

BLODGETT CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Time of Services:

Sunday: 10:00 A.M. class, 11:00 A.M. worship, and 6:00 P.M. worship Wednesday: 7:00 P.M. class

Preacher:

Larry Black (cell) 903-588-4253 email: lblk@peoplescom.net

Youth Leaders:

Heath & Carla Hines 903-717-1423 email: hhines@hotmail.com

Benevolence - Rick Toland: 903-220-9825 Evangelism - Heath Hines: 903-717-1423 Edification - H. L. Robertson: 903-856-5461 Building Maintenance - Mark Sharpin: 903-573-3993 Grounds & Van - John D. Porter: 903-563-5945 Finance - Larry Reynolds: 903-767-0742

Wednesday Devotional Speaker: Dwayne Porter



BLODGETT CHURCH of CHRIST Bulletin

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Manasseh's Mess

Manasseh has the dubious distinction of being Judah's longest-reigning king, 55 years after assuming the throne at the tender age of 12, and its worst, most wicked king. His father, Hezekiah, instituted many religious reforms that ignited a spiritual revival throughout the kingdom. His son Manasseh undid it all. In fact, not only did he undo his father's good, but he went further into ungodliness than the godless pagan nations around Judah!

After being captured by the Assyrians, Manasseh humbles himself before God and is restored to his throne. He immediately begins to undo the wrongs he did. He removes idols, restores worship to God, and tries to get the people to follow his lead back to God. Unfortunately, it was too late. The people were so hardened in their apostasy, which Manasseh had led them into, that they refused to listen to him; they remained in their sin.

Manasseh's mess is a lesson for us in that sometimes our headlong pursuits of sin can result in consequences we never thought of. For Manasseh, it was the obstinate refusal of an entire nation —the one he was supposed to lead in righteousness— to submit to God. For us, it may be the influence that ultimately leads someone we love into a life of rebellion against God despite our remorse and repentance.

Don't be deceived. Someone is watching you and being pulled by your example, whether good or bad. It may be a friend, a co-worker, a spouse, or your child, but be aware that what you do matters. Start now to follow the God who loves you before it's too late for you and, maybe, for someone you love.

"He set up the altar of Yahweh and sacrificed peace offerings and thank offerings on it; and he ordered Judah to serve Yahweh, the God of Israel. Nevertheless the people still sacrificed in the high places" (II Chronicles 33:16-17). (written by Zeke Flores)

How Do I Choose a Church?

Adapted from Johnny O. Trail

One radio station in Nashville does nothing but talk radio. As an avid talk radio listener, I am always interested in the questions and comments of those who call in. On one show, the host deals exclusively with emails that listeners have sent in. The other day one that caught my attention was a lady who asked, "How do I choose a church?"

The host suggested she consider churches as communities and that she simply needed to find one that had people who most suited her needs for friendship. While friendship in a church is important, this approach lacks much in content.

"How do I choose a church?" is a fair question. The only way to answer it adequately is to appeal to Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16).

One needs to find the church founded by Jesus (<u>Matthew 16:18</u>). Jesus told Peter that He would build His church. Thus, the church is Christ's possession. It is not man-made; it is the bride of Christ (Romans 7:4).

One needs to find the church with only Christ as its head (<u>Colossians 1:18</u>). Many man-made denominations have men who serve as living heads of the church. Jesus (through His Scripture) is the only authority (<u>Matthew 28:18-20</u>) to which a church can appeal for an answer about its work, function, and membership.

One needs to find a church that offers the biblical method for membership. The New Testament church did not vote on whether a person was allowed membership. The Bible teaches that when one puts on Christ through faith (<u>Hebrews 11:6</u>), repentance (<u>Luke 13:3</u>), and baptism (<u>Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:26-27</u>), the Lord adds him to the church Christ died to establish (<u>Acts 2:47</u>).

One needs to find a church with the proper mission (<u>Ephesians 3:10</u>). The church is a worshipping society with a teaching mandate (<u>Matthew 28:19</u>). Many churches have forgotten their work. While fellowships and friendships with other Christians are good, they are not the best reasons to attend church. The church should be engaged in benevolence, evangelism, and edification, but teaching Christ and His gospel is paramount (cf. <u>Romans 1:16</u>).

One must find a church that worships God in spirit and truth (<u>John 4:24</u>). God desires our worship, and we need to be sure that we worship in a way that pleases Him.

There are many ways to choose a church — from throwing darts at church listings to asking a talk radio host. There is only one right way: opening up God's Word and examining what God desires of the church, then seeking that church, becoming a member, and attending regularly

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Family News

- Today is our first of the month covered-dish luncheon.
- We extend our condolences to **Jimmy and Vicki Jones** in the death of Jimmy's brother, Danny.
- **Jean Martin** continues to have some health problems and is in need of our prayers.
- **Rick Toland's** mother, Virginia, is suffering from a stroke.
- Bill Money's brother, Steve, and his dad, Bob, are having health problems,
- George Davis is recovering at home following recent surgery.
- We rejoice in last night's marriage of **Bradon and Marandy Wilkes.**
- Our **VBS** will be June 17-21 from 6:30-8:00 pm. There will be classes for cradle roll through 6th grade as well as an adult class.
- There is a men's meeting of area congregations on Friday, June 14 at Herschel's in Mt. Pleasant at 9:00 AM.
- HRR pantry item for June is Bisquick.

PLANTING YOUR SPRING GARDEN

Plant three rows of peas:

1. Peace of mind.

2. Peace of heart

3. Peace of soul

Plant four rows of squash:

- 1. Squash gossip
- 2. Squash indifference
- 3. Squash grumbling'
- 4. Squash selfishness

Plant four rows of lettuce:

- 1. Lettuce be faithful
- 2. Lettuce us kind
- 3 Lettuce be patient4. Lettuce really love one another

No garden is complete without turnips:

- 1. Turnip for worship service
- 2. Turnip for meetings
- 3. Turnip to help one another

To conclude our garden, we must have thyme:

- 1. Thyme for each other
- 2. Thyme for family
- 3. Thyme for friends

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love. There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow.

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