

First-Century Christianity

By House to House Heart to Heart

Is it possible for people living today simply to be New Testament Christians? Can we be first-century Christians in the twenty-first century? So much is said today about “change”—and much change is evident. Computers, communications, and candidates are constantly changing. Must the gospel be changed to fit a changing world, or is the message of Christ’s sacrifice still enough for today (1 Corinthians 15:1–4)?

Man has not changed. In what is thought to be the oldest book in the Bible (Job), Job’s friend said that man “drinks iniquity like water!” (Job 15:16). That could be a description of people today. People now struggle with the same greed, lust, and bitterness as those of previous generations. Human nature today is as it was yesterday. Man has always been given the choice of good or evil (Deuteronomy 11:26) and has always—to some degree—chosen evil (Romans 3:23).

Man’s problem has not changed. In Noah’s days, people were wicked; “The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Genesis 6:5). In our day sin is still our problem. Man is sinful, ungodly. “There is not a just man on earth who does good and does not sin” (Ecclesiastes 7:20). There is not even one accountable person who has not sinned (Romans 3:10, 23). Our problem is a common problem—sin.

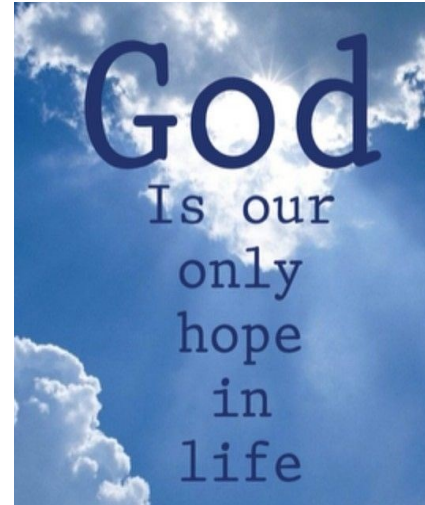
Man’s hope has not changed. Jesus is our only hope. Paul spoke of “Christ . . . the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27). Jesus “bore our sins in His own body on the tree” (1 Peter 2:24). Without this death, man would be without hope. “Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit” (1 Peter 3:18). Man’s hope is in the fact that Jesus suffered sin’s penalty in man’s place.

Man is the same; sin is the same; man’s hope is the same. First-century Christianity is possible today. Through a return to New Testament teaching and in loving obedience to the gospel, we can be Christians only (Acts 2:36–47; Romans 6:1–6). God requires learning of Christ (Romans 10:17), belief in Christ (John 3:16), repentance of sin (Acts 2:38), confession of faith (Romans 10:9–10), and baptism (Mark 16:16). Have you obeyed the gospel? If not, now is the time!

—adapted from Charles Box

Prayers and Concerns

- ◆ Harold Reynolds had a PET scan Friday and is waiting on results.
- ◆ Jim Hambelton has been in Baxter since last Sunday after being combative. They are adjusting his medications.
- ◆ Remember those with health issues—Barbara White, Wanda Beard, Don Luna, Faye Flaughers, Ruth Strain, Norma Jones, Steve Siebels, Aleta Collins, Rene Blackburn.
- ◆ All those battling cancer—Elaine Hunter (Larry’s sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg’s sister), Lionel Daugherty, Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Cindy Gibson, Leroy Collins, Fred Strain.
- ◆ Those in GHCC: Jim Hambelton, Bonnie Ebrite, Delphia Holmes, Wilbern Uchtman. Bonnie Luna at Ava. Clifford Lansdown at River Lodge, Mtn. Home.



Alex Lane and Kaiya German got married yesterday at a small venue in Arkansas. There will be a wedding reception/shower to celebrate them on Sunday, Oct. 22. Following services we will have a basket dinner, and then the reception/shower for the newlyweds. Their registry is at Amazon.com.

2023 Ozark County Christians Unite to Worship

“Unity of the Spirit”

October 24-27, 7 p.m. Nightly

Monday—Gainesville Church of Christ
Halbert Smith—“One Lord”

Tuesday—Frontier Baptist
Bruce DeWeese—“One Faith”

Thursday—Mammoth Assembly of God
Ron Felker—“One Baptism”

Friday—Lilly Ridge Baptist
Davin Friend—“One God”

Sermons followed by food and fellowship.

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
10-1	Matthew Burton	10-19	Mark & Nichole Lane
10-4	Mary Ann Reynolds	10-19	Chris & Kelly Lemburg
10-7	Tristan Goodman	10-26	Jason & Julie Schofield
10-7	Lee Bearden	Birthdays	
10-13	Vernon James	10-19	Jim Lane
10-14	Derek Lynne	10-21	Amy Myers
10-15	Darren Crisp	10-23	Sarah Hogan
10-16	John Abraham	10-24	Addilyn Strong (6)
10-19	Debra Lane	10-26	Casey Hambelton

Dorlene is serving smoked chicken, sides, and dessert for Wednesday night fellowship supper.

Date	Event	Details
Oct. 14-18	Fall Lectureship "Building a Spiritual House"	Thayer Church of Christ
Sat., Oct. 21	Ladies Prayer Brunch	Lilly Ridge Baptist
Sat. Oct. 21, starting at 4:30 p.m.	Pumpkin Carving/ Painting Fun Day (pumpkins provided)	Decorate pumpkins, make cards, eat, and have outdoor activities
Sunday, Oct. 22	Basket Dinner & Wedding Reception/Shower	Reception for Alex and Kaiya German Lane
Oct. 23-27, 7 p.m.	Unite to Worship	Community Services

October Worship Assignments

Welcome & Prayer

Communion

Shepherd's Prayer

10-8	David Stevens	Larry Butler	Don Luna
10-15	Don Luna	Andrew Hambelton	John Abraham
10-22	Ryan Stevens	John Abraham	Mark Lane
10-29	Heath Maddox	Tinker Langston	David Stevens

Song Leader: Titus Smith

Greeters: Tinker & Karen Langston

The Family News

October 8, 2023

Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655

www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org

A Place to Call Home

We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service Topic: **Pure Religion**

Wednesday

6 p.m. Fellowship Supper

7 p.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

Sunday Worship Outline

Welcome and Prayer

#303, *O, Worship the King*; #4, *To God Be the Glory*

#676, *Living for Jesus*

Communion Service; #387, *Tell Me the Story of Jesus*

#671, *Purer in Heart*;

Scripture Reading by Waylon Strong

Sermon and Invitation

#902, *Nothing but the Blood*

#694, *Servant Song*; Shepherd's Prayer

Please place your offering in the baskets in the lobby

Elders

Mark Lane	417-679-4835
Don Luna	417-712-1945
David Stevens	417-679-4700
John Abraham	870-421-5632

Deacons

Larry Butler	817-504-1604
Dana Crisp	417-331-5090
James Langston	870-315-4355
Preacher	
Halbert Smith	417-257-3880

Ministers: Every Member—Each One of Us