

**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@](mailto:gilbertfamily2000@gmail.com)

[gmail.com](mailto:gilbertfamily2000@gmail.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**Record (7-6-08)**

**B.C. – 31**  
**A.M. – 53**  
**P.M. – 28**  
**Wed. - 39**  
**Offering – \$1,562**  
**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**

- \***Landon Rodgers** (doctors cut off the blood supply to the tumor...he seems to be responding well to this, and Bonnie requests our prayers on his behalf)
- \***Carlos Rodgers** (did not get a good report as his last doctor's visit, and Bonnie requests our prayers on his behalf)
- \***Gregory Henderson** (still in Shreveport Children's hospital in very serious condition. A bank account has been opened on his behalf @ the State Bank of DeKalb)
- \***Jerry Herron** (still in Shreveport VA hospital as doctors try to save his foot; Jerry is a cousin of Doyle Sikes)
- \***Linda Batchelor** (is able to be "out and about", even though the side effects of the chemo treatments are very "rough" to say the least)
- \***Lloyd Bible** (had colon cancer surgery last Tuesday and his recovery is "on schedule" and he is doing fine...This is Michael's great-uncle)
- \***Dottie Beckett** (has started having seizures due to the inoperable brain tumor...and our family requests your prayers. Dottie is Michael's sister-in-law)
- \***Nancy Kier** (Nancy wants her church family to know that she will be going to an assisted living facility in Texarkana. She will be moving soon...within about 3 weeks. We will miss her when she leaves)
- \***Kellie Fletcher** (Kellie is in the Army and is now stationed in Iraq. She is the granddaughter of Nancy Kier)
- \***Sandy Rae** (began chemotherapy on Thursday to treat a tumor in her chest area. Sandy is the wife of John Rae, a friend of Bill Hawkins)

**Announcements**

- \***Birthday:** Ray Strain (7-14) and Seth Salinas (7-18)!
- \***Anniversary:** Phillip & Traci Raney (7-14) and Felipe & Andrea Rodriguez (7-16)!
- \*Tonight, we will have another **Game Night/Congregation Fellowship** following the evening services, with Micah Dawson giving a devotional message. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.
- \***Prayer Sister Revealing** will be at D & J Deli on Tuesday @ 6:30pm!
- \***Sunny Acres Birthday party** will be this Wednesday @ 2pm. If you haven't signed up to bring a cake, please do so.
- \***Sunny Acres Devotional Service** will be next Sunday @ 3pm...come if you can!
- \*Our young people will be traveling to the **Summer Youth Series @ Naples** tomorrow evening...we will leave the building @ 6:30pm. Please let Micah or Michael know if you plan on attending this event.
- \*Our annual trip to the **Mesquite Rodeo** will be July 25th...and if you haven't told Dewayne Jeffery that you plan on going, please do so very soon so he can get the tickets (\$10 adults/\$5 kids).
- \*Don't forget to pray for our upcoming **VBS July 27 - 31!**
- \***Alex and Deborah Evans** new address is 3609 Connie Lane, Texarkana, TX 75503 and their phone # is 903-223-7899.

**DeKalb Digest**

Volume 3, Issue 28

visit us @ [dekalbcoc.wordpress.com](http://dekalbcoc.wordpress.com)

July 13, 2008

**Privileged To Serve...**

**July 13th**

**Announcements & 1<sup>st</sup> Prayer....** Dickie Dalby

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

**Lord's Table....** John Loe, Giles Feazel, Dwayne Jeffery

**Scripture Readings**

**Communion.....**Michael Gilbert (Luke 22:19-20)

**Sermon.....** Michael Gilbert (Heb. 2:1-4)

**Prayers -- AM & Afternoon**

**2<sup>nd</sup> prayer.....**Homer Batchelor

**Closing.....**Giles Feazel

**AM Sermon:** *How Shall We Escape, If We Neglect So Great Salvation?* (Heb. 2:1-4)

**PM Sermon:** *4 Blessings in Christ* (Eph. 1:7-12)

\*\*\*\*\*

**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**

\*\*\*\*\*

*"And beside this, giving all diligence,  
add to your faith virtue..."*  
(2 Pet. 1:5)

Having shown God's amazing provisions for the Christian in I Pet. 1:3-4, Peter enjoins, yea commands, the child of God to supply his part to God's provisions. Making a deeply intense effort, the Christian is to add to his faith 'virtue'. What is this quality of virtue?

'Virtue' is the moral courage to do what is right, not according to the standards and customs of the day, but according to the Word of Almighty God. The virtuous woman of Proverbs 31 had the strength(virtue) to do right, regardless. Paul exhibited virtue when he stood against Peter's sinful actions (Gal. 2:11). It takes virtue to reprimand sin...but, this being true, let us never get the idea that virtue *desires* to "tell someone off" or give someone "a good tongue lashing"...for this isn't the case at all.

The word virtue is said to have been used extra-biblically to describe the heroic acts of military men (Parrish, p. 205). Biblically, James described virtue when he wrote, "But be ye *doers* of the word, and *not hearers only*, deceiving your own selves" (Ja. 1:22).

Virtue is having the moral courage and strength to do what is right, regardless!

