



A Publication From

Columbia Church of Christ

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Come to know . . .

Come to love . . .

Come to serve . . .

Out Reach Team Meeting

The next Out Reach Team Meeting will be held **Sunday, March 3 at 1:30** in the afternoon. If you would like to be a part of the outreach team or have any ideas for reaching our community please join us, or if you have some good ideas and do not wish to come to the meeting give your ideas to Charlie Stomm, Greg Vogel, Annette Chapin or Deloyd Kemarly.

WCS Meeting

Our next WCS meeting will be March 14th at the church at 7 p.m. All ladies are invited to join us. Hostesses for this meeting is Diana Keller and Devotions will be presented by Annette Chapin.

Building Project Fund

If you would like to contribute money to the construction projects, please place your check in the offering and mark the memo area construction projects.

Fifth Sunday Offering

The next 5th Sunday offering will be March 31st. All money given on this day will be going for the Youth for a week of camp at Lake James Christian Camp. Please be in prayer for this offering. Thank You!



Be sure to reset your clocks on Saturday, March 9th.

Food for Thought

By: Jeremy Jones

How many times have you read though the Bible and came upon these words, “*If you love me then you will keep my commandments*”? We know that these are the words of Jesus, but what is Jesus talking about. Most of us when we hear the word “commandment” we think of the 10 Commandments. And we think to ourselves, “I have kept those, so I must Jesus.” What would you say if I told you while keeping the 10 Commandments is important, that is not what Jesus is talking about? Like most things in the Bible Jesus’ words go deeper than that. So, what are the commandments of Jesus?

Let us start where John begins, at “*the beginning.*” But before we go any further go get your Bible and read **1st John**..... Now that you have read **1st John** let’s talk. Notice that John starts his letter setting up the reasons why the reader should listen to him. He states his qualifications for being able to say the things about Jesus he does. He “*heard, saw with his eyes, looked at, and touched with his hands (1:1).*” He then goes on to encourage and warn his readers. All throughout the letter John uses the word commandment 10 times. In **Chapter 3**, we read “*and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight (v.22).*” Again, we ask what are His commandments? John goes on to tell us (v.23) “***This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us (John 13:34- 35).***” Do you see what John did? He tells us point blank what the commandments of Jesus are “*This is His commandment.*” Not only does John spell out what the command of Christ is, but he tells us the benefit of obeying the command. “*The one who keeps His commandment abides in Him, and He in Him. We know by this that abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us. (v.24)*” When we keep or obey Christ’s command, He promises that He will abide (stay – Gk. Word menei, Strong’s Concordance) in us through the gift of the Holy Spirit. This is a promise of that we can take hold of today, not a promise that will one take place. Christ through the presences of the Holy Spirit is with us the moment we become Christians. What a promise!! Christ in us now and ALL we have to is obey His commandments, “Believe in His name and love one another.” Please join me next month and we will look at another of the commandments of Christ. Until then, I encourage to first pray over this command, make it part of your everyday life and then with pray get you Bible and explore God’s Word letting Him show other of His commands.

Apologetics Moment

Have you ever wondered why the Gospel of Matthew gives a different genealogy than the Gospel of Luke? I encourage you please to go and read **Matthew 1:1 - 17** and **Luke 3:23 - 38**.... Now let's look at these verses a little deeper. **Matthew 1** ends with "*Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah. (v.16)*" and **Luke** starts his genealogy "*When He began His ministry, Jesus Himself was about thirty years of age, being, as was supposed, the son of Joseph, the son Eli, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Jannai, the son Joseph (v.23)*" So how does Joseph have two fathers (son of Jacob – Matthew 1:16), (the son of Eli – Luke 3:16)? To our non-Christian friends and family this looks like a HUGE contradiction. But, wait let's look at them a little closer. Both genealogies follow the line to King David, but then divide. **Matthew** "*David was the father of Solomon by Bathsheba*" and **Luke** states "*the son of Nathan, the son of David.*" So, why the differences? Again, it looks like another contradiction. To understand these genealogies, we have to go back to **Jeremiah 22:24 - 30**. It is in **Jeremiah 22** that the king of Judah, Jeconiah is cursed by God and seems to end the line of the true king of Israel. "*Thus, says the LORD, 'Write this man down childless, A man who will not prosper in his days; For no man of his descendants will prosper sitting on the throne of David or ruling again in Judah. (v.30)*" So, how is that God's promise to David that he would ALWAYS have an heir on the throne come true (**1 Kings 9:5** and **2 Samuel 7:16**)? How would Jesus be a king from the line of David? That's where the distinctions between the genealogies come in. Matthew's genealogy sets Jesus up as having the royal (kingship) authority of David. Matthew shows this by tracing the blood line of Joseph, Jesus' soon to be step-father. Jesus, although He would have no blood ties to Joseph, would be given the inheritance of the 1st born, as Joseph would take Jesus to be his 1st born child. Luke's genealogy sets Jesus up as having the bloodline of David through Mary. In other words, the two genealogies go together to establish Jesus as the true king of Israel. As He is the ONLY one to be able to prove BOTH kingship (Matthew's genealogy) and bloodline (Luke's genealogy). The really cool part is the Jewish people have always depended on the proof of their genealogies to do anything from selling land to claiming throne. The genealogies were held in the Temple. As we know the Temple was destroyed by the Romans in 77AD, destroying ALL genealogies. In other words, no Jewish person can claim connection to the throne and they are waiting for the heir of David to reclaim the throne. And only one complete set of genealogies exist to prove the true

king. And they are found in Matthew 1 and Luke 3. Proving once and for all that Jesus really is the KING.

