



Lighthouse of Iowa

Keeping in touch with Iowa's Churches of Christ

September 2020

Why don't we have a paid preacher?

Every indication from the scriptures points to a mutual sharing of public preaching and teaching in the local congregation.

1 Corinthians 9:17-18

From the noble believers of Berea we find a standard of practice required of any Christian. For, at Berea, they found favor in the eyes of God because, *"they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so"* (Acts 17:11). These brethren may have been on the mind of Paul when he encouraged the Thessalonians to *"Prove all things; hold fast to that which is good"* (I Thess. 5:21).

The church bought by the blood of Christ shall never be fearful of man's eye of criticism. The kingdom of God on earth, when faithfully adhering to God's ordinances and commands, shall never step down from being tested against the Word of God. Such should be the men and women contained within the walls of Christ.

We should always eagerly anticipate a question or challenge of our faith and our practices. In fact, Peter demands we prepare for such opportunities. (I Peter 3:15)

Of numerous practices and beliefs we stand firm; ready for the world's onslaught. Water baptism, musical instruments, local autonomy, and eternal judgment are studied and studied again knowing the present world's disagreements and misconceptions. Yet, many other aspects of our beliefs and practices go unchallenged; almost grand-fathered

into acceptance over time. Shall we consider these, as well? Shall we apply the same standard of truth?

To this end we cast a watchful eye towards local church government. The center of the original apostate movement (Acts 20:29, II Thess. 2:3-4) the corruption of leaders within the church guided the believers into despair. Have we, as the modern host of the Lord's army, made the same mistake and set a course towards spiritual erosion?

Is the office of the paid preacher scriptural? The question at hand is the authority we have to hire a single man for the "office" of a preacher. Do we have the authority within the pages of God's Word to limit the public preaching of the Bible to a few? Thousands of churches of Christ adhere to such a practice. For those who veer from what they term as a "one-man pulpit system," it is a matter of scriptural authority.

The Roman Catholic church begat the clergy-laity relationship when it gradually removed certain practices from the hands of the "unordained". Baptism, communion, and other "holy rites" were deemed too sacred for the average man to administer. Only those of "the cloth", being given some unknown authority, could do such things.

Unwittingly, the church of Christ may have allowed such influences of the world seep into the congregations creating a clergy within the church of Christ. The countryside church with its lack of an educated and an affluent preacher, may have felt ashamed when compared to much larger and more exquisite denominations boasting hired preachers.

Into the trap of Israel we have fallen. For Israel said to Samuel, *"make us a king to judge us like all the nations"* (I Sam. 8:5). We had no hired preachers yet thought we needed them. So we eventually hired them so we could be like the denominations around us. Yet, we may have hired them contrary to the first century church's example.

A careful examination of the New Testament is curiously silent about the single pulpit preacher system. Of elders and deacons we automatically turn to our passages of authority outlining various qualifications.

Of the traveling minister and proclaimer of the gospel *to spiritually barren lands* we follow the paths of Paul, Barnabas, Silas, Titus, and Timothy.

But where, O man of God, can we find the authority to limit public service preaching and teaching to one or two men of a congregation attended by hundreds? Where is the

command, the example, or even the subtle necessary inference we demand of all other practices and beliefs?

A thorough examination of scriptures touching the edification, admonition, and education of the local congregations of the first century contradicts our current practices. Paul's epistle to Philippi was addressed to *"all the saints...with the bishops and deacons"* (Phi. 1:1). What about the all-important preacher? Perhaps Philippi lacked the funds to support a pulpit preacher.

While instructing the church at Antioch, it is recorded that Paul and Barnabas preached and taught the church, *"with many others also"* (Acts 15:35). Even the presence of an apostle of Christ and his fellow traveler did not remove the authority of teaching and preaching from the remaining brethren. Why aren't we following the example of Antioch?

Every indication from the scriptures points to a mutual sharing of public preaching and teaching in the local congregation.

