take us to heaven, but good works *according to the pattern found in the Bible* pleases God.

Satan is crafty. In the parable of the sower, Satan is pictured as the "wicked one" that *takes away the word* of the kingdom from the hearts of men (Mat. 13:19). Sometimes he takes the word away through preachers who want to please men - and so they don't preach the whole counsel of God. Sometimes it is through children of God who have drifted, and their constant complaining dampens the spirit of God's man in the pulpit. Other times, a congregation may tell the preacher to "tone it down" lest he is asked to move on. Whatever the reason that preaching is decreased, it always results in the spiritual maladies of strife, divisions, denominationalism, false teaching, immorality, etc., and it is never good.

So, to all who teach and preach in whatever capacity in our congregation - keep up your good work, and never depart from the the Bible! Always "preach the word", and never waiver from it because of our tendency to drift (2 Tim. 4:3-4), because of the command of God (2 Tim. 4:1-2), because of your knowledge of the Bible and its saving power (2 Tim. 3:15-17), because of the godly examples of preachers who have gone before you (2 Tim. 3:10-14), and because of the perilous times in which we live (2 Tim. 3:1).

The work of a preacher/teacher of the Bible is so important to the health of any congregation. If you are involved in preaching and/or teaching here at DeKalb - we praise you for your efforts, and we encourage you to always grow in your knowledge of the Bible and in your ability to impart God's saving word to us and to a lost world.

Brethren, if the goal of our congregation is to preach and teach the Bible, then wonderful things will happen here! Souls will ultimately be saved...God will be glorified...our faith in God will increase...our congregation will grow...and, when it is all "said and done", we can spend eternity with a Father that loves us, and sent His Son to die for us. What a great day that will be!