

East Columbus Bulletin

Vol. 2, No. 08 – August 2, 2015



East Columbus church of Christ
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Romans 5:17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. Worship/10:05 a.m. Bible Study
11:00 a.m. Worship with Lord's Supper

WEDNESDAY

7:00 p.m. Bible classes for all ages

Other Study and Worship Opportunities

- Second Sunday 2:00 p.m., Trinity Care Home Worship Service
- Second Saturday Men's Bible Study Ranch House Restaurant 6:30 A.M.
- Third Sunday Neighborhood Bible Study 6:00 p.m. location (TBA)
- Young Bible Scholars meet each month - Time and Location (TBA)
- Bible Study at the Pines - 5 p.m. Mondays & 8 p.m. Sundays, Cady Hill Thurs. 6 p.m.
- CD's of sermons and Gospel Meetings are available by signing up in the foyer
- Recorded sermons and gospel meetings and other resources are also available at the church website <http://eastcolumbuschurch.com/>. Contact Steve Coburn if you need assistance.
- NEXT GOSPEL MEETING - WILSON ADAMS, SEPTEMBER 20-23, 2015

Prayer Requests

Home Bound Members: - Mike Butler, Annie McCrary, Jack Burks, Eula Mae Harliss

Others Limited by Health: - Frances Barham, Joyce Monasco, Joyce Ratcliff, Willena Woods

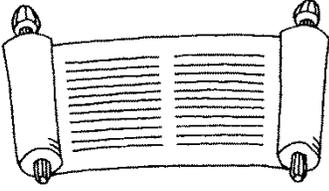
Sick - Burt Wheeler is continuing rehabilitation therapy in North Carolina. Harold Young, Lynette Coburn's father, continues at home under hospice care. Carol Briggs' mother Jeanette James was able to resume therapy at Rehab in Oxford. Aubrey Belue is hospitalized with pneumonia at Baptist Memorial in Columbus.

Deaths – Jerry Paschall's aunt, Billie Jean Whitworth, passed away and services will be held today in TN. Carolyn Jones' uncle, Elman Gracia, passed away June 28 with services held at the Tennessee Veterans Cemetery in Knoxville, TN on July 30.

Elders: Jay McCrary and Jerry Paschall

Deacons: Clyde Hollis, Ed Williams, Don Zant

Preacher: Kevin Kay



Proverbs 1:5

"A wise man will hear and increase in learning, and a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel"

Increase in Learning

Learning, education-it's not something that is only restricted to school age children and college students. Learning is a lifelong process. The more we learn, the better we become. The opening pages of Proverbs are devoted to acquiring wisdom. This wisdom is not mathematics, or text book lessons but instead, wisdom from God. Learning life from the one who designed life, God. Learning what works from God.

There are a couple of lessons I see here:

First, we need to approach our Biblical studies with a more academic approach. Just showing up for Bible class without having a clue what was taught the week before nor what the current lesson is going to be about and then offering comments that just pass through our brain probably isn't the best method or means to learning. This feeds shallow thinking and superficial questions and answers and little depth and little application and mostly little changing. It's beyond me to see folks show up to a Bible class without even a Bible. They just sit there and stare at the teacher. They have brought no pen and paper, so no notes will be taken if by chance they do learn something new. The teacher must work hard to try to engage the class and spoon feed them on the simplest themes. Sharing ignorance is often what is accomplished in the class. More time is spent chasing rabbits than it is in learning the text of God's word.

What's the solution? Twofold: First, the teacher must teach. Challenge the class to think. Give quizzes. Lower the nets to deeper levels. Second, the students, the class, must come prepared to learn. They ought to do some homework ahead of time. They ought to give some thought to what is being studied that day.

A person who has been a Christian for twenty years ought to have a massive understanding of the word of God. The number of classes he has sat in, the number of sermons he has listened to, and then his own private studies, should have given him a greater understanding and insight in God's word. But far too often, that's not the case. The guy has been sitting in Bible classes for twenty years, but he has never learned much. He has never applied himself. He has never been prodded to use what was being taught. Twenty years of teaching went in one ear and out the other. There is a great failure in what happens here. This man doesn't grow. He doesn't change. He doesn't become better. He's just about the same as he was twenty years ago. He ought to be teaching, but he doesn't know. He ought to be leading God's people, but he doesn't have a clue. More classes. More sermons. He stays the same. The bad in all of this, his character, his heart doesn't become more Christ-like. He stays pretty much the same. Worry, doubt, fear, are always nearby. He relies upon old thoughts and old things he heard people saying a long time ago, never realizing that those things were not accurate, helpful nor Biblical.