## ***Lessons from the Catacombs of Rome***

by Wayne Jackson ([www.christiancourier.com](http://www.christiancourier.com))

The term “catacomb” derives from a compound Greek term with the components kata (down) and kymbe (hollow). The word is used of that vast network of tombs beneath the city of Rome (and at other places as well) where ancient Christians buried their dead—and even met for worship during times of severe persecution. It has been estimated that this maze of corridors and burial vaults, if strung together, would stretch out some 600 miles. Estimates of the number of tombs vary from 1,750,000 to 4,000,000; they represent the burial of Romans from the 2nd to the 5th centuries A.D. (Blaiklock, 159). There are a number of valuable lessons from the catacombs.

### ***Historicity of Christ***

The catacombs are filled with art works (ancient graffiti) which testify to the martyrs’ deep faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. Epitaph inscriptions like this one are frequent: “Victorina, in peace and in Christ” (Finegan, 389). Common among the inscriptions was the sign of the fish. The Greek word for fish, ichthus, became an acrostic symbol for: Jesus Christ, God’s Son, Savior. Surely the ancient martyrs had a better sense of whether Jesus Christ was an actual historical character than some modern atheists.

### ***The Scriptures***

The fact that much of the art work in the catacombs was taken from various accounts in the Bible—both Old Testament and New Testament—reveals how widely the Scriptures must have been circulated in those early centuries of the church’s history. There are representations of Adam and Eve, Abraham’s sacrifice of Isaac, Moses’ miracle of bringing water from the rock, Daniel in the lions’ den, Jonah, the visit of the wise men, Jesus as the lamb of God and the good shepherd, etc. There is another point to be made. Many of the names mentioned in the epistles of Paul are found carved upon the walls of the catacombs. This does not mean, of course, that they represent the actual people in Paul’s correspondence; it does suggest that the biblical record is an accurate reflection of the nomenclature of that day, and thus possesses an aura of authenticity (cf. Lightfoot, 177).

### ***The Miracles of Jesus***

The New Testament represents Jesus as a miracle-worker. Some thirty-five individual miracles are ascribed to him, in addition to numerous generic references (e.g., Jn. 20:30-31). Many modern scholars, yielding to the influence of skeptics like David Hume (1711-1776), deny that Jesus performed miracles. Clearly, though, the primitive Christians were convinced of the Lord’s miracle-working powers. Among the art works of the catacombs, there are many representations of the Christ’s miracles. There are depictions of Jesus’ baptism, with the Holy Spirit descending in the form of a dove. There are reproductions of the healing of the paralytic man (Mk. 2), and the resurrection of Lazarus (Jn. 11). There are reflections of the water-to-wine miracle at the wedding in Cana (Jn. 2), as well as the feeding of the great multitude with the loaves and fish (Jn. 6).

## ***The Growth of the Church***

A consideration of the material in the book of Acts shows how explosive the growth of the early church was, and the saints in Rome were no small part of this. The faith of the Roman Christians was widely known (Rom. 1:8; 16:19). Blaiklock says: “The most conservative interpretation of the Catacomb burial figures would, therefore, suggest that . . . one-fifth of Rome’s people in the middle Empire were Christians, and it is possible that the proportion was at times much greater” (161). There is another factor to be considered as well. The tombs of the catacombs represent about ten generations of believers. This would suggest that the early devotees of Christianity passed the gospel along to their offspring. It’s called “vertical evangelism.”

### ***Christianity and Intellectualism***

Atheism alleges that the Christian faith is only for the ignorant and those who are void of reason. Gibbon charged that the early church consisted almost exclusively of “the dregs of the populace.” The catacomb evidence has shown, though, that Christianity invaded the ranks of the middle and upper classes, and made an impact even among the intellectuals. Many of the tombs appear to have belonged to families of the aristocracy (cf. Acts 17:4).

### ***Persecution***

The Lord had promised that his followers would be persecuted (Mt. 5:10-12). In A.D. 64, Nero launched a vicious reign of terror against the church, as did subsequent Caesars. The Christians went underground (amongst the tombs—where the superstitious Romans would not follow) to worship. Amazingly, though, the catacomb graffiti reveal no images of sorrow or complaining; rather, a vibrant spirit of joy and triumph is everywhere evidenced. What faith those saints possessed!

### ***Apostasy***

The record of the catacombs is not entirely positive. Just as Paul predicted that there would be an apostasy from the truth (2 Thes. 2:1ff; 2 Tim. 4:1ff), so the record of the tombs reveals a drifting from the primitive faith. For example, there is graffiti testimony that encourages prayers to and for those who are dead (which later becomes fully-developed in Catholicism). Though the Christians constructed baptistries in the catacombs, there is one picture where “baptism” is being administered by the pouring of water. But there is also a heathen god in the scene—which reveals a woefully compromised faith (Foster, 23). Pristine Christianity was eventually corrupted. Eternal vigilance is the price of truth!

### ***Sources***

Blaiklock, E.M. (1970), **The Archaeology of the New Testament** (Grand Rapids: Zondervan).

Finegan, Jack (1946), **Light From the Ancient Past** (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University).

Foster, R.C. (1971), **Studies in the Life of Christ** (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House).

Lightfoot, J.B. (1953 Reprint), **Paul’s Epistle to the Philippians** (Grand Rapids: Zondervan).