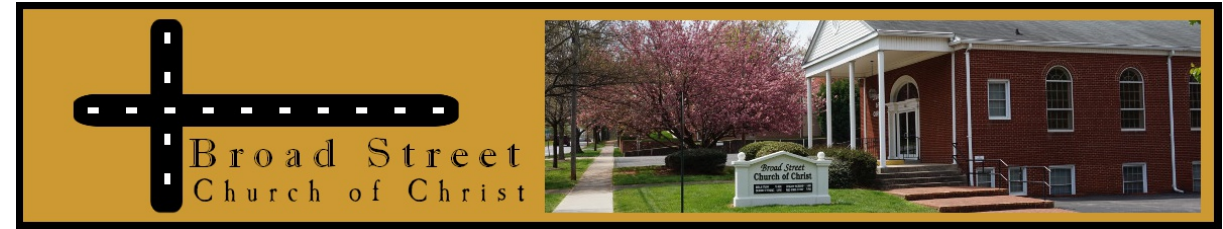


Broad Street Church of Christ
 433 E. Broad St.
 Statesville, NC 28677 | 704.873.4836
 www.broadstreetchurchofchrist.org



May 08, 2016

Who Needs the Church?

There are many people who go through life thinking that their relationship with God is just fine while they have little or no relationship with the church. The reasons they give for staying away from the assembly range from hypocrisy, real or imagined, to the idea that they can just as meaningfully worship at the fishing hole, in the garden or on the couch. The line from the Don Williams song rings true for them: "I don't believe that heaven waits for only those who congregate." Their view of Jesus may be that he simply wanted to spread a message of love. They may see the church as a non-vital body part like an appendix that they can just as easily do without.

No one can deny that the church is an imperfect thing. By its nature it will always be imperfect because it is made up of imperfect people just like the folks who criticize it for its imperfections. But neither can one deny the church's rightful place and priority in the life of the Christian...if one believes what the Bible says. The New Testament simply knows nothing of a faithful Christian who is willfully unattached to other Christians through corporate worship and spiritual fellowship. Here are just a few of the truths that the New Testament teaches us about the church.

First, the church is the body of Christ (Col. 1:24). To cut yourself off from the church is to be cut off from the body, to be amputated. The amputated hand is not only cut off from the arm but also from the head, who is Christ (Col. 1:18). Let's be real clear. The amputated body part dies. So does the amputated Christian.

The church is also the bride of Christ (Heb. 12:22-24; cf. Rev. 21:2). Think about that for a minute. If we are part of the church, we are part of the bride of Christ. So if we leave the church, what are we doing? Aren't we basically walking out on Christ? Ending our spiritual marriage to him? (Rom. 7:1-4)

The apostle Paul said that the church is the place where God is glorified (Eph. 3:21). If one

What must I do to be saved?

Hear the Gospel (Acts 15:7); Believe the Gospel (Mark 16:15-16); Repent of Sins (Acts 17:30); Confess Christ (Romans 10:9-10); Be Baptized (Acts 2:38)

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|------------------------|----------------|
| Scripture Reading: | Landon Speer |
| Song Leader: | Henry Rumble |
| Opening Prayer (A.M.): | Lenny Freeze |
| Closing Prayer (A.M.): | Tom May |
| Opening Prayer (P.M.): | Scott Phillips |
| Closing Prayer (P.M.): | Guy Byrd |
| Nursery Attendant: | Elaine Johnson |

| Worship Times | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Sunday Bible Study | 10:00 A.M. |
| Sunday A.M. Worship | 10:55 A.M. |
| Sunday P.M. Worship | 6:00 P.M. |
| Wednesday Bible Study | 7:00 P.M. |
| Elders | |
| John Anderson | 704.592.2266 |
| Steve Short | 704.872.5440 |
| Tommy Smith | 704.872.7966 |
| Bradley Speer | 704.876.6986 |
| Preacher | |
| Dave Wood | 704.380.4437 |

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Building Lockup: | Billy Ellenburg |
| Announcements: | Billy Ellenburg |
| Door Greeters: | Billy and Debbie E. |
| Count Contribution: | John Anderson, Harry Frye |
| Prepare Lord's Table: | Fredna Stroud |
| Lord's Supper (A.M.): | John Anderson, Steven Mozer, Landon Speer, Johnny Smith |
| Lord's Supper (P.M.): | Tommy Smith |

leaves the place where God is glorified, how does that one going about glorifying God? Isn't it a sign that this person is more concerned with what they want than what God wants?

