

TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Don Taylor /Opening Prayer by: Bobby Rader

Morning Assembly Song Leader: Danny Balch

#286 Wonderful Story of Love
#387 Tell Me the Story of Jesus

Scripture Reading by: Rock Cary

#342 We Saw Thee Not

Lord's Supper and Contribution

#548 The Lily of the Valley

Sermon: "The Baptism of Christ"
Matthew 3:13-17

#904 Have You Been to Jesus?
#882 No Tears in Heaven

Closing Prayer by: Tommy Cary

Welcome by: Don Taylor

Evening Assembly Song Leader: Danny Balch

#414 Anywhere with Jesus
#478 Nearer Still Nearer

Scripture Reading: Tristan Strickhausen

Prayer by: Bob Parker

#543 Wonderful Words of Life

Sermon: "One Word: Creation"
Psalms 148:1-5

#907 Hark the Gentle Voice
Mansion Over the Hilltop

Closing Prayer by: David Warren

Other Opportunities For Spiritual Growth

Sunday: 9:00am — Bible Study Classes, 10:00am — Worship, 6:00pm — Worship

Wednesday: 10:00am — Ladies Bible Class, 7:00pm — Bible Study Classes

January 13, 2019

“Stand Firm in...Liberty”

Galatians 5:1

A Case Study in Restoration

In 586 BC, the Babylonians destroyed the city of Jerusalem and carried away a final group of prisoners into captivity. This was God's judgment against his people because of their refusal to obey him. But by the time the book of Nehemiah was written, the exile was over. The Jews were allowed to return home and rebuild the Temple of God. A spirit of revival was sweeping the land, and the people were eager to serve God. You can see that clearly in **Nehemiah 8**. The scribe Ezra read the law publicly to the people assembled for the Feast of Tabernacles while they listened intently for hours.

But as he was reading, they discovered that God had commanded them to live in temporary huts during the feast. **Nehemiah 8:17** says that it had not been done since the days of Joshua – that's about 1,000 years! What was their response?

Well, if a similar situation occurred today, you can imagine that many would have been skeptical. “We're still observing the Feast of Tabernacles. That's what matters. If huts were that important, wouldn't we have been doing it for the last 1,000 years?” Or, “Is this really a salvation issue?” Or, “Let's not be legalistic!”

No – they said immediately, “Let's build the huts!” *Go out to the hills and bring branches of olive, wild olive, myrtle, palm, and other leafy trees to make booths, as it is written.” So the people went out and brought them and made booths for themselves... And all the assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths and lived in the booths, for from the days of Jeshua the son of Nun to that day the people of Israel had not done so. And there was very great rejoicing. (Neh 8:15b-16a, 17)*

This story is important because it is a powerful example of the restoration principle in action. God has given his people instructions for life, whether we are talking about Israel or the church. God sets guidelines for how we approach him and worship him, as well as how we conduct ourselves morally and ethically. And he expects that his people will be obedient.

But, unfortunately, people do not always obey God. Sometimes that is intentional as people are deliberately rebellious. But at other times, the will of God on a matter simply gets lost somehow. There are several examples of this in Scripture beyond the story we just related: Josiah renovated the Temple as part of his religious reform program and in the process discovered

Our Sick

Tim Watts, Lois Watts' grandson, has been diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

Kevin Coleman was released from the hospital last week.

Continued Prayers

(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Gwen Pettit, Gary Nielsen, Harold Cryer, Steve Ward, Jackie David, Frank & Tina Garcia, Bill Lunceford, Eric Davis, J. P. Williams, Mark Wilcox, Dayla Hale, Phillip Cottle, Joe Edd Stifflemire

Shut Ins

(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Jim Smith, Pauline Taylor, Winona Angelle, Myrtle Sheffield, Ronnie Rubit, Joe Leonard, Dr. Ronald Davis, Larry Hicks

Our Missionaries

Aaron & Marisa Bailey in Mwanza, Africa, Rod Kyle in the South Pacific

Plastic Bags

The Food Bank is in need of plastic grocery bags. A barrel is in the foyer.

Upcoming Activities

Elders, Minister meeting Monday at 7:00pm.

Singing today at Magnolia Place Health Care at 4:00 pm

We will have a Houston Food Bank truck on Thursday, Jan. 24th at 8:00 am.

New Address and Phone Number

Please add Melony and Larry Hicks to your directory. Their address is: 2618 Jefferson Dr., Liberty, TX 77575, phone number 713-702-9493. Email address is: mesmith.hicks@gmail.com

We are working through the book "One Word" together which started last Sunday evening. This is a daily devotional book, and our Sunday evening lessons will relate to it. If you are interested in participating in this program, please pick up a book from the office. One free book per household; additional books may be purchased for \$5/each.

Communion Preparation: Judy Jones
Nursery Attendants: Marsha Rader, Lynette Ward

Communion Preparation for Sunday, Jan. 20th: Marsha LaFour
Nursery Attendants for Sunday, Jan. 20th: Tania Balch, Pat Hobbs

continued from front page

the lost book of the Law, prompting him to keep the Passover properly for the first time in generations (**2 Chronicles 34-35**); Uzzah was struck dead for touching the Ark of the Covenant when it appeared it was going to fall, a direct result of it being transported on a cart rather than being carried by priests, a practice David consequently reinstated (**1 Chronicles 15**).

Each of these demonstrates what we mean by restoration. In each case, the people discovered a command of God that had fallen into obscurity. And, in each case, they endeavored to restore it to the practice of the community. Scripture provides the means of renewal because it is the account of how God has revealed himself to humanity. When God's people have drifted, his Word leads them to see the true standard and encourages them to come back to the right way.

Bringing ourselves individually and corporately in line with God's standards should be the spirit that motivates us. The New Testament is, or ought to be, normative for our beliefs and practices – that is, it sets the standard for what we teach and what we do. The very concept of restoration indicates that, sometimes, important parts of God's will have been lost. That should not surprise us, considering that it has happened before. But that means that we must always be on guard. We must constantly hold ourselves up to God's word, evaluating and reevaluating ourselves. After all, even the first century churches were not always what God wanted them to be! We ought not think that we are somehow an exception. We stand always under the judgment of Scripture – restored, but every restoring. We must examine ourselves just as we must ultimately be examined by the Lord.

We also have a personal responsibility to spend the time and effort necessary to know God. The only way to know God is through his revelation. This means not just public instruction in the Scripture, but private Bible study. And then, knowing it, we must endeavor to put it into practice in our lives. May God help us as a church and as his people to do his will in all things.

Bryant Perkins

"Stand Firm in...Liberty"

is the weekly bulletin of the Liberty Church of Christ 3201 North Main, Liberty Texas 77575
Office Phone Number (936) 336-2213; Fax (936) 334-8280;
Minister's (Bryant Perkins) Cell Phone Number (903)407-5737
Website: libertycofc.org Facebook page: Liberty Church of Christ