

Prayer List

Doris Reyes Fernandez, Jason Fleming, Ella Green, Alice Hall, Gordon Hatcher, Norman Lee, Luis Patiño, Tony Priola, Tim Smith, Richard and Sheila Sollars

- Brad Green's Endoscopy has been rescheduled for Tuesday, September 7th, in Lenoir City.
- Diane Capps has been dealing with sickness the past couple of weeks.
- Ashleigh Green will be having a procedure at Parkwest on Tuesday, September 7.

Announcements

We will have a brief Men's Meeting following our afternoon service.

WELCOME VISITORS!

The Numbers

Attendance	Sunday, August 29	30/30/23
	Wednesday, September 1	—
Offering	Sunday, August 29	\$719.04

Those Serving

Prayer Before Sunday Classes Lance Green

Sunday Morning Worship

Announcements & Prayer James Hutton
Songs David Snyder
Sermon Brad Green
Lord's Supper & Contribution Barry Simmons
Assistants Donald Shipley & Levy Cox
Closing Prayer Charles Hatcher

Sunday Afternoon Worship

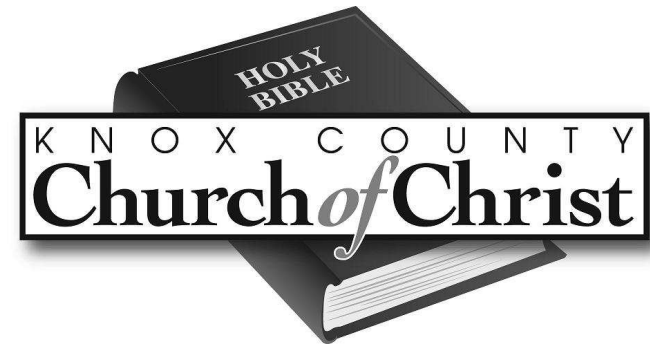
First Prayer Tommy Sanders
Songs TBA
Sermon Brad Green
Lord's Supper David Snyder
Closing Prayer Keith Keever

Wednesday Night

Songs James Hutton
First Prayer Keith Keever
Devotional Barry Simmons
Closing Prayer Charles Hatcher

Knox County Church of Christ
PO Box 22441
Knoxville, TN 37933

September 5, 2010



<http://www.knoxcoc.com>

Meeting Location:
130 Mabry Hood Road
Suite 102
Knoxville, TN 37922
865.247.4620

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Study.....9:30 AM
Worship.....10:30AM & 1:30 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study.....7:00 PM

From The Preacher's Pen



“THE CHURCH OF CHRIST AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO SALVATION”

[This article is written by brother Kent Bailey, preacher for the Northside Church of Christ, Calhoun, GA.]

When we read in the scriptures about the New Testament church, we are not reading about something that is non-essential; we are reading about an essential relationship that is collectivity found *in Christ* and is essential to our Salvation (Eph. 5:22-33).

The Biblical Definition Of The Term Church: When we either study or discuss the scriptures we must use Biblical terms in the way those terms are used in the scriptures. In the New Testament the term translated *church* is taken from the New Testament Greek word Ekklesia. This term is developed from two specific words, *ek* meaning “out of” and *klesis* “a calling” or *kaleo* “to call.” During the first century the term Ekklesia even had a nonreligious usage and was used referring to a collectivity of citizens gathered to discuss affairs of government.

A careful study of the New Testament demonstrates that the term Ekklesia was used in the New Testament in a religious sense to describe Christians in a collective relationship (Mat. 16:18-19). With reference to the New Testament church, that body of Christians established by Christ, this term has two extensions. The New Testament church is spoken of as a divine relationship that is universal in its extension and that is comprised of all saved individuals (Mat. 16:18; Acts 2:47; Eph. 5:23). The New Testament church is also spoken of as local in its extension and speaks with reference to a local scripturally organized collectivity of Christians governed by the New Testament to accomplish the work God would have it do (Rom. 16:16; 1 Cor. 1:2; Gal. 1:2; Phi. 1:1; 1 Pet. 5:2). When the Bible refers to the church it only refers to either the entire body of those who are saved in Christ, or a local New Testament church.

