



Contact Us:

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Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study9:45 AM
Worship10:40 AM
Care, Inc. Service 2:30 PM
Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Billy Chism

Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Don Smith

John Barnum

Preacher:

Johnny McCaghren

Works We Support:

Cherokee Home for Children
Gospel Broadcast Network
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)
Mission Printing
Rohan Jones, Africa
World Bible School

The Unity Christ Demands #2: God's Five-Fold Plan for Unity

When division and controversy reared its ugly head in the church at Corinth, Paul, by inspiration, took up his pen and decisively dealt with it and gave heaven's word on the subject. First Corinthians 1:10 sums up God's plan for unity better than any other verse I know. *"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye*

1. *all speak the same thing, and that*
2. *there be no divisions among you; but that ye*
3. *be perfectly joined together in*
4. *the same mind and in*
5. *the same judgment."*

If those who desire to be pleasing unto the Lord and go to heaven when they die will all speak the same thing, there will be no divisions among them. They will be perfectly joined together which will lead them to have the same mind, which in turn, will cause them to have the same judgment. Though men say this can't be done, God says otherwise! He not only says it, He demands it. With all the division in the church at Corinth, an inspired apostle rebukes and exhorts them to have unity among themselves and then tells them how to have it. Follow God's Word! That's simple enough, but men are not willing to do it. They have their own ideas!

There are many ecumenical movements today, each claiming to be working toward unity. There are community-wide, so-called non-denominational worship services wherein many denominations come together under the banner of laying aside their doctrines and prejudices to accept one another "just as they are." However, according to the Scriptures, these are not attempts at God-approved unity. They do nothing more than "agree to disagree." They may claim they have achieved unity, but it is nothing more than union. You may tie two cats tails together and make a union, but it sure won't make them be in unity!

Unity is not "union." Unity is not "diversity" or "agreeing to disagree." Unity is not "going along to get along" or "turning one's back on and ignoring our differences." Unity is not "ecumenical cooperation." Unity involves oneness, singleness, truth, and harmony that is based on God's Word and humbly submitting to Him. It is being of one mind (1 Peter 3:8) — the mind of Christ (Phil. 2:5-8).

There are only two kinds of unity wherein people may be in complete religious agreement and harmony with each other: 1) one approved of God, and 2) one not approved of God.

There can be unity among people or groups that is not approved of God because it's not in accordance with God's will; and, consequently, though they be in unity with each other, there is no unity with the Lord. Just because some come together and agree to be at peace with one another does not mean they meet God's approval.

The second type of unity is that which is approved of God because it is in accordance with God's will; therefore, there is unity not only among people but unity with the Lord as well. True unity, God-approved unity, is based on God's Word and adheres to the New Testament pattern. Otherwise, it is of no value at all and is not true unity.

(Continued on page 2)

Let us know if you want to study
the Bible to know more about
Christ and His Church.

Fellowship and Unity

In the New Testament we read of Christians being: fellow citizens (Eph. 2:19), fellow soldiers (Philemon 2), fellow servants (Col. 1:7), fellow helpers (2 Cor. 8:23), fellow disciples (John 11:16), fellow prisoners (Col. 4:10), fellow workers (Col. 4:11), fellow laborers (1 Thess. 3:2), and fellow heirs (Eph. 3:6). In these terms we find the idea of sharing, cooperating, communing, harmony. This is only possible when there is unity with one another and with God. Many have fellowship with one another but that does not mean it is God-approved. We not only must have fellowship with one another, but our fellowship must be with God as well (cf. 1 John 1:3-7).

When unity prevails we have been called into the fellowship of God's Son (1 Cor. 1:9). We have fellowship in ministering to the saints (2 Cor. 8:4). If there is unity, we are able to extend our beloved brethren the right hand of fellowship (Gal. 2:9). Only then can we have fellowship in the Gospel (Phil. 1:5) and the fellowship of the Spirit (Phil. 2:1). As we live by the faith of Christ, we are able to "...know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death" (Phil. 3:10).

