

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

www.floralheightschurchofchrist.org

18 September 2011

VOLUME 11; ISSUE 37

**Floral Heights
Church of Christ
1814 Buchanan
Wichita Falls, Texas
76309
(940) 322 - 1650**

In This Issue:

3 John 1-2
Local News 2
Sermon Outline 3
**The Book of Psalms – Back
Cover**

Our Elders:

Mike Chancellor
(322 – 6374)

Tom Witherspoon
(923-6479)

Deacons:

Joe Cronin

Jim Hall

David Witherspoon

Preacher:

John C. Robertson

3 John

A Synopsis of the Book

Most of the New Testament deals with problem brethren and problems in the churches. Paul exposed troubling false teachers in the book of Galatians. Paul dealt with the lack of unity and contention among brethren at Corinth (see 1 and 2 Corinthians). The apostle Paul spoke of the "*enemies of the cross*" at Philippians 3:18, the vain and church troubling doctrines of men at Colossians 2:8, and sons of perdition at 2 Thessalonians 2. Peter exposed false teachers at 2 Peter 2 and John exposed the spirit of antichrist at 1 and 2 John. The apostle Paul even named the troubling brethren by name when addressing Timothy (see 2 Timothy 2:17-18). The book of 3 John reveals another trouble maker in the church by the name Diotrephes. Diotrephes goes down in history as one whose priorities were confused and consequentially a nuisance in the Lord's church. The book of 3 John is only fourteen verses long yet packed with information regarding the common occurrence of trouble in the early church. The incident with Diotrephes was not an isolated event.

The apostle John had established a church and apparently baptized one named Gaius at some unrecorded location (see 3 John 4). John keeps up with the progress of this church through letters and word of mouth. John sent preachers to this church to edify its members and preach to the lost in the local area. These preachers represented truth and came with the high commendation of the apostle John. Gaius received these faithful preachers and he was hospitable to them too. Diotrephes; however, rejected these men and cast them out of the church.

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our worship service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

We rejoice with the Chancellor family as Merisol, Clint's wife, has given birth to a baby girl. Maya Rose Chancellor was born on the ninth day of September 2011. Maya weighed in at 7lbs 2 oz and is 21" in length. We pray that she will grow up to be a healthy girl who loves the Lord with all her heart.

Please keep Wayne Goforth and the wife of Dennis Scroggins (Glenda) in your prayers. We support both Wayne and Dennis as gospel preachers. Wayne continues to suffer from leg trimmers and Glenda has an ongoing battle with cancer.

Shut-ins:

Stella Davidson remains at the Texhoma Christian Care Center for rehabilitation. **Stella has asked that we not visit her at this time.** If you would like to mail her a card she is in room 1807.

Calvin York

692-0489 (Home)

Apparently Gaius and Diotrephes were working and worshipping at the same church. Part of the work of these preachers sent by John was to expose error in the local churches. It is likely that these preachers exposed Diotrephes' wickedness and were consequentially cast out of the church. Diotrephes sought after preeminence among brethren and would not stand for any who would take his position away from the minds of other brethren. One such preacher was Demetrius. While the apostle John commends Demetrius' stand for truth Diotrephes was casting him out of the church. Gaius was obviously not following Diotrephes and neither was he viewing the heretic as preeminent. Gaius is commended by John as one who walked in truth. Obviously Gaius and Diotrephes were at odds regarding the spiritual standing of Demetrius and John is writing this short letter to encourage him.

Those who do not like thinking or reading about church problems are not likely to be edified by 3 John. Those who do not read the New Testament and learn from the content of these inspired pages will forever be confused. Paul said of such people that that they are, "*Ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of truth*" (2 Timothy 3:7). Let us remember that the apostle Paul wrote, "*For there must be also factions among you, that they that are approved may be made manifest among you*" (1 Corinthians 11:19). There will always be problems in the church. What should we do? Should we say, "That's why I don't go to church?" "They are all hypocrites." "There is no love here." Why not look to the word of God and take note that there is a battle for the souls of men taking place. Satan is doing all that he can to ruin the eternal existence of all men because he hates, with a passion, the church of Jesus Christ (see Revelation 12:14-17). We will be victorious over him by recognizing his tactics among men and standing for truth alone (see 1 John 4:4). Let us be as the apostle John and deal with these corrupt men who do the work of Satan (see 3 John 10-11). Secondly, let us be sure to encourage men like Gaius who are standing for the truth in very difficult times.

John P Robertson

Are YOU a Christian?

Bible Correspondence Course # 7

Introduction:

This is the seventh of eight lessons designed to bring the lost to Christ. Those lost in sin are recognized as spiritually dead and sons of disobedience (see Ephesians 2:1-4). As the Ephesians were once dead in disobedience and made alive in Christ so can all men today. This lesson shall examine what Bible people did to become Christians. We can certainly do no less or no more that what they did. Are you a Christian?

I. Who are the Saved?

- A. Known of God before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:3-4).
- B. Those called by the gospel to be forgiven of sins (Romans 3:28-29; 2 Thess. 2:13-14).
- C. Those who have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus through baptism (Ephesians 1:7; Acts 2:38).

II. What did people in Bible Days do to be Identified as a Christian?

- A. There are approximately 19 examples, in the book of Acts, of people becoming Christians.
- B. An interesting fact is that in every case we find that the evangelist that taught them preached Jesus.

III. What is, "Preaching Jesus?"

- A. Preaching the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.
- B. Preaching about the kingdom of God.
- C. Preaching that demands hearing.
- D. Preaching that commands belief.
- E. Preaching repentance.
- F. Preaching that demands man's confession that Jesus is the Christ.
- G. Preaching that baptism washes away sins.
- H. Preaching that instructs people to remain faithful all the days of their lives.
- I. Preaching that instructs people to be humble and confess their sins to the Lord.

Conclusion:

God demand's man's moral perfection. There are men and women who recognize their undone condition before the Lord and thereby call out to him for help. The Lord's help is the blood of Jesus Christ. This blood is available to all who would call upon the name of Jesus Christ. People gain access into God's grace of justification through the act of baptism. People remain in good standing with the Lord as they confess and repent of their sins. We thank God for his rich mercy and grace whereby we are saved.