- *"And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren...able also to admonish one another"* (Rom. 15:14).
- *"From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love"* (Eph. 4:16).
- *"But exhort one another daily..."* (Heb. 3:13)
- *"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God"* (I Peter 4:10).

As if these verses, which are accompanied by many more, are not enough, the example of Paul should finalize the issue.

Which congregation of Paul's establishment did he aid in the hiring of a "located" pulpit preacher? When he returned and ordained elders in every church (Acts 14:23) why is there no mention of a preacher? If the local paid preacher is an absolute necessity for God's flocks, why are only the elders of Ephesus called by Paul in Acts 20?

Do elders have authority to appoint a paid preacher?

Some will counter that the elders have the right and authority to hire a preacher at their discretion. The elders are commanded to *"feed the flock"* and this is their means of fulfilling such a command. Sadly, these are often the same elders who rarely stand before the congregation to publicly preach the gospel. They choose to abdicate these duties to another. God never allows such actions.

A Christian, small or great, can never fulfill a command by proxy.

The actions of another shall never alleviate me of my personal responsibilities. If each man of a congregation is commanded to teach publicly and privately, no located paid preacher can relieve the men of their responsibilities.

Before us now lays a difficult example to follow. To unshackle ourselves from the single paid preacher system requires courage and patience; yet, there is no other system of preaching and teaching authorized by the New Testament other than one fully utilizing every capable male member. The sermons of the early church were spoken from the lips of numerous men in each congregation and so should ours.

The present located preachers should not consider this examination a challenge to their abilities. Countless sermons have echoed within each congregation's auditorium from their hearts leading countless to Christ. Most of us have never considered any alternative or even known of another means of public service. To share the pulpit requires relinquishing a power possessed for decades which never existed to start with.

If it is true that each capable man is to address the congregation to teach and preach, then hundreds of us must leave the comforts of our pews and take action. Far more

motivation is required to write a sermon and give it than to listen. We must avoid laziness and complacency and courageously accept the joy of spreading God's word.

Consider the benefits of mutual preaching and teaching. A multitude of perspectives will radiate from the pulpit. **A single preacher no longer can lead astray an entire congregation when countless men are able to publicly counter the views.** Individual men will grow stronger and more skillful in the Word by preparing lessons and their families can only profit with them.

Oh, why have we not considered this before? Why have we blindly followed a path lacking the authority we demand of other practices? Consider the scriptures on this subject and remember the Bereans. It is a matter of scriptural authority.

This article was written and permission to post was given by Jeremy Morris, a member of the church of Christ that meets on Murray Road in Lee Summit, Missouri.



Chariton

Meeting times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. (no evening services)

Location: 811 S. 4th St., Chariton, IA

For information call: Albert Schreck (641) 535-2381 or Brian Schreck (641) 203-2137

- **John Smead, husband of Carol, passed away on July 13.** A memorial service will be held at a later date.
- Norm Riekens is doing well after shoulder surgery and has been able to return to services.
- Bruce and Sue Schreck and Brett, Chantelle, Aquila and Titus were our visitors this month.
- We are meeting in a home for now.

September Birthdays

★ None this month

September Anniversaries

★ None this month

Dean Avenue

Meeting times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. + Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.

Location: 2907 Dean Ave., Des Moines, Iowa / P.O. Box 57398, Pleasant Hill, IA 50327

For information call: John McNeece (515) 263-9428

- **Jim Meek** has come forward and asked for forgiveness for the sins in his past life. **He now wants to come back to the church and live for Christ.** He was baptized at Dean Avenue many years ago, and we received him back with much gladness and thanksgiving. Praise God!
- **Sharon Klug, sister of Cathy James and Frank and Jim Meek passed away from heart problems.** She was 61 years old and is survived by her husband, two daughters and six grandchildren.
- **John, Jessica and Elsie Chapman** have been staying in a hotel since **their house, garage and car were damaged in the derecho.** They are in the process of getting damages repaired.
- Karma broke her right wrist in a fall and had to have surgery to set it with metal and screws. It

was very swollen and bruised. She has a cast now and is doing better.

