

**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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DeKalb, TX 75559
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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 (5-18-08)

B.C. – 32
A.M. – 66
P.M. – 33
Wed. - 31
Offering – \$1,643
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; DeWayne Garner; Joey Almaraz; Kellie
Fletcher; Jane Turner

Prayer List

- *Linda Batchelor (continue to remember Linda as she battles cancer).
- *Jim Reaves (will enter the hospital on Tuesday for a procedure...and requests our prayers)
- *Lois Burns (in Tyler hospital recovering from back surgery; aunt of Doyle Sikes)
- *Dot Swint (has spent time in the ER this past week...continue to pray for her)
- *Landon Rodgers (in Longview with a tumor on his liver; grandson of Carlos and Bonnie Rodgers)
- *Renaë Nolte (will have surgery on May 30 @ St. Michael's)
- *J.M. Gilbert (will have tubes placed in his ears on May 29 in Texarkana)

Announcements

*As you know, our nation celebrates **Memorial Day** tomorrow - as we honor all those who have given their lives for our physical freedom, let's also keep in mind those who have given their lives for our spiritual freedom, especially our Savior Jesus Christ, and His early followers John the Baptist, Stephen, James, and the 12 (all of whom, except John, are said to have died for Christ).

*The annual SYBSNET ("Summer Youth Bible Series of NorthEast Texas" for those who didn't catch on last year!) will begin on Monday, June 2, at the North Jefferson congregation (Mt. Pleasant). Parents, we hope you are encouraging your kids to participate in this event, as well as the other uplifting events that are planned this year for our youth! You can view the schedule online @ <http://www.njcofc.com/Summer-Youth-Series.html>.

***BirthDay:** Bobby Batchelor, Jr. (5-30)!

***Anniversary:** the Booths (5-29)!

***Fellowship Meal** this morning after the worship service.

*Everyone is cordially invited to attend the **wedding of Jessica Jeffery & Brandon Canup** on Friday, June 6 at 7pm! Congratulations Jessica! The wedding will be here at the building.

Brotherhood Events(see bulletin board for flyers)

***Gospel Meeting @ Clarksville.** June 1-4 beginning at 7PM. Ivie Powell will be speaking.

***SYBSNET** June 2 @ North Jefferson in Mt. Pleasant at 7PM.

***Vacation Bible School @ Foreman.** June 2-4 starting at 7 PM. Classes from Nursery to Adult.

***Camp Ida** begins June 8 and ends July 4 (4 sessions over 4 weeks).

***Haskell Singing School** - July 6-11, 2008

***MFCC** Middle School Session July 6-11.

***MFCC** Junior Session July 13-18.

DeKalb Digest

Volume 3, Issue 21

visit us @ dekalbcoc.wordpress.com

May 25, 2008

Privileged To Serve...

May 25th

Announcements & 1st Prayer.... Dickie Dalby

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

Lord's Table.... Doyle Raney, Charlie Gonzales, Phillip Raney

Scripture Readings

Communion.....Mitchell Weeks (1 Cor. 11:23-26)

Sermon..... Michael Gilbert (Daniel 1:1-8)

Prayers -- AM & PM

2nd prayer.....Jim Reaves

Closing.....Dwayne Jeffery

AM Sermon: An Uncompromising Life

PM Sermon: An Uncompromising Life

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**

"But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept" (1 Cor. 15:20)

Each year the ancient Hebrews would offer the "firstfruits" of their crops to God as a token of their thanksgiving for the bounty that would follow (Lev. 2:12; 23:17, 39). This "firstfruits offering" was a display of their faith in God...by giving God the "first" of their harvest, this meant they trusted Him to provide a bountiful harvest.

Borrowing from this circumstance, in his initial letter to the saints at Corinth, Paul refers to Jesus as the "firstfruits" of them who are asleep (I Cor. 15:20, 23). The imagery affirms that Jesus' resurrection from the dead is God's pledge to us that we too shall be raised from the grave at the time of the Lord's return. Paul further explained the resurrection in these words, "But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at him coming" (1 Cor. 15:23). Jesus also taught, "...the hour cometh in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth..." (John 5:28-29). The final resurrection is a reality!

