

The McLish Avenue Messenger

This is the message we have heard from Him... God is Light (1 John 1:5).

August 30, 2009

MCLISH AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST • 607 McLish SW • Ardmore, OK 73401



This New Testament passage quotes an Old Testament passage. Where is the Old Testament passage found?

“But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’ For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

Matthew 9:13 (NKJV)

Evangelist

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Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 am

Worship 10:30 am

Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 pm

Part two

The Nature of the New Testament Church

Ben Bailey

Simple laws of logic and reasoning tell us that a thing will be made according to its kind. In Genesis chapter one the phrase “according to its kind” or a similar statement occurs 18 times. In this phrase, God is trying to tell us that a creation naturally follows its pattern. For example, birds are not created after monkeys and giraffes do not follow the pattern of a whale. Each creation follows and represents its maker’s pattern. This lesson is extremely important when it comes to the nature and pattern of the New Testament church. In this article we will again notice what the church was not meant to be to better help us identify the church of the Bible.

Not a Social Club. To many people, the church is nothing more than a glorified social club. It is a place to dress exquisitely for and be seen rubbing elbows with the elite of society. For some, going to church is nothing more than a good public relations move. It is very interesting to note just how faithful candidates for political office become around election time. The Jews had the mindset that their religion could be used for social purposes, but Jesus strongly rebuked them. Jesus condemned the Jews because they wore elaborate clothing, loved the best seats, and the cleric title “rabbi” (Matt 23:1-12). This same rebuke is true to those who today who want to make the church into nothing more than a modern day civic club. To understand that the church is not a social club, we need to realize that we are not the center of worship. God is the center of our worship and we must make him the focus of our worship services, not ourselves (Jn 4:24).

Not an Afterthought. With the recent rise in premillennial

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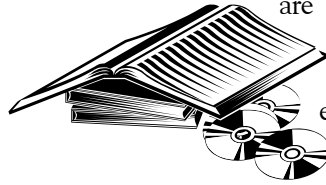
Nature

Continued from front page

fiction books such as "Left Behind" and others, the church is being looked at more as an afterthought, than an original plan. Many in the premillennial camp believe that God planned to set up a 1000 year reign on earth, but His plan was thwarted and the church was created as an afterthought until the original plan could be set up. While this may be an attractive view to many, the Bible teaches the church has always been God's original plan. Paul said God was making his power known to princes and principalities through the church, which was "according to the eternal purpose" (Eph 3:10-11). This passage clearly teaches that the church has been in the mind and plan of God from all eternity. The church is much more than an afterthought. It is the forethought and divine plan of God that will last until Christ comes to receive it unto Himself (1 Cor 15:24, Matt. 16:18-19).

The church of Christ was never meant to be a club for the elite of society and it definitely was not a quick fix in the mess-up of God's plans. Is the church that you are going to a more of a social club than a place of worship to God? Is it considered a mistake in the plans of God? If so, then it is high time to return to the pattern of the New Testament Church.

Media available *There is a sign up sheet on the back bulletin board if you would like to have a complete set of Ben's lessons on Revelation.* If you'd like a copy of another specific lesson taught from the pulpit, please write down your name and which lesson(s) you are interested in and give to Melba Wallace. Don't forget that tracts are available in the tract racks at the back of the auditorium and in the hallway to the offices. These can be used in discussing religious matters with friends and neighbors. **The Gospel of Christ** CDs and DVDs



are available at the back of the auditorium for use in your own Bible study or in evangelistic efforts. If there is a CD or DVD that is not out that you'd like copies of, please use the order forms in the tract rack on the right side as you are facing the back. Also available are transcripts of **The Gospel of Christ** media. Don't forget to check out www.thegospelofchrist.com to access all the media available through that effort.

Information requested Melba is working on a new directory and is missing several birthdays and anniversaries. Please check the list on the back bulletin board and see if she is looking for yours.

