



Lighthouse of Iowa

Keeping in touch with Iowa's Churches of Christ

December 2021

The Ephesians were taught by Jesus!

Jay Graham

Probably around 50 AD the apostle Paul visited the city of Ephesus. This would be just under 2 decades following the death and subsequent resurrection of Jesus.

As recorded in Acts 19, Paul established the congregation of the Lord's Christians as a result of his visit to that city. I feel very confident there were few if any Christians who became part of that body of believers who had ever met Jesus. They had heard John's message, probably from Apollos, but certainly, there were none who had been taught by the Man Jesus while He lived on this earth.

Ephesus was many hundreds of miles to the north of Judea, where Jesus lived, performed His mission and died as a result. Jesus probably never traveled to that area—of this I am confident.

Why do I mention this? Because, it is interesting, for according to Paul's writing in the above verses, he wrote that the brothers and sisters there had been "taught by Him"! How was this possible? How could those Christians at Ephesus have been taught by Jesus? What an interesting question! How indeed?

Throughout Paul's letter to these Christians, he mentioned a number of things they had heard and been taught concerning this

same Jesus and His message of salvation.

In 1:13 Paul wrote how they had "heard the word of truth, the gospel of" their salvation. As a result, they believed that gospel, and they were "sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise". Paul wrote in 1:15 of how he had heard of their faith in Jesus. Paul wrote in 2:17 of how "He (Jesus) came and preached peace" to them, even though Jesus had never been in their city. In Acts 20:17-38, following several years in the area, Paul reminded them of how he had worked among them in good conscience in all humility and had kept back nothing from them that was needed and helpful to their salvation.

At the close of the chapter, he said his goodbye and departed the area. Yet, when Paul wrote them the letter, several years later, he wrote of how they had been taught by Jesus, Himself. Hmm... This is a mystery? Not really.

The Scriptures teach when anyone hears or reads the Lord's Word they are being taught by Jesus. We are admonished in Colossians 3:16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual

songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

What is the "word of Christ"? It is the Lord's teachings. What part we might ask? All of it! It is God's word! Jesus taught in John 14:6 "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Speaking of the Lord's Word in general as noted in Psalms 119:142 "Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Your law is truth."

What part? All of it! Consider Psalms 119:160 "The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever."

This is one of the reasons Jesus' teachings were so much different than the teachings of the Jewish leaders. His teachings were higher than man's. This was why Jesus could speak with authority! He was teaching His Own Word! His Own commandments! His Own Truth! Because He is the originator and source of Truth!

When those at Ephesus heard the gospel from the apostle, they were in essence hearing it from Jesus. Anytime we hear and receive the gospel we hear it and receive it from Jesus, Himself. It does not originate from any other

source. Now, to be clear, false doctrines originate from another source. False gospels originate from another source. But Truth comes through the Lord only.

This same principle certainly applies to our modern times. When we hear Truth as it has been originated and established from the Lord, we are hearing it from

Jesus. This is why we also should "Let the Word of Christ dwell" in us richly. This is why when we hear the "Word of truth" and believe it, we are sealed with that same Holy Spirit of promise as the Ephesians were, as all the Lord's people are.

May Jesus and His Truth continue to be preached by His

faithful until He returns. May we, as the Lord's people, only seek after His Truth, for it is only through Jesus can salvation be found and will be realized at the end of our earthy time.



Chariton

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

Location: Call for information.

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

☆ Quiet month at Chariton.



December Birthdays

- ☆ 9 – Albert Schreck
- ☆ 31 – Brian Schreck

December Anniversaries

- None

Dean Avenue

Meeting times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 6:30 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

- Mary Lou Allen was taken to the hospital in severe pain. It was determined she had a UTI. She has been on medication and is feeling lots better.
- Tammy Fitzgerald is hoping her leg heals after the amputation, so she won't have to have more surgery. Please pray for her.
- Jessica Chapman's Grandpa, Jack Strable, passed away.