

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Class 10:00 AM
Morning Worship 11:00 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday Bible Class 7:00 PM

Leadership

Elders Hayward Blanton
Jerry Casey

Deacons Clint Smith Jr
Clint Smith Sr
Robby Stocksdale
Joe Sweeney

Pulpit Minister Eric Welch
Associate Minister Irvin F. Williams

Mission Work

Panama Mission
Pablo Sanchez

We Offer Free Personal Bible Studies and Bible Correspondence Courses, if interested contact us at (812) 284-3125 or email: church@hamburgpikecofc.org

Visit Our Website: www.hamburgpikecofc.org

“The Sacrifices of God”

In Psalm 51, David seems to contradict himself when he exclaims, “You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering” (Psalm 51:16 – NKJV). Three verses later, he says, “You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering” (Psalm 51:19 – NKJV). Just what kind of sacrifices is God pleased with?

Our sacrifices to God are similar in nature to the flowers a husband gives to his wife after a heated argument. The wife doesn't need the flowers. They are valuable to her only if they accurately represent her husband's true feelings. If she thinks they are merely a ritual and do not symbolize his regret for the heated words stated in their argument, the flowers may simply make their relationship worse.

God didn't need the animals offered to Him in sacrifice under the Old Testament law, for the writer of Hebrews tells us, “It is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins” (Hebrews 10:4 – NKJV). Rather, these sacrifices pointed to the once-for-all payment Jesus would make with His own blood when He died for our sins (Hebrews 9:11-12 – NKJV; cf. Hebrews 10:11-12; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:12-14).

What was crucial in the offering of sacrifices, was the attitude of those making the sacrifices. If the offerings were without repentance, the ritual was a mockery. That's why David wrote, “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart — these, O God, You will not despise” (Psalm 51:17 – NKJV).

Brethren, let's make certain that the spiritual sacrifices we offer to God are not simply ritualistic in nature — but from our heart (Psalm 34:18; cf. 1 Peter 2:5; Hebrews 13:15-16; 2 Corinthians 9:12; Philippians 4:18 – NKJV).

Those Privileged to Serve

A.M. Worship Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins
Opening Prayer Brandon Slotman
Scripture Reading Greg Blanton
Sermon Eric Welch
Lord's Supper Message Robby Stocksdale
Table Attendant Ethan Welch
Table Attendant Marc Owens
Closing Prayer Irvin Williams

P.M. Worship Service

Song Leader Clint Smith Jr
Bible Reading Nathaniel Welch
Selection 4
Opening Prayer Hayward Blanton
Sermon Eric Welch
Closing Prayer John Keaton

A.M. & P.M. Services

Announcements Joe Sweeney
Lord's Supper Prayer Jerry Casey
Offering Prayer Ryan Irwin
Usher Jerry Montgomery
Count Offering Hank Tincher
Assist Count Harold Tincher

Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning: Placing Fellowship Acts 11:19-26
Sunday Evening: Phoebe Romans 16:1-2

Last Sunday

Offering: \$2,832 Attendance: 79

The Worker

Hamburg Pike Church of Christ

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I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU "HUSBAND & HUSBAND"

The headlines say it all... "United Church of Christ Endorses Homosexual Marriages." This past week (article from 7/10/2005 HT), at the United Church of Christ's 25th General Synod in Atlanta, Georgia, a resolution was presented to, "affirm the rights of gay, lesbian and transgender persons to have marriages equal in name, privileges and responsibilities to married heterosexual couples." The resolution was overwhelmingly approved. I might also add that there was also a "one man, one woman" resolution offered, but it was condemned as discriminatory.

Here are a few of my thoughts regarding the above news:

Name Confusion. Due to the similarity between the designations "United Church of Christ" and the "Church of Christ," there will be people who mistakenly believe that local Churches of Christ approve of such sinful behavior. This should serve to remind us that there is more to being a Christian than just wearing the name of Christ. Even one of the United Church of Christ preachers made the following statement following the adoption of this resolution. He said, "If we're going to call ourselves Christian and be followers of Christ, we need to follow his teachings on marriage."

