



Warners Chapel Church of Christ

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Preacher: **Frank Shepard**

“The churches of Christ salute you” Rom. 16:16

A CORDIAL WELCOME AWAITS YOU

January 8, 2017

AUTHORITY

Challenging Scriptural Practices

There are many in the church challenging Scriptural practices by saying “we have no authority for those practices.” In addition the accusation is often made that certain practices within the church are nothing more than “tradition.” Many times such accusations are made without a proper understanding of Bible authority, and often such arguments are only made against such practices as are not like by the accuser. Sometimes such statements come from those who harbor a significant amount of bitterness toward the church of Christ. At other times, sincere, genuine, and honest people that have never been taught how to determine Bible authority make those statements.

We Must Have Authority For All That We Do

We must not do anything for which we have no authority. When Paul wrote to the Colossian Christians he said, “And, whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” (Colossians 3:17) When we examine the use of the phrase, “in the name of the Lord” in other passages we see that this expression is often used as reference to authority (James 5:10; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; I Corinthians 1:10; 5:4). “In the name of the Lord,” means “by the Lord’s authority.” Whatever the church does must be done with the Lord’s authority behind it.

A Mistaken Idea Concerning Bible Authority

Some have the mistaken idea that we do not have authority for any practice for which there is no express and specific New Testament command given. Such a limited and restricted view of Bible authority is seldom taken to its full conclusion. Let me give an example to illustrate. Most churches of Christ worship in church buildings they have built or bought. Where is the express and specific command in the Bible that tells us to build a church building? There isn’t one. Should we then say that we have no authority for church buildings? No, and here is why. We have a specific and direct command to assemble (Hebrews 10:25). Granted the command is given in the negative. “not forsaking the assembling,” but the command still authorizes a specified assembly of the saints. Because we have a command to assemble we are authorized to have a place to assemble. We should look at our options and choices for places to assemble and choose that which is the most expedient. Most congregations have decided building or buying a church building is the most expedient way to provide a place for the fulfillment of the command to assemble.

Challenging Mid-Week Bible Study

Sometimes people will tell us that having a mid-week Bible study is simply a church tradition that is without Bible authority. Some come to this conclusion because they see no express or specific command saying, “have a mid-week Bible study or prayer meeting.” if there is no Bible authority for a mid-week Bible study or prayer meeting then we must stop doing it immediately (Colossians 3:17). However, we can clearly establish Bible authority for a mid-week Bible study in a number of ways.

First, it is important for Christians to fellowship one another for the express purpose of edifying one another (Ephesians 4:11-12). This edifying is to be done by speaking the truth in love (Ephesians 4:13-16). One way of fulfilling the commands regarding edification is to have a mid-week Bible Study.

Second, the elders are commanded to “shepherd” the church of God (Acts 20:28). A very helpful tool in shepherding is a mid-week Bible study or prayer meeting. As an option available to help in the fulfillment of this command mid-week Bible study is authorized. Furthermore, the elders as “overseers” do, in fact, have the authority to appoint a mid-week Bible study.

Third, Christians are commanded to teach other Christians (Titus 2:1-6). This means Christians must have opportunities to teach other Christians. The mid-week Bible study creates an opportunity for this command to be fulfilled.

Fourth, Paul said to Timothy, “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15) To please God we must be able to properly understand and apply the word of truth. In fact, we must be diligent in achieving this. Sometimes this means we need the help of a teacher (Acts 8:31; Ephesians 4:11). A mid-week Bible study gives us this opportunity.

Fifth, Christians are to continue to grow and mature (Hebrews 5:12-14). Mid-week Bible study provides an opportunity for growth through fellowship, prayer, and Bible teaching.

Be Careful of Your Attitudes and Accusations

Let’s be very careful to understand the Bible authority for all that we do (Colossians 3:17). However, we should not fall into the trap of believing that we only have authority for those things that are specifically and expressly commanded by God. We have authority to choose from available options that help us carry out the express commands of God as long as those options do not conflict with the scriptures.

We have Bible authority for church buildings because of the command to assemble (Hebrews 10:25). Because we must assemble a place for assembling is required. A congregation may choose a rented place, a house, a shade tree, a garage, a field, a clearing in the woods, or a building bought or built for the express purpose of worshiping God. We have Bible authority for a mid-week Bible study as established above. An eldership may choose a Wednesday night Bible study, a lectureship series, a gospel meeting, a Thursday night Bible study, or all of the above as expedient choices in helping the church to grow and mature in the faith.

Make sure you understand Bible authority before you start throwing out challenges to Scriptural and authorized practices of the churches of Christ. Be sure to examine your heart to determine whether bitterness toward the Lord’s church or a genuine desire to know the truth is behind any challenges or questions you may have with regard to the work and worship of churches of Christ.

Kevin Rutherford

READ THE NEW TESTAMENT IN 2017

January 9 - Matt. 7
January 10 - Matt. 8:1-17
January 11 - Matt. 8:18-34
January 12 - Matt. 9:1-17



January 13 - Matt. 9:18-38
January 14 - Matt. 10:1-20
January 15 - Matt. 10:21-42



OUR SICK Please Remember in Your Prayers

*Please continue to keep **Frank & Jane Shepard, Wanda Elam, Elwood Flinchum, Mary Tesh, Curtis Doss & Family, Bob Plunk, Charlie Parker and Wayne Hutchins** in your prayers.*

Ingrid Mock will enter Forsyth Medical Center this coming Monday to undergo surgery. She will remain in the hospital overnight following the surgery. Please keep her in your prayers.