Outreach Groups

Group 1

Chock & Mary Aldridge
Ron & Peggy Jones
Ray & Tomi Harness
James & Tammy Gravelle
Ronnie Byrd
Steve Mann
Scott & Tina Saner
Jaccie Pirtle

Group 2

James & Dana Meece
David & Linda Johnson
Ben & Christie Bailey
Betty Higgins
Harold & Martha Dillard
Pat Ballard & Vickie Fletcher
Bill & Gail Stewart
Earl & Sue Mann

Group 3

Vernon & Arlene Castleman
Sharon Ryan & Christy Murray
Cecil Hargrove
Lovell & Mary Hughes
Lonnie Harris
Rick & Suzanne Tidwell
Tom Matlock
Sharlene Wallis & Rebecca



Betty Higgins was admitted to the hospital last week with dehydration. Louise Harris' father, **Charlie Stevens**, who lives in San Antonio, had a pacemaker put in recently. **Raymond Lewis**, father of Kenneth Lewis, will be undergoing tests. Madeline Minyard's son **Dale** had surgery Thursday. **Earl Mann** is scheduled for back surgery October 7th. Please continue to remember: **Deborah Williamson** • **Tabitha**

Ray-Barton • **Daylon Lewis** • **Glenda Vinson's mother** • Ruth Minyard's nephew, **Roger Parker** • **Bill Cavins**, Melba Culbreth's brother • Ruth Parker's friend, **Beth Fincher** • **Jan Barlow**, Sue Creecy's daughter and Tammy Gravelle's sister • **Jerry & Glenda Vinson** • Mildred Pennington's sister **Geneva Long** and sister-in-law **Billie Gilliam** • **Carrie Leonard**, Earl Mann's cousin • **A.L. Hargrove**, Cecil's brother • **Lisa Brown**, friend of the Gravelles • **Dana Meece** • **Deborah Thomas** • **Olga Stinson** • **Nancy McClanahan** • **Gary Dillard**, Harold's son, • **James Johnson**, an employee of the Manns • **Kenneth Overby** • Jamie Feroli's sister, **Dara Robison** • **Wayne Price**, Jennifer Johnson's uncle • **Murray Goforth** • **Tom Matlock's two brothers-in-law** • **Rebecca Stafford** • Glenda Vinson's sister, **Marie Daube** • **Harvey Grant**, Glenda Vinson's brother • **Jim Bowman** • **Deborah Thomas' mother** • **Sue Mann** • **Marty Stinson** • **Pat Morrison**, Olga Sue Stinson's sister • **Virgie Burchfield** • **Dorthea Phillips** • **Madeline Minyard** • Sharon Ryan's mother, **Mary Griffeth** • Larry Ryan's mother, **Lorrine** • and those shut in/nursing home members.



We want to remember the family and friends of **Velma Hunter** who died on August 20th.

She and her husband had attended Central years ago. Her services were

last week at the Lone Grove congregation. We also want to remember Ruth Minyard in the passing of her nephew **Donald Parker** last week. Please keep all those who are mourning the loss of loved ones in your prayerful concern.

Meeting The Lone Grove congregation will have a meeting September 11-13 on the topic of Archaeology and the Bible. Dewane Bryant will be the speaker. Look for additional information on the back bulletin board.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

August

29 Jerry Vinson
Martin & Roslyn Dotson

September

2 Sharlene Wallis
5 Aaron Mann
Bill & Virgie Burchfield '74
6 Allison Hicks
7 Joshua Gravelle
9 Zaylon Boyd
10 Joseph Tipton
Cecil Hargrove
13 Tony Brinkley
14 Ronnie Byrd
Lacie Aldridge
15 David & Liz Aldridge
16 Scott Saner
17 Lindsay Patrick
18 George Jones
20 Sue Mann
21 LaToya Dotson
Clay Brinkley
25 Eva Mae Gibbs
Linda Johnson
Robert & Nancy McClanahan '07
28 Jason Willingham
Esther Godwin
29 Tom Jones
30 Raymond Boutwell
Lovel & Mary Hughes

October

2 Jessica Johnson
3 Adela Scott