One Church

The Bible authorizes and reveals only one church. Daniel 2, Isaiah 2 and Micah 4 all speak of one kingdom/church. Jesus spoke of only one kingdom/church. To the apostles he said "...I will build my church...and I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom" (Matt. 16:18-19). How many churches/kingdoms did He say He would build? He said "my church" — one. He did not say "my churches" — many.

The apostles revealed only one church. There is "one body...one faith" (Eph. 4:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:13). Paul did not teach there were many bodies and many faiths. The one body is the one church (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18). The one faith is the one system of faith, the Gospel by which the church is governed (2 Tim. 3:16-17; Jude 3; John 12:48).

No one can find more than one church, one body, one faith in the New Testament. Jesus is the one head of the one church which is His body (Eph. 1:22-23). He does not have "many bodies" any more than He has "many heads."

In the New Testament we read of only one church. All those who became Christians were added by the Lord into His one body, the church of Christ (Acts 2:41,47). Even during the time of the apostles, men began to corrupt the teaching of Christ (2 Thess. 2:7). This apostasy from the one true faith/church was prophesied to occur (Acts 20:28-31; 2 Thess. 2:1-12; 2 Peter 2:1-2). It first became apparent within the leadership of the church. By 606 A.D. the first Pope was recognized as the head of the church in Rome. Ignorance of the Scriptures reigned supreme for centuries until the period of the Renaissance when a renewed interest in the Bible was stirred. As the common people began to read the Bible they soon began what is known as the Reformation Movement. Men such as Martin Luther sought to reform the Catholic Church and bring it closer to the first century church. Others also joined in and from these efforts arose the Presbyterian Church in 1536, the Church of England in 1552, the Baptist Church in 1611, the Methodist Church in 1739 and Episcopal Church in 1789. The list goes on and on, even today, with multiplied hundreds of denominations.

The Reformation Movement, though a step in the right direction, did not go far enough. A far better goal is the restoration of the Pure, Simple, Organization, Membership, Worship, Teaching and Work of the first century church of Christ. The scriptural plan is to restore the church to its original state. If we will believe what the faithful brethren of the first century church believed, do what they did, live as they lived, worship as they worshipped, teach what they taught, and work as they worked, we will be what they were, the church established by Jesus the Christ.

If a polluted river is to be restored to its purity, that which contaminated it must be removed. The only way a polluted religion can be restored to its original form is to remove that which causes it to be polluted. The doctrines and commandments of men must be laid aside before there can be a return to pure, simple, New Testament Christianity. In order for there to be unity, true Bible unity, God-approved unity, men must lay aside everything they have added to God's Word and put back everything they have removed from God's Word. This is called Restoration —restoring the church to its original condition. This is the way that is right and cannot be wrong.

Garland M. Robinson (Seek The Old Paths, Oct. 2019)

Television

In Search of the Lord's Way (Phil Sanders)
Sunday @ 7:30am on KTAB
Life In The Light (Chris McCurley)
Sunday @ 10:00am on KTAB

Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)
Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

Internet

TheGospelRadioNetwork.org
Gospel Broadcasting Network (Gbnv.org)

God's Plan for Redeeming Man

Hear Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).
Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)
Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)
Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)
Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being baptized for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)
Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)

Bible Reading Schedule

video.wvbs.org/access/interactive-bible-reading-plan/

Feb. 9 Acts 1—2; Psalm 40 (video)
Feb. 10 Acts 3—4; Psalm 41
Feb. 11 Acts 5—7; Psalm 42 (video)
Feb. 12 Acts 8—9; Psalm 43
Feb. 13 Acts 10—11; Psalm 44 (video)
Feb. 14 Acts 12—13; Psalm 45
Feb. 15 Acts 14—16; Psalm 46 (video)
Feb. 16 Acts 17—19; Psalm 47

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

(2 Timothy 2:15)



Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Last week **54** contacts were made.