- Greg Head had a case of shingles but responded well to medication.
- Yvonne Coe fell and broke her right arm. She has had surgery to set it with two plates and 12 pins. She is now in Trinity Center at Luther Park for physical therapy.
- Visitors: Jim & Candy Meek, Brita Head & Charlie and Parker Strable



September Birthdays

★ None this month

September Anniversaries

★ 02 Greg & Linda Head

Fairview

Meeting times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.

Location: 1001 S. 22nd St, Clarinda, Iowa 51632

For information call: Richard Negley (712)542-3728 or Marvin Negley (712)542-2792

- John & Donna Lee were with us Sunday the 30th - John spoke both Sunday morning & afternoon.
- Steve Driftmier was in Omaha August 21 for the removal of a kidney stone, he is home and feeling much better.
- **Visitors on the Lord's Day:**
 - Paul & Brio Negley - Aug 23
 - Dasha & Timber Negley - Aug 30



September Birthdays

- ★ 24 - Tammie Driftmier

September Anniversary

- ★ None this month

Martensdale

Meeting Times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.

Location: 10985 44th Lane, Prole, Iowa (1.5 miles east of Martensdale, IA on Hwy. 92)

Website: Martensdalechurchofchrist.org

For information call: Duane Proudfit (515) 961-4470 or Mike Penick (515) 681-0279

Visitors this month:

Dave and Joyce Ingle; Stephanie Stephens and Children; Jordan Bown and Evan Haas

- Rusty Bown was moved to Luthern Hospital for a Time, is now home
- Allen Bown had a disk in his back trimmed. He is still recovering but so far it has alleviated the nerve'pain he has been having.
- Mike and Shanna Divis were traveling
- Drew Techtmeyer also traveling

September Birthdays

- ★ 5 Pam Decker
- ★ 7 Dianne Collier
- ★ 9 Brenda Bown
- ★ 17 Zach Wheeler
- ★ 20 Ayden Twaddel
- ★ 28 Dick Bown

September Anniversaries

- ★ 8 Tanner and Tiffany George (2018)
- ★ 24 Mike and Tracy Penick (1982)

Pleasant Hill

Meeting Times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 6:30 p.m.
Listen from your car at FM station 100.9

Location: 5091 E. University, Pleasant Hill, Iowa

Website: pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org

Contacts: Mike Warner 515-967-4529 / Marty Williamson 515-556-2394 / Marc Hermon 515- 554-3567

- Carly Felice & Daniel Suhr’s wedding ceremony is this Saturday, Sept 5, at 4:30 p.m., at the Toad Valley Golf Course. You may watch the ceremony as livestream from the Suhr wedding site. Cards and gifts may be sent to their new home: 2115 Glenbrook Dr., Des Moines, IA 50316. Best wishes for a blessed day!!
- ITBS (ages 9-18) Sunday afternoon, Sept 6, 4:00-8:00 p.m. at Ryan & Jamie Ingle’s home, 10958 NE 82nd Ave., Mitchellville, IA (Jamie’s phone: 515-729-7101). The theme “The Great I AM” taught by Marc Hermon & Alan Klein. Bring your Bible as well as chips or dessert to share.
- Ayden & Madison Twaddell ~ Lord willing, their new little one will arrive soon! Prayers for Baby T’s safe arrival & health in the few weeks ahead!
- Nora Lee Ingle traveled to Kansas City spending the month of August with her daughter Cindy & Mark Morris and has completed her infusion treatments successfully! No date set as to when she will come home. Cards can be sent to: 19410 E. State Rt. P, Pleasant Hill, MO 64080-9155.
- Tom and Fred Brady spent 6 hours in hospital waiting room as he was very ill. Now been diagnosed with pneumonia. As hospitals are full, doctors put him on antibiotics & sent him home. Tom is also on daily dialysis treatments, so please keep him & his family in your prayers!
- Jason Brady will be going to Iowa City later this week, Lord willing, to have surgery to insert an internal CPAP device.
- Julene Pappan went to Mayo Clinic in Rochester to see a cough specialist for her chronic cough. Her trip went well & has now started on a new medicine for her cough.
- Jack & Max Flickinger will continue to live in Pennsylvania with their Dad. Jack plans to stay

