



Scottie Barner. Breast cancer.

Brandi Beavers. Health concerns.

The Beavers Children. Health concerns.

Ruby Brad. Cancer.

Debbie Brooks. Health concerns & life stress.

Sibbie Byrd. Nursing home. Health concerns.

Drew Clifton. Need of prayer.

Hester Hollandsworth. Health concerns.

Matthew Hollandsworth. Health concerns.

Steven Kelly. Cancer.

Ryan Kendrick. Special needs.

Jimmy Koen. Health concerns.

Rita Lawless. Health concerns.

Karen Lovell. Health concerns.

Paul Mays. Health concerns.

Ruby Mason. Health concerns.

Katie Morrison. Debbie's daughter. Life stress.

Jaydan Patrick. Special needs.

Carolyn Roop. Hospitalized with another stroke.

Joe & Marcia Shulam. Health concerns.

Sharon Teschendorf. Dementia.

Sonya Underwood. Cancer.

Eric Walker. Complications & infections following surgery.

Velvet Wyatt. Recovering from a broken arm.

Wayne Youngblood. Parkinson's & Dementia.

Caregivers.

Our Country, Leaders & Military

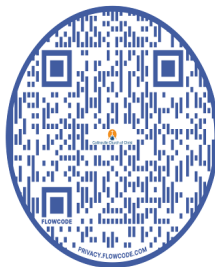
To have someone added to the prayer list or to have information updated, please contact Matthew.

Names will be removed after four weeks if no updates are received.



Let's Connect

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Collinsville, Virginia

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Collinsville Church of Christ

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Times We Meet:

Sunday:

Bible Study: 9:30 a.m.
Worship: 10:30 a.m.

Thursday:

Ladies' Class: 10:00 a.m.
Virtual Psalms Class:
12:30 p.m. on Facebook.



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No. 06

Who Determines Religious Authority

Our nation is suffocating under the death-grip of anarchy. Disrespect for authority is evidenced in everything from civil disobedience to parental permissiveness. We are following the worldview so prevalent during the turbulent biblical period of the Judges. Scripture describes those days as a time when "every man did what was right in his own eyes" (Judges 17:6). Even in the church there are many who discount the certainty of biblical revelation. But, if truth cannot be known, then Jesus was mistaken in asserting that it has the power to set us free from our sins (Jn. 8:32). However, the truth can be understood and is the basis of all religious authority (Eph. 3:4; 1 Cor. 1:10).

God, the Father, has given all authority to His Son, Jesus (Mt. 28:18). At Christ's transfiguration, we read of a voice speaking out of the cloud which enveloped the disciples, saying, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!" (Mt. 17:5). Jesus has all authority to speak to men today concerning religious faith and practice (Heb. 1:1-2). We must pay heed to His words as those which will judge us on the last day (Jn. 12:48).

"Religious Authority" Continues on Page 2...

“Religious Authority” Continued from Front Page... God had promised centuries earlier to raise up a prophet like Moses from among their countrymen, saying, “I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. It shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require it of him” (Dt. 18:18–19). This prophecy, quoted by Peter in Acts chapter three, is fulfilled in Christ.

Christ’s authority resides in the New Testament. Knowing that He would soon leave His apostles by way of the cross, Jesus promised to send the Spirit of truth so that they could teach and preach the gospel without error (Jn. 14:26: 16:13). The apostles and prophets, who wrote the New Testament, did so as they were moved by the Holy Spirit to speak from God (2 Pet. 1:21). Like those early hearers in Thessalonica, we must accept the Word of Christ as God’s message (1 Th. 2:13). The things written by inspiration are the Lord’s commandments and provide all authority for religious faith and practice.