Announcements

- ◆ The topic set for our **Spring Gospel Meeting** with Richard Massey has been set—**The Kingdom of Christ**. It is only five weeks away! March 15-18.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ March 15-18—Spring Gospel Meeting w/ Richard Massey.

Other Upcoming Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ Feb. 22—Ladies Day @ Cherokee Home for Children
- ◆ April 5-8—Gospel Meeting @ Hamilton w/ Kerry Clark
- ◆ June 21-25—Junior Camp
- ◆ July 12-17—Senior Camp

How's Your Hearing?

What an amazing thing it is to have ears!

Think of all the things one hears in the course of a day. As I was playing golf with my grandson today, we heard the nice sound a golf ball makes when it is well hit by a metal golf club. We turned at one point in the day and heard the rustle of a deer just before it broke through the woods into the fairway. What is more relaxing than the sound of rain falling gently on leaves?

Yet, there is more to hearing than the ability to detect sounds. There are many people who hear the biblical and moral advice of parents only to walk away without really hearing anything at all. There are those who have heard the truth once but now are so far away from it as to seem ignorant of it.

Jesus encouraged his hearers to pay attention to what they were hearing (Luke 8:18). Why? If we don't listen carefully, we may miss something we need to remember. So many have grown up learning the lessons of the Bible but have since forgotten what they heard.

The price for careless listening can be enormous. Carelessness can result in a person losing eternal life. The challenge is to listen to those things we should hear and not pay any attention to the foolishness of the spiritually ignorant.

There are many people who "major in minors." They are attentive to their inordinate desires but inattentive to the truth of the gospel. Their main objective in life (it would seem) is sin when one should make certain one's soul is redeemed by the blood of Jesus through obedience to the gospel.

How's your hearing? This doesn't really have anything to

**DON'T SAY
GOD IS
SILENT WHEN
YOUR BIBLE IS
CLOSED.**

do with the physical sense as it does hearing the words of Jesus and obeying them.

*John Henson
(forthright.net)*

Celebrate

"Rejoice with those who rejoice..." (Romans 12:15)

February Birthdays: Cindy McCaghren (2), Johnny McCaghren (2), Peggy Chism (3), Carol Wilcox (5), Sue McAnear (6), Tammie Ross (7), Lunday Maninger (8), **Patti Bannister (14)**, Aaron Smith (21).

February Anniversaries: Billy & Peggy Chism (26).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Jan. 26, 2020	Feb. 2, 2020
Bible Class	45	39
AM Worship	53	48
PM Worship	36	32
Wednesday PM	27	18
Contribution	\$1,992	\$2,354

Privileged To Serve

"...be ready to every good work," (Titus 3:1)

	This Week: 2/9/20	Next Week: 2/16/20		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	February 2020 Make Announcements: Gene Bannister Prepare Communion: Maninger Family Clean Building: Randy & Laura Huckaby March 2020 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: Barnum Family Clean Building: Barnum Family	
Greeters	Mileen & Ashley Kahlich	John & Tina Barnum		
Opening Prayer	John Barnum	Gene Bannister		
Communion	Allen Griffith*, Vernon Zier Coyce Reed, Don Smith	John Barnum*, Chase Churchwell Tom Wilcox, Ryan Rudloff		
Closing Prayer	Kevin Ross	Ken Maninger		
Attendance Cards	Aaron Smith	Ian Barnum		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Joe Dennis		
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	James Fuller		
Scripture Reading	Ryan Rudloff	Allen Griffith		
Communion	Allen Griffith	John Barnum		
Closing Prayer	John Barnum	Don Smith		
Wednesday Devotionals:	February 12 Joe Dennis	February 19 Rafe Smith	February 26 Don Smith	March 4 Prayer Night

Search the Scriptures

Be like the Bereans who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)