Paul also called the church the household, or family, of God (1 Tim. 3:15). To leave the church is to leave God's family. It is to be the prodigal son or daughter (Luke 15:11-32). And until we, like the prodigal son, "come to our senses," we'll be sloppin' with the pigs.

Peter called the church the possession of God (1 Pet. 2:9). If we decide to no longer be a part of the church, we decide to no longer be part of what God owns. Therefore, we are striking out on our own, being on our own man or woman rather than God's. That might sound good for a while, this independence, but as far as eternity goes it is the last place we want to be.

Finally, Paul said that Jesus is the Savior of the church (Eph. 5:23). Do you want Christ to be your Savior? Do you want him to save you from an eternity in hell? If you do, then you need to be in his body, the church...because he is the Savior of the church. The church is who he saves. Back in Noah's day, there was only one place to be if you wanted to avoid drowning...in the ark. Today, there is only one place to be if you want to avoid hell...in the church of Christ.

The church isn't perfect as it exists on the earth. We've already established that fact and that's news to no one. But it is perfect in its design because God is its Designer. God created it with the realization that it would be populated by imperfect people. A few of those imperfect people may be insincere hypocrites who have no interest in being truly transformed. God knows who they are. But the rest of them are conscientious men and women who are acutely aware of their own sin and shortcomings. They know they are not perfect in and of themselves. But they also know they are perfected by the One who is. So they stay with his church. You would do well to stay with it too.

Otherwise you'll spend longer than you bargained for with those hypocrites you allowed to keep you from the church. By: Jon Mitchell

Welcome to Broad Street Church of Christ

A special welcome is extended to all of our guests. Please let us know if we can assist you. Please fill out a visitor's card which is located on the back of the pew in front of you. Deposit the card in the collection plate when it is passed. If you are looking for a place to worship regularly, we would love to have you here at Broad Street. Please come back and visit with us again.

SHUT-INS:

Ruby Gibson, Christine Cartner and Frances Elam.

PRAYERS:

Johnny Smith Jr., Phyllis Rumble, Stanley Sharpe, Helen Lyerly, Doris Ellenburg, Stacey Jordan, Will Winchester, Betty Smith, Jo Anne Leake, Nealie Kilpatrick and Roy Baldwin.

- Frank Shepherd is home from the hospital. The surgeon was able to remove about 17 pounds of the tumor and the cancer, however, they were not able to remove all of the cancer.

- Bella Brookshire is in a cast for a fractured growth plate.

- Justin Marlow, Roger and Cheryl's son-in-law, is still having problems with eye pressure. The injections that he has recieved have not relieved the pressure fast enough.

Upcoming Events:

May 8-11: Our Gospel Meeting starts today! Don't forget there will be a fellowship meal after morning worship. There will be another meal Wednesday evening at 5:30 P.M.

May 14: Ladies' breakfast will meet at the Son Rise Cafe' at 8:30 A.M.

May 14: Warner's Chapel church of Christ will host a senior rally from 8 A.M. through 1 P.M.. For more information there is a flyer on the bulletin board. For those interested there is a sign-up sheet in the annex.

May 16: The Ladies' class will meet at K & W at 6:30 P.M.

May 19: Book of the Month will meet at 6:30 P.M.

June 13-17: VBS is coming! We are in need of teachers please sign up! If you are a teacher, your class material is in the library.

Sermons:

A.M. - Guest Speaker: Robert Goff

P.M. - TBA