What The Church Is Not: Because of the limitation of scriptural definitions the church would not be various concepts:

- The church is not a social club.
- The church is not a civic organization.
- The church is not an educational institution.
- The church is not a business.

- The church is not a denomination, various parts of denominations, neither is it a combination of denominations.

Because of the confusion found in the religious world, many have drawn a false conclusion as to what the New Testament church really is.

What The Church Is: Locally speaking the church is comprised of Christians (those saved by obeying the gospel of Christ) who have agreed to organize themselves into a collective functioning unit governed by the New Testament to accomplish the work God has assigned them to do. Universally speaking the church is a relationship that is in Christ:

- It is the kingdom of Christ (Dan. 2:44; 7:13-14; Mat. 4:17; 16:16-18-19; Mark 9:1; Col. 1:13-14; Rev. 1:9).
- It is those called out of the world (2 The. 2:14; 2 Cor. 6:17-7:1).
- It is those who have been saved from past sins (Acts 2:47).
- It is the spiritual body of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23; 5:23; Col. 1:18, 24).
- Those who have been purchased by the blood of Christ (Acts 20:28).
- Those who comprise the bride of Christ (Eph. 5:22-23).
- All of those who comprise the house of God (Isa. 2:1-4; 1 Tim. 3:15).

The Church In Its Universal Extension Is ONE: While indeed there are a plurality of local New Testament churches; the fact still remains that all of those who have scripturally identified themselves with these various local churches (Acts 9:26) were all baptized into only ONE universal body thus comprising one church (Mat. 16:18).

- Christ has only one kingdom.
 - Christ has called out only one people.
 - Christ has only one group of saved individuals.
 - Christ has only one body.
 - Christ has only one bride.
 - Christ has only one group that he has redeemed
- Christ has only one house.

The Spiritual Blessings One Receives As A Christian Are Found In The Church: When One is added by the Lord to The New Testament church there is an abundance of spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:1-3). As a member of the church one is saved from past sins (Acts 2:47). This is not to affirm that the church does the saving. It is to affirm that the church is comprised of all of the saved. There is no Salvation outside of the church!

As a member of the church one is redeemed by the blood of Christ (Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:13-14). Therefore, there is no redemption on the outside of the church! As a member of the church one is purchased by the blood of Christ (Mat. 26:28; Acts 20:28). Therefore one cannot be purchased by the blood of Christ outside of the church (1 Pet. 1:18-23)! As a member of the church one is part of the spiritual body of Christ (Col. 1:18, 24; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:23; 4:4; 1 Cor. 12:13). There is no Salvation outside the body of Christ (Gal. 3:27; 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 5:23). Therefore there is no Salvation outside of the church!

Individual members of the New Testament church wear the name of Christ (Acts 11:26). One must wear the name of Christ to be saved (Acts 26:28). Therefore if one does not wear the name of Christ one is in a lost condition. Therefore there is no Salvation outside of the church! Individual members of the church are components of the bride of Christ (Eph. 5:22-33). Salvation is found within the bride of Christ (Eph. 5: 23). Therefore there is no Salvation on the outside of the church! Members of the church have been reconciled unto God. Paul wrote: “And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us unto Himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given unto us the ministry of reconciliation; to wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation” (2Cor 5:18-19). Regarding the Biblical concept of reconciliation, consider that such takes place within the body of Christ: “And that He might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby” (Eph. 2:16). This reconciled relationship is found only within the body of Christ which is the church of Christ (Col. 1:18, 24; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4). If one has not been reconciled unto God by the blood of Christ, one is separated from God and alienated from Christ. If one can be saved outside of the Lord’s church, then one can be saved while in sin and without being reconciled to God and being found alienated from Christ.

ONE CANNOT BE SAVED OUTSIDE THE LORD’S NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH! Obey the gospel of Christ today! By your obedience to Christ, Salvation will be accomplished by your being added to the Lord’s body of those saved – the church.

-- Kent Bailey