

Clarksville Church of Christ
 407 W Lewis & Clark Pkwy
 Clarksville, IN 47129-1649
 (812) 944-2305
www.clarksvillechurchofchrist.org

Sundays
 Bible Study..... 9:30 AM
 Worship..... 10:30 AM
 Worship..... 6:00 PM

Wednesdays
 Bible Study..... 7:30 PM

Elders
 Allen L. Morris.....812-967-4536
 Stephen W. Nale.....812-948-9917

Deacons
 Jeffrey B. Hunt.....502-931-5766
 Elbert Metcalf.....812-246-5938
 Rondal O. Thompson Jr....812-944-8295

Evangelist and Editor
 Luke Capps.....317-220-9829
 Email:luke.capps@outlook.com

Beginning Our 66th Year Dec. 3, 2023

Goals For 2023
Theme
 "Courageous Christians in 2023!"
Attendance: Sunday Bible Study: 40:
Sunday AM: 50
Sunday PM: 40: Wednesday Bible Study: 30

Giving: Meet Our Yearly Budget

Invitations: 130

Every Member Committed To Daily Bible Reading

Every Member Committed To Daily Prayer

Every Member Committed To Be At Every Service

Support the Work in Vincennes, Indiana
Hold A Men's Training Class

Hold One Gospel Meeting

We welcome our new full time evangelist...

Luke Capps
who will be preaching today.

We are on week # 7 of our daily Bible reading.

Prayer List
 Sharon Nale, Polly Ward, Macon Ward, Debby Spears (Roseanna's sis) Sharon Thompson, Beth McFarland, Pam Caudill Brooke Thomas, Cathie Hall Debbie Lewellen, John Kelly (Rob's brother), Peter Hunt, Capps family, Condolences to Thompson family, Kahl and Metcalf families

This Month
 Phil. 1:1, 1 Tim. 3:1-15
 Authority: Church Organization

Who Have You Invited To Services This week?

Lord's Supper Reading
 Luke 22:14-20

Scripture Reading
 AM: Matt. 28:18-20
 PM: Matt. 11:7-15

Encouragement Tally
 Invites this month 10
 Invites last month: 8
 Visitors YTD:

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Place Stamp Here



Our Theme for 2024...
"Respecting Bible Authority"
 Matt. 28:18
 Clarksville Church of Christ
 407 W. Lewis & Clark Pkwy.
 Clarksville, IN 47129
First Service December 7, 1958

The
Clarksville Beacon
 www.Clarksvillechurchofchrist.org



Volume 36 Number 6 Clarksville Church of Christ February 11, 2024

An Urgent Message... On Evangelism (Matthew 28:18-20)

Welcome!
 If you're visiting with us today, we want you to feel welcome and we want you to feel like our honored guest! We also want you to know that all we're interested in here at the Clarksville Church of Christ is the Truth. Jesus said, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32. The truth He's talking about is God's word. Jesus said, "Sanctify them by thy truth, Thy word is truth." John 17:17. Therefore we hope you'll appreciate that we'll give you book, chapter and verse from the Bible, the word of God, for everything that we say or do here today, so that everything that we do may bring glory unto God, 1 Pet. 4:11.

VISITORS
 Please fill out a visitor's card or scan the QR code below and provide the information requested.



- I. Introduction**
 - A. This is an important message! Why?
 - B. People are lost and we have a message that can bring them to salvation!
 - C. We have a message that transforms lives — ours included.
- II. This Is God's Desire**
 - A. God wants all to be saved (2 Pet. 3:9; cf. 1 Tim. 2:3-4).
 - B. He wants and commands the church to be active in this work (Eph. 3:10; cf. 1 Tim. 3:15).
 - C. God's desire was to save YOU! What else could we be busy doing? (Rom. 1:14-16; 1 Cor. 9:16; 1 Tim. 1:12-16).
- III. The Church's Job (Looking At The 1st Century Church)**
 - A. First Gospel sermon — 3000 souls saved (Acts 2:41, 47).
 - B. The excitement didn't die off after the first week — 2000 more souls (Acts 4:4).
 - C. "Multitudes" continue being saved — relentless preaching (Acts 5:14).
 - D. Their joy in evangelism transcends all physical threats (Acts 5:28, 42; 8:4).
 - E. Nothing is stopping the increase of the Gospel (Acts 11:19-24).
 - F. With much going against them and with much less resources than we have today the church accomplished an incredible task — the Gospel spread through the whole world (Acts 1:8; Col. 1:5-6, 23).
 - 1. Nothing can destroy the joy that the Gospel brings.
 - 2. God has given us the means to be just as effective today!
- IV. Are We Ready To Do This Job? (Matthew 28:18-20)**
 - A. What is the goal? Evangelize!
 - B. When? "To the end of the age."
 - C. Where/To Whom? "All nations."
 - D. How? Through the Gospel!
 - E. Why? How could the joy of the Gospel not inspire us to do so!?
- V. Conclusion**
 - A. Christian: Are you engaging in this?

