



NSD

NEWSLETTER

Sunday, November 9, 2008

BIBLE STUDY..... 10 a.m.
“Gospel of Luke”

MORNING WORSHIP..... 11 a.m.
“The Proper Response”
Ron Adams

EVENING SERVICE.... 6 p.m.
Speaker: Dan Austin

WEDNESDAY MEETING..... 7 p.m.
“The Parables of Jesus”

... singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Col 3:16

Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands!
Serve the LORD with gladness;
Come before His presence with singing.
Know that the LORD, He is God;
It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;
We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.
Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,
And into His courts with praise.
Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.
For the LORD is good;
His mercy is everlasting,
And His truth endures to all generations.

Psalms 100

News & Notes

WELCOME VISITORS. If you are a visitor in our congregation today we would like to welcome you and hope you will stay for a while after service.

Please continue to pray for **Mark Harris** who is away in South Carolina and for **Jason Henderson** who travels often for his job.

And, continue to pray for our ailing members and friends: **Martha Holloway, Dema Franklin**, Brian Adams and Benjamin Hoskins.

Last Wednesday was little Peyton Harris' last day with us. He will be staying with his grandparents while the Harris family prepares to relocate to the East Coast. Brittany will be staying with her family in Pensicola, Florida for about three weeks, then return to San Diego to finalize their move east.

All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam
Thou silver moon with softer gleam
O praise Him, O praise Him
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless
And worship him in humbleness
O praise Him! Alleluia!
O praise the Father, praise the Son
And praise the Spirit, three in one!
O praise Him, O praise Him
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Francis of Assisi/Geistliche Kirchengesang

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where the Bible is the source of faith, where Jesus is Lord, where Christianity is a way of life!

Why Go to Church?

Allen Dvorak

Why do we need to go to church? Can we not just worship God in our homes? Do we have to dress up and meet with a group of other people to somehow validate our worship? These questions are sometimes asked by people who want to serve God, but who do not understand the role of the church in God's plan. Occasionally they have been disillusioned by what they have seen in organized religion and would like to separate themselves from what they perceive to be hypocritical or covetous practices.

According to the New Testament scriptures, the church is not a building or some nebulous institution which has authority over Christians. The church can hear and speak (**Matthew 18:17**); it can fear (**Acts 5:11**). The church is simply a group of people who have been saved from their sins by the blood of Jesus. Paul reminded the Ephesians elders that the church had been purchased by blood (**Acts 20:28**). As individual Christians, we have been redeemed, that is, purchased and liberated, by the precious blood of the unblemished Lamb, Jesus Christ (**Ephesians 1:7**; **1 Peter 1:19**). From these scriptures, we see clearly that the church is composed of all those individual Christians who have had their sins washed away (**Acts 22:16**; **Revelation 1:5**).



The church is sometimes referred to as the body of Christ. Jesus is identified as the head and Savior of that spiritual body of people, the church (**Ephesians 1:22-23**; **5:23**). The church does not have the power to save anyone from their sins; only Jesus can do that. The church doesn't save; it IS the saved!

When one understands the composition of the church, the question of why one must belong to the Lord's church is clearly answered. Those who belong to Christ are members of His body, the church. Who wouldn't want to be a part of that group of people? Indeed, we all need to be members of the Lord's church.

All of this is not to say that we can only worship while in the company of other Christians. Surely God will accept worship offered by single individuals, but the Lord also understood the need for mutual support, encouragement and discipline among His disciples. For that reason, disciples in the first century met together in local groups, i.e., congregations, as directed by the apostles of Jesus. The congregation of disciples in Jerusalem met together regularly to remember the Lord's death through the Lord's Supper and to pray together (**Acts 2:41-42**). The author of Hebrews encouraged his readers not to do as some of their brethren had done - forsake the practice of assembling with other brethren for the purpose of mutual worship and encouragement (**Hebrews 10:24-25**).



We need to meet with other Christians in a local congregation (also referred to as a church in the New Testament; see **Galatians 1:2** and **Revelation 2-3**). Together we can worship God and work in His service, submitting to the One who is our Head, Jesus Christ.