for the school year; Max plans to stay until Thanksgiving. You can send cards to let them know you are thinking of them at 135 Loudon Rd., Mercersburg, PA 17236.

- Lowell Hermon has been having significant back pain. Praying he will find relief when he receives an epidural later this month.
- Marty & Lisa Williamson ~ Marty had another wrist surgery & healing from that. Also, Marty was notified by Nationwide that they are eliminating his position. This has happened before & he went through the process to be rehired. Marty has decided to take retirement instead in mid-October.
- JC & Melanie Castro are making progress renovating their bus. If you have expertise in plumbing or electricity, please reach out to JC. Keep this couple in your prayers as they earnestly seek God’s will to bring souls to the Lord!
- Congratulations to Brenda Bohall! She sold her home & has now moved in with her dad Bud Fillman. They will be a great support to each other. Please also keep Brenda in your prayers as she deals with some medical trials.



September Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| ★ 2 Pam Sorensen | ★ 3 Kayley Hermon |
| ★ 6 Keith Price | ★ 13 Niko Felice |
| ★ 23 Shea Hermon | ★ 28 Theresa Ingle |

September Anniversaries

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| ★ 1 Tim & Tammy Brady | ★ 3 Alex & Ryane Needham |
| ★ 4 Marc & Ginger Hermon | ★ 10 Larry & Bev Brady |
| ★ 12 Mike & Cindy Brady | ★ 15 Marty & Lisa Williamson |
| ★ 16 Julene & Scott Pappan | ★ 29 Mary & Ron Gearhart |
| ★ 29 Steve & Pat Thompsons | ★ |

Vandalia

Meeting Times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m.

Location: 2.5 miles east of Runnells, Iowa on F70, then 1 mile north on 131st St.

For information call: Greg Ingle (515) 994-2824 or Charles Ingle (515) 966-2537

- We helped **Marvin and Melda Ingle** celebrate their **70th wedding anniversary** with breakfast Sunday morning August 23rd before Church services

September Anniversaries

- ★ 12 Alan & Shonya Klein
- ★ 23 Micah & Briana Heartsill

September Birthdays

- ★ 2 Casady Cummings
- ★ 8 Charity Klein
- ★ 12 Cameron Burkman
- ★ 12 Cole Dowdy
- ★ 14 Lisa Fiorentin
- ★ 28 Brighton Ingle
- ★ 30 Kiana Klein

Goodbye Summer, Hello Fall!

Autumn 2020 in Northern Hemisphere will begin on
Tuesday, September 22 @ 8:31 A.M.
and ends on

Monday, December 21 @ 4:02 A.M.

All dates are in Central Time.



In the Northern Hemisphere summer ends and autumn starts at the moment of the September equinox, which occurs every year between September 21 and 24. The September equinox is the moment in time (not a day-long event) when the Sun stands directly above the equator while crossing from the north to the south. It is the moment when summer ends and autumn (fall) begins.

Source: <https://www.almanac.com/content/first-day-seasons>

Copies of the *Lighthouse of Iowa* can be found at the following two Church websites:

Vandalia Church of Christ: <https://vandaliacoc.com/lighthouse-of-iowa.html>

Pleasant Hill Church of Christ: <http://www.pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org/library.php>

(select *Iowa Lighthouse* under the Library tab)