The councils, creeds, and dogmas of men provide no legitimate authority in religious matters. Nor is there any authority inherent in our own subjective preferences and opinions. The only authority in matters of religion is the Word of God. We must not shudder at the thought of submitting to His authority; but humbly submit, obeying from the heart His Word which alone has the power to save us from our sins and deliver us safely to the eternal paradise of God (Jas. 1:21; Rm. 6:17-18).
—Glen Elliott


Can We Join the Church

The Bible doesn’t say anything about joining the church. The church had its beginning on the first Pentecost following the resurrection of Jesus. On that occasion, Peter and the rest of the apostles were moved by the Holy Spirit to preach the gospel to the Jews who had gathered in Jerusalem. Their message convicted the people of having crucified the Son of God. **“Church” Continues on Page 3...**



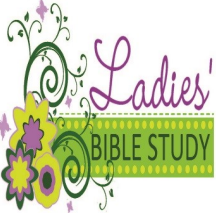
Announcements and Upcoming Events





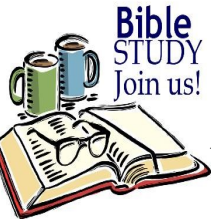
February Birthdays!

10TH	JO ANNE
	HAIRFIELD
14TH	TERRY MASON



Thursday Ladies' Bible Class!

Class starts at: 10:00 a.m.
Come early at: 9:30 a.m.
for coffee & donuts!



Thursday Mid-week Virtual Bible Class!

Our Mid-Week Bible Class on the Book of Psalms, Thursdays at: 12:30 p.m. on our Facebook Page.



Valentines Breakfast

Our Valentines Breakfast is scheduled for Sat., Feb. 15th at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Sign-up sheet in lobby. Any questions, see Jordyn.



Men's Breakfast

Our Next Men's Breakfast is scheduled for Sat., Feb. 22nd! Join us at Clarence's Steak-house in Ridgeway at 9:30 a.m. for food & fellowship.



Upcoming Events:




Ccocva.org/events



“This is My Commandment, that you Love one another”

John 15:12



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<p><i>“Control” Continued from Page 5...</i> Otherwise, if they prove unfaithful to their trust, God will in His own time, remove them from power. The rulers of the kingdoms of the world are accountable to the great King of the universe.</p> <p>When things appear to be spinning out of control, remember God’s overruling providence. As the psalmist said, “we will not fear, though the earth should change, and...the mountains slip into the heart of the sea” (Ps. 46:1-2). Place yourself in the hands of the living God. He is in control of the universe. Why not give Him control of your life? —Glen Elliott</p>			<p><i>“Church” Continued from Page 2...</i> When these believers interrupted the sermon and asked what they needed to do, Peter replied, “Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins...” (Acts 2:38). In verse 41, we learn that “those who had received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.” Penitent believers who were baptized were added to the Lord’s church that day. In fact, verse 47 goes on to say that “the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.” The King James Version of the Bible translates it this way: “and the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”</p> <p>Man cannot establish entrance requirements or initiation rites for being added to the Lord’s church. While we can join various religious denominations, we cannot join the Lord’s church. God adds to His church every penitent believer who is baptized for the forgiveness of sins. We are not voted into the church. God adds us to His church. God’s church is comprised of all who have done what God said to do in order to accept God’s grace by faith. In addition to belief, this includes repentance and baptism. Later in the New Testament, Paul spoke of how the Corinthians had come into the body of Christ. He said, “For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit” (1 Cor. 12:13).</p> <p>Anyone of accountable age and aptitude can become a member of God’s church. But one cannot join the Lord’s church. Only God can add a person to His church when he or she has submitted to His requirements for salvation. Why not be added to His church today and be truly numbered with the saved? —Glenn Elliott</p>		
<p><i>Happy Valentine’s Day</i></p> <p>Not even the Roman Catholic Church can decide with certainty which (if any) of three candidates is the real “Saint” Valentine. One popular view is that he was a “bishop” who kept on solemnizing marriages despite Roman emperor Claudius II supposedly banning marriage of soldiers in his army. This Valentine, so the story goes, was arrested and eventually martyred. Historical evidence is lacking; even referring to this as “legend” might be a stretch.</p> <p>More likely, “Saint Valentine’s Day” is yet another attempt to “Christianize” a pagan holiday. In this case, it’s the feast of Lupercalia, a fertility festival honoring Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture. It was celebrated on February 15. Our calendar puts Valentine’s Day on February 14. Oh well, close enough!</p> <p>As with Christmas, Easter, and Halloween, celebrating Valentine’s Day doesn’t make you a pagan. Go ahead, give your sweetheart a box of chocolates! When people’s minds are focused on the birth of Christ, it’s a great opportunity to teach the truth about it. Ditto with the Resurrection. So let’s use this holiday to teach the truth about marriage!</p> <p>In American Society Biblical marriage has fallen on hard times. “Currently, 60% of all marriages are preceded by cohabitation” (foryourmarriage.org/cohabitation/). Hebrews 13:4 says, “Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.” Folks, we have much teaching to do! Let us have the backbone to reject political correctness, “speaking the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15).</p>					