Luke Capps

Hear

Matt. 11:15

I. Introduction

- A. While many don't realize it, this is a command. Therefore, that means we either choose to hear or to plug our ears.
- B. This is a command that is pervasive throughout the New Testament (Mt. 13:9, 15; Lk. 8:18; Lk. 14:35; Rev. 2:7, 11, 17; 3:6, 13, 22; 13:9).
- C. Particularly in the parable of the sower/soils, what this reveals is that God desires for us to hear the Word in a specific way.

II. How Does God Want Us To Hear?

- A. Actively — listen to understand (1 Kings 3:9; cf. Gen. 3:8, 10, 17; 22:18).
- B. Zealously — pay attention (Mt. 13:13-17; Lk. 8:18).
- C. Carefully — don't take what you hear lightly (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17; 3:6, 13, 22).
- D. Constantly — don't stop listening (Jas. 1:22-24).

III. Do You Have Ears To Hear?

- A. Are you willing to hear regardless of...
 - 1. The content?
 - 2. The speaker (1 Tim. 4:12; Tit. 2:15)?
 - 3. The delivery (Jonah 3:4; Mt. 12:41; 2 Cor. 10:10; 1 Thes. 2:13)?

IV. Conclusion

- A. The invitation picks up where we began — with the very words of Jesus: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"
- B. Are you willing to hear?

Luke Capps

Theme: Authority In Church Organization Is God's Pattern Enough?

So What Is That Simple, Sufficient, Scriptural Pattern?

1. All organization we find in the Bible is on the local level.

Never in the New Testament is there prescribed an earthly headquarters for the church. This greatly contrasts with the religious world at large today (Roman Catholicism has the Vatican; the mormon headquarters is in Salt Lake City; Methodist's supreme governing body would be the annual Methodist Conference; etc.).

The New Testament pattern is for local churches to be autonomous. What that means is the Chief Shepherd, authority-giver, decision-maker of every and any church is Jesus! Truly, if this pattern is sufficient, what else do we need? If anything our "headquarters" would be heaven.

All throughout Acts we have several clear examples of local churches being guided authorized by no one or no thing other than God and His Word. The church in Corinth wasn't to be guided by the church in Jerusalem, but by God's word. The Galatian church wasn't led by the Philippian church, but by God's word. The Thessalonian church wasn't commanded by the church in Antioch, but by God's word!

"But if we do it that way evangelism will be impossible!" The 1st century church didn't need church boards or missionary societies to convert people. Scripture was enough!

2 That local organization consists of a divinely delegated leadership, roles, etc.

Christ is the King (Mt. 28:18-20; Col. 1:13), the Chief Shepherd (1 Pet. 2:25; 5:4), and head of the body - i.e. the church (Col. 1:18). He is the one who makes the rules and has all authority. Through Scripture, He has delegated authority to certain roles in the local church.

"...To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons..." (Phil. 1:1). In this verse (along with many others) we find the roles that reside in the local church. **[1]** "the saints in Christ Jesus" describe all who have put on Christ and are part of His body (cf. Acts 9:13). **[2]** "Overseers" or "pastors/elders" would be the ones who Jesus gave the responsibility of shepherding over a local church. They would feed and protect the flock, ultimately giving an account for this service (Heb. 13:17). **[3]** "Deacons" would be the men who are fit and equipped to serve the congregation in a greater capacity than other saints. They take care of responsibilities within the church so that the elders can devote their time to teaching and shepherding.

That's it! Now, someone might say, *"But wouldn't it be more effective if you already had successful leaders from one congregation to just make decisions for another to spread the success?"* The 1st century Christians didn't need that to be successful in the work of the Kingdom. They had the pattern God had given which was sufficient!

3. That local organization acts and works through a spiritual focus, not an earthly one.

To suggest that this pattern isn't enough to function is to completely dismiss the 1st century church's achievements under it. The church doesn't need and has never needed earthly enticements for the Gospel to be effective. Whether that be in our work, worship, evangelism, fellowship, etc.

Paul said that all creation had heard the Gospel within the 1st century (Col. 1:23). They didn't need gyms, fellowship halls, or instrumental music to attract people to church. They let God's desire shape their worship, not the world's. They followed God's pattern for the work of the church, not a corporate pattern. They let God define who and what they could fellowship, not the world's "helpful" ideas.

May our faith be strong and enthusiastic enough to trust God when He says that all we need is His pattern!

Luke Capps