This argument was designed to rebut the claim of some at Corinth who argued there would be no resurrection (I Cor. 15:12). It effectively refutes those today who teach the same heresy.(Jackson, 61).

Judgment Day Surprises

by Michael Gilbert (part 1)

This past week, I had occasion to visit one of our shut-ins that I hadn't seen in quite a while. As we spoke, this person was reminded of a sermon from Ivie Powell called "Judgment Day Surprises". It was evident that this particular sermon had made a lasting impression on this child of God. I was privileged to receive the handwritten notes she took on this sermon (which were pretty detailed!). Our sister seemed pleased when I told her that I would write an article based on brother Powell's sermon...so here goes!

Sometimes, surprises are good. We all love to be surprised with gifts at birthday parties, weddings, baby showers, and such like. But, when it comes to illness, unforeseen bills, accidents, etc., we don't like to be surprised, and rightly so. When we purchase cars, houses, boats, land, etc., we are upset when the seller "springs" a previously unmentioned fee on us. Aren't you glad that God won't "spring" anything on us at the Judgment Day? Wait a minute, preacher...didn't you title this article "Judgment Day SURPRISES"? Yes, I did...but God in His mercy has taken all the "surprises" out of the Judgment Day...if only we would listen to Him! The problem is, we are stubborn and hard-hearted and many times we won't take the time to listen to God's Word concerning the Final Judgment!

We should remember that the only people surprised come Judgment Day are those who have chosen to be surprised!

Some people will be surprised at the *reality* of the Final Judgment Day. Aren't you glad that there is still a general sense of ultimate accountability to a Higher Power among Americans? It's scary to ponder the depths of depravity to which believer's in a Final Judgment will fall (witness the reason for Joe Barron's recent resignation from the Dallas area's Prestonwood Baptist Church as reported on Foxnews.com)...it is even scarier to consider the bottomless pit of immorality into which skeptics of a final judgment will plummet (witness the destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah, as well as Romans 1:21ff).

While it's true that not all atheists and unbelievers are "of the basest sort", Peter implies that some are. He wrote of these skeptics, "*Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming?*" (2 Pet. 3:3-4, emph. mine - MG). Many will play the role of skeptic right up till the end, living according their own desires, and God never enters their mind. Jesus spoke of these people when He said, "*For as the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the*

Son of man be" (Matt. 24:38-39). Aren't you glad that you believe in the reality of the Judgment Day, and that you won't be surprised when it occurs?!!

Some people will be surprised at the *time* of the Final Judgment Day. What a sad condition to be in...I'm talking about those evil folks who believe in the reality of the Final Judgment Day, but who lapse into a mindset thinking Jesus will delay His coming just long enough for them to sin...and clean up the evidence of such sin before their Master returns! Jesus preached of such a mindset when He said, "*But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; the lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, and shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth*" (Matt. 24:48-51). Scary isn't it...the weeping and gnashing of teeth, I mean? These folks thought they could sin with impunity, and clean up their sin before getting caught.

How many young teenage couples have been "caught in the act" because wise parents arrived home before they were expected? How many adults have been "busted" shirking their job duties because the boss came back early from a vacation? How many church members have been painfully embarrassed because the preacher, or a fellow Christian has "dropped in" unexpectedly and caught them in a condition unbecoming of a saint? If you said "a lot", you'd be right. Oh how careful we must be not to lapse into this mindset!

Truth be told, no man knows the exact time of Jesus' second coming & the Final Judgment of the world. Jesus taught, "*But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only*" (Matt. 24:36). Many have tried to predict a date for the second coming...but all "time setters" have failed. False teachers cleverly entice the unwitting with bold claims to have "unlocked the secret codes of the Bible". These "secret codes" supposedly reveal the exact date of His coming, but the Bible has no such "codes". The apostle Peter does say, however, "*...the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which...the earth...shall be burned up*" (2 Pet. 3:10), and then he challenges us with this thought, "*Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness*" (2 Pet. 3:11).

Those who are members of Christ's church (by virtue of baptism for the remission of sins) don't worry about *when* the Judgment will occur because "*...he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment...*" (1 Jn. 4:16-17). We should be grateful for this peace of mind!

To Be Continued...