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<h3><i>Unity in the Body of Christ</i></h3> <p>The church is not so much an institution as it is a living organism. It is referred to in Scripture as “the body of Christ” (Eph. 4:12). This analogy teaches us several very important truths about the unity of the body. First, because the church is the body of Christ, it must have a head to direct, guide and control its various functions. The Bible teaches us that “Christ is the head over all things to the church, which is His body...” (Eph. 1:22-23). Just as the physical body operates in obedience to the directive impulses of the brain, so also Christ’s spiritual body, the church, operates in harmony with Christ’s directives expressed through His written revelation. Whether physical or spiritual, when the body fails to obey its head, the result is chaos and confusion. It is not God’s fault when Christ’s body becomes divided; it is simply man’s failure to live under the headship of Jesus Christ. After all, “God is not a God of confusion, but a God of peace” (1 Cor. 14:33).</p> <p>In addition to a head, a body must also have a harmonious membership. Each member of the body has an important function (1 Cor. 12:14-27). When the smallest member fails in his or her assigned duty, the whole body suffers. The body is a finely tuned organism and its members must cooperate with one another, working together toward a common goal. Functional unity in the church is not just a nice thing when it happens, it is an essential ingredient to be sought after with great fervor and intensity (Rm. 14:19; Heb. 12:14).</p> <p>Let us emphasize again that a body must be unified. Disunity among members frustrates the purpose and intention of the body. Christ’s fervent prayer was for His followers to be one (Jn. 17:20-21). But upon what basis shall believers unite? Only on the basis of Christ’s headship and our willingness to place our lives in submission to His will. Only on such a foundation can we be united as members of Christ’s spiritual body, the church.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">—Glen Elliott</p>			<h3><i>Is God in Control</i></h3> <p>The rapidity with which major events happen in today’s world and the quickness with which information is conveyed to us is truly amazing. Though the details are sometimes inaccurate or misleading, our need to place our trust in the Lord becomes crystal clear. God is our only trust and He is in control to work all things for good to those who truly love Him (Rm. 8:28).</p> <p>Is God really in control of world events? Yes. Is He responsible for the actions of sinful men? No. But, we can be assured that He does work providentially to bring about His ultimate purpose. How can we know this is true? Because the Bible tells us so.</p> <p>In the days of the prophet, Daniel, the “wise men” of Babylon were threatened with death unless they could both reveal the contents and interpret the meaning of the king’s dream. By revelation from God, Daniel was able to reveal the secrets of the king’s heart and save the lives of the king’s advisors. In thanking God for the revelation he had received, Daniel prayed, “Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, for wisdom and power belong to Him. And it is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings...” (Dan. 2:20-21). It is God who changes the times and the epochs—who removes and establishes kings. In other words, God is in control of human history.</p> <p>Those in positions of authority today have a sacred trust from the Lord. There “is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God” (Rm. 13:1). Paul goes on to say that those who resist authority are opposing the ordinance of God. The only time we are obligated to violate the laws of the land is when those laws are contrary to the will of God. In such cases, “We must obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29). Governing authorities are God’s servants for good, a responsibility which must be taken seriously.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>“Control” Continues on Page 6...</i></p>		