Wanda Elam was scheduled to be released from the hospital this past Thursday. She is at home under Hospice care.

Wayne Hutchins was also scheduled to be released from the hospital this past Thursday.

"Bob and I want to thank you for your prayers. He will finish his radiation treatments on Friday, Jan. 6th, and also see the general oncologist to see where we go from here." — Carolyn Plunk

Roger Allen has been diagnosed with a herniated disk in his lower back and will be out of work for a week of bedrest.

Sandra Church is ill with cold and sinus problems.

Mindy Santiago's sister, **Kathy Furches**, underwent surgery on Tuesday, Jan. 3rd, to have some cancerous tumors removed. Please pray that they got it all and for her recovery.

Virginia Kee, Emily Workman's grandmother, wants to sincerely thank the congregation for their continued prayers and the many cards that continue to be sent to her. She uses them to decorate her room and is very proud to tell everyone you've sent them.

Sandy Smith is having problems with her back and was unable to attend Wednesday evening Bible Study.

Elise Cave, Lutrelle Chipman's granddaughter has returned to the hospital in Indiana.

**THE PRAYER LIST IS AVAILABLE ON
THE CREDENZA IN THE FOYER.**



~IN SYMPATHY~

Our sympathy goes out to the family of **Sandra Lawson** who passed away December 31st. Her funeral was held this past Wednesday, on January 4th, at the Linville Forest church of Christ where she had been a faithful member.

The Burial was at Gardens of Memory in Walkertown.

Welcome

WE ARE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU VISITING WITH US THIS MORNING. WE INVITE YOU TO RETURN THIS EVENING AT 6:00 P.M. FOR THE SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE AND AT 7:00 P.M. EACH WEDNESDAY EVENING FOR THE MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY.

WARNERS CHAPEL EVENTS:

January 8 - Kevin Rutherford will be the speaker this morning.

January 10 - Sewing for Nicaragua from 9-12 a.m. in Annex.

January 12 - The 50 and Over Class will resume meeting at 10:30 in the Annex.

January 15 - Congregational Meal in the Annex following morning worship service.

SOUTHWEST FOOD PANTRY

The suggested items for **January 2017** is peanut butter and jelly (in plastic containers. No glass containers allowed)

SHUT-INS

**Mildred Barker
Lutrelle Chipman**

**Dot Pegram
Eva Nelle Sidden**

Please keep the shut-ins in your prayers and check the sign-up sheet to take communion to Dot Pegram if you are able. (sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board)

CUSCO MISSIONS BREAKFAST

Due to potential inclement weather, this past Saturday's breakfast to talk about the Cusco Work was cancelled and will be rescheduled for a later date.

Please Note:

For those who remember **Mr. J.D. Beshears** who attended services at Warners Chapel for some time with Mildred Barker, will appear in a documentary movie about World War II called "Behind Bayonets and Barbed Wire". This movie is about the Bataan Death March (1942) and is scheduled to be shown nationwide soon. Mr. Beshears passed away several years ago.

FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study - January 1, 2017	130
Sunday Morning Worship Service	179
Contribution for January 1, 2017	\$7,572
Daily Adult Bible Readers:	481
Chapters Read:	36
Sunday Evening Worship Service	119
Wednesday Evening Bible Study 1-4-17	106



Lord's Day Appointments For January, 2017

Serving the Lord's Table For January:

Al Lawson

Alfred Huff	Neal Harper
Wayne Allen	Jody Everett
	Lou Ann Harper
	Clayton Workman
	Shawn Thomason

Preparing Communion for January:

Making Announcements on Sunday:

Making Announcements on Wednesday:

Lord's Day Appointments - January 15, 2017

DEVOTIONS:	OPENING PRAYER:	SONG LEADER	SCRIPTURE READERS
Scripture - Mark Minor	Morning - Carl Cooper	A.M. -	A.M. - Gene Ruark
Song Leader - Tommy Rose	Evening - Wesley Huff	P.M. - Roger Allen	P.M. - Sherrill Stewart
Prayer - Andy Santiago		Wed. - Tim Allen	

Greeters for January:

Mike and Laura Cooper

Opening and Closing Building

Sunday: - January 15 -

Wednesday: - January 18 -

Lord's Day Appointments - January 8, 2017

DEVOTIONS:	OPENING PRAYER:	SONG LEADER	SCRIPTURE READERS
Scripture - Shawn Thomason	Morning - Tim Harper	A.M. - Gene Southern	A.M. - Shawn Thomason
Song Leader - Tim Allen	Evening - Mark Minor	P.M. - Clayton Workman	P.M. - Michael Cooper
Prayer - Jack Piper		Wed. - Roger Allen	

Opening and Closing Building

Sunday: - January 8 -

Wednesday: - January 11 -

January:

Mike and Laura Cooper

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES - Nursery open for small children during all services.

SUNDAY:

Bible Classes 10:00 AM

Morning Worship 10:50 AM

Evening Worship 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY: Mid-Week Service 7:00 PM

“GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BIBLE” at 10:30 p.m. each week night on Cable 8
SEARCH PROGRAM - Sunday Mornings at 7:30 a.m. on Cable 68

WARNERS CHAPEL CHURCH OF CHRIST
8999 LASATER ROAD
CLEMMONS, NC 27012

ELDERS

DEACONS

David Moore
Tim Allen
Joe Everett
Todd Hinson
Steve Tesh

Randy Warner
Keith Warner
Andy Santiago
Mark Minor
Jason Allen

Mike Cooper
Jody Everett
Gene Southern
Shawn Thomason