...Having Itching Ears. The Bible warns of a time when people will have "itching ears" and will turn away from the truth and be turned to fables" (2 Timothy 4:2-4). How else does one explain this event? The Bible is just too clear on this topic to miss what it teaches. It reminds me of what Jeremiah said long ago, "An astonishing and horrible thing has been committed in the land; The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule by their own power; and my people love to have it so" (Jeremiah 5:30-31)

Postmodernism. This philosophy simply refers to the end of the "modern" period in which people relied upon logic, reason, and rationality. Postmodernism refers to philosophy in which people rely less on logic, reason, rationality, and more upon feelings and emotions. In an effort to end what they consider to be "hurtful discrimination," they have arrived at the position they now espouse. Forget about the absolute truth of God's word on the matter, and consider the feelings of these poor individuals. This is the approach these people are using, as well as many others in our society, just like them. What amazes me is not that some are defending homosexual marriage, but that the Bible even gets honorable mention in the whole discussion.

Friends, what we are witnessing in the United Church of Christ is the natural progression of leaving the absolute standard of God's word and substituting with the subjective standard of man's "think so."

Steve Higginbotham Bulletin Date: 7/10/2005 Copyright © 2004, South Green Street Church of Christ, Glasgow, Kentucky, Reprinted by Permission

The Chain of Authority

Eric Welch

Do the Scriptures hold final authority in religious matters? Not too long ago, a “senior minister” in Franklin, Tennessee, proclaimed that churches of Christ have been “reading Jesus through Paul” when we ought to be “reading Paul through Jesus.” The context was a defense of the use of a female intern to preach in a mixed assembly service. He is saying that we place too much emphasis on Paul or the Epistles and not enough emphasis on Jesus or the Gospels. This assertion is also known as “red-letter” authority since many Bibles place the words of Jesus in red lettering.

This hermeneutic (system of interpretation) is based upon a profound misunderstanding of Jesus, revelation, and authority. Several red-letter passages reveal to us the chain of authority that begins with God the Father. He is the supreme authority, and He gave all authority to Jesus: “And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me” (Matthew 28:18; cf. 1 Corinthians 11:3). On the night of his betrayal, Jesus said that he would send His Spirit on the apostles. “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you” (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13).

The Spirit, thereby, gave the apostles authority in the revelation of Truth. To deny the delegated authority of the apostles is to deny the authority of Christ. To reject them and their testimony is to reject Jesus (Luke 10:16; John 13:20; 17:18; 20:21). This red-letter verse says, “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven (Matthew 16:19; cf. 18:18). He says the same in John 20:22-23, “And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.’” These red-letter verses make it quite clear that Jesus delegated His authority to the apostles through the Holy Spirit.

What is so shocking is how little the red-letter hermeneutic idea has been thought through. The position is self-refuting. Who wrote the Gospel accounts? Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Two apostles at the end and two prophets in the middle. These inspired men made the red letters happen. That is, they wrote down the words of Jesus. The apostles and certain inspired men, upon whom the apostles laid hands, revealed God’s message, which eventually was written for future generations. Paul says that the church, the household of God, is “built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone” (Eph 2:19-20). Peter recognized Paul’s letters as Scripture (2 Peter 3:16). In 1 Timothy 5:18, Paul quoted from the inspired prophet Luke who recorded Jesus saying in Luke 10:7 “The laborer deserves his wages.”

Thus, we have the chain of authority: God > Christ > The Spirit > The apostles (with other inspired men) > The Bible. The Bible is God’s written revelation to man.

Hamburg Pike Happenings

Financial Peace University begins Thursday February 2nd at 7:00 p.m. The class will meet in the auditorium for 9 consecutive Thursday evenings. There is a signup sheet on the table along with instructions for obtaining your Financial Peace kit. Please see Brandon Slotman with additional questions.

A youth devotional is scheduled for Thursday January 19th at 6:30 p.m. at the building.

Quotes & sayings

- "Worship does not satisfy your hunger for God; it whets the appetite." (Eugene H. Peterson; quoted from Leadership Magazine).
- God works - in me, with me, through me, for me.
- Our greatest weakness may be our failure to ask for God's strength.
- "It's good to be a Christian and know it, but it's better to be a Christian and show it" (via the Harrisburg Church of Christ bulletin).

[Hamburg Pike church of Christ](#)