A second lesson that is found here is the understanding that all of God's people need to

always be learning. Preachers need to be growing. They need to feed their souls and be learning. The books that they read help them grow. Preachers need to always be looking at how to be better. We train young preachers where I am at. They receive a notebook-it's grown into two large notebooks. These notebooks are packed with articles about preaching. All kinds of interesting things such as how to teach classes and when is it time to move. Before the articles make it to the notebook, Mr. Roger here reads them first. I read them for myself. I read them to be a better preacher. If they are good, they make it to the notebook.

The same ought to be said of the shepherds within a local congregation. They lead, but they are not finished learning. The more they grow the better they will lead. They need to learn about leading people. They need to understand people. Again, this is something that tends to fall off today. Some have the idea that they know all that they need to know. So there is a ceiling to their knowledge. It won't take long until the congregation will be ahead of them and progress will slow down. Leaders need to grow. They need to spend time learning. They need to spend time looking at how Jesus led people. They need to understand why sheep tend to wander off. They need to see what is bothering sheep today. The methods of the 1960's may not be the best methods for today. There is a growing segment of society today that considers its self to be spiritual but not religious. Do leaders understand that? Are they in tune that what is bothering folks today? Learning these things will help them decide what classes to offer and what the congregation needs. Leaders who are not growing will find the church drifting after a while.

Ignorance is one of Satan's greatest tools. Without knowledge, we get scared easily. Without knowledge we will never try something that is different. Studying the same topics, in the same manner, over and over gets to be mindless and tedious. Depth. Challenge. Learn. Grow. Become. That's the answer.

This all starts with me. It starts with me turning off the mindless TV and picking up my Bible and really blowing the dust off it and getting into some unique studies. See Jesus. Ask yourself, "Why, did He do that?" "Why did He ask that?" Peel the layers back. Chew on it a while.

For instance, when we read about the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8. He was reading from Isaiah when Philip came to him. Have you ever thought what it must have been like to have his own copy of Isaiah? Back then? Hand written. Few copies. Philip most likely did not have his own copy. Chew on that a while and that tells you a bit about the Ethiopian's faith and love for the Lord.

Little things like that are on every page of the Bible. We over look them because we go too fast, repeat the same thoughts we have always heard and we don't look with insight. They are there. Fresh. Interesting. Challenging. Faith building.

Wisdom-it's more than knowing facts. It's living what we have learned. It's a lifelong experience and a wonderful journey.

Roger Shouse, Jump Start # 1336

Fellowship

by Bill Hall

What about fellowship? Doesn't the Bible teach that the church is to have fellowship? Indeed!

The Bible does teach that the church is to have fellowship. But what a lot of people have overlooked is the fact that the word "fellowship" in the Scriptures has to do with spiritual activities. I have before me a photocopy out of a book that I have which contains every Scripture that uses the Greek word for fellowship. An interesting thing about this is — not one time does it have reference to social fellowship. What does the word fellowship mean? It is defined as "sharing, communion, and participation in, joining together." Another usage of "fellowship" in modern times is social fellowship. This is where we smell the doughnuts and coffee. Friday night a bunch of us got together and had some elk stew, and I tell you it was all right. We had a good time together. We socialized together. We shared in the eating of elk stew and a few other things that some of the people brought. Are you aware that the Bible never uses the word "fellowship" in reference to such social activities?

Still another use of "fellowship" has to do with spiritual things. Every time, every time the word is used in regards to the church's activity, it is always this. And to my knowledge, there is not one Scripture in the Bible that uses the term "fellowship" in regard to eating elk stew, or whatever socializing we do together. Not one Scripture that uses the word "fellowship" like that. Fellowship has everything to do with our sharing together in spiritual things.

What has happened to us, brethren, when every time we hear the word "fellowship" we immediately think in terms of fun and games and eating and drinking together? What has happened to us that we see that, every time we see the word "fellowship," when it is never used in the Bible that way?

No, you cannot find the authority for a local church, as a part of its program of work, planning and providing materials for social activities in the word "fellowship" in the Bible, because it doesn't use the word "fellowship" in that way.

May I make this point? The local church where you are a member has a fellowship hall. Let me say that again. The local church where you are a member has a fellowship hall. When you are assembled together with the other members share together in worshipping God and studying God's word, you are in it! We must learn that this is the kind of fellowship that the Bible talks about.

Is there a place for social activities? Indeed. But let me provide for hospitality. Let me provide for social events. And if others want to join with me in that, that's fine. But let not the church be charged or burdened (**cf. 1 Tim. 5:16**) with providing for social activities, so the church can do the things God has told His church to do. It's just that simple. And nowhere in the Scriptures is there anything to indicate that the church is to provide materially and plan for social activities. That is the issue. That is where the truth lies.