Studies for the week of February 9, 2020

Sunday Class *1 Corinthians 9:17*
 Wed. Class *Exodus 10:7*

<u>Raising Our Ebenezer</u>	<u>Introduction, Greetings and Gratitude (2 Thess. 1:1-4)</u>
<p>Text: 1 Samuel 7:7-12 "Ebenezer" means "stone of help".</p> <p>I. We raise our Ebenezer when ... We Have Faith in God in the Face of Seemingly Impossible Tasks.</p> <p>A. Israel faced a seemingly impossible task in the face of the Philistine army. B. Elisha and his servant faced impossible odds against the Syrian army (2 Kgs. 6:8-17). C. Gideon faced impossible odds against the Midianites (Judges 7). D. What kind of seemingly impossible tasks do we face today? 1. The heroes of the faith in Hebrews 11. 2. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13).</p> <p>II. We raise our Ebenezer when ... We Acknowledge the Lord's Help in Prayer.</p> <p>A. David raised his Ebenezer when he prayed to God. B. Do we acknowledge God's help in prayer? 1. He provides for our daily sustenance (Acts 14:17). 2. He provides for our protection through government (Rom. 13:4). 3. He provides for our spiritual welfare through His word (2 Pet. 1:2-4). 4. All good things come from God (Jas. 1:17).</p> <p>III. We raise our Ebenezer when ... We Remember God's Help in Our Salvation.</p> <p>A. This is not made any clearer than in the observance of the Lord's Supper (Lk. 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:24-25). B. What do we remember when we remember God's help to us? 1. We remember that we were lost in our sins without God's help (Isa. 59:1-3). 2. We remember that without God's help we would have faced eternal death (Rom. 6:20-23). 3. We remember that while we were yet enemies Christ died for us (Rom. 5:6-9). 4. We remember that it is through Christ's death and blood sacrifice that our sins were atoned (1 Pet. 1:17-19, 21). 5. We remember that it is through God's power of the gospel that we are saved (Rom. 1:16-17). 6. We remember that in that gospel is the righteousness of Christ, not our own righteousness (2 Cor. 5:20-21).</p> <p>Have you raised your Ebenezer? Have you acknowledged God as your help?</p>	<p>I. Introduction.</p> <p>A. Writer.</p> <p>1. <u>Internal evidence.</u> a. "Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy" (1:1). b. "The salutation of Paul with my own hand" (3:17). 2. <u>External evidence</u> is even stronger than that for 1 Thessalonians.</p> <p>B. The Occasion, Date, and Place of Writing.</p> <p>1. Soon after the writing of the first letter, Paul began to "hear" of problems in the congregation (2 Thess. 3:11), so he wrote a second time. 2. The second letter appears to have been written from Corinth, while Paul, Silas, and Timothy were still together there, probable in 52 A.D., less than six months after the first letter.</p> <p>C. Purposes and Themes.</p> <p>1. The <u>purposes</u> of this letter are: a. To clarify aspects of the 2nd coming. b. To tell them how to treat those who did not return to work. c. To further encourage the faithful. 2. <u>Major themes:</u> the one true God in three persons (1:1-2; 2:13-14), Christ's deity (2:16-17), the inspiration of the Scriptures (3:6, 15), salvation rooted in the cross (2:13-14), the Christian work ethic (3:6-15), and the value of prayer (1:11; 2:16-17; 3:5, 16).</p> <p>II. Greetings (1:1-2).</p> <p>III. Gratitude for the Thessalonians' Patience [Perseverance] (1:3-4).</p> <p>A. Paul thanked God for them, especially that their <i>faith grows exceedingly</i>, that their <i>love ... abounds</i>, and that they were showing <i>patience</i>. B. Notice Paul's sense of obligation: <i>We are bound to thank God always for you.</i> C. Paul told others how proud he was of the Thessalonians: <i>We ... boast of you among the churches of God.</i> 1. The Thessalonians were heroically pressing onward despite persecution. 2. Paul never lost an opportunity to commend his converts for all of the positive areas in their lives before focusing on the problems that needed to be changed; therefore. D. Paul called the various congregations <i>churches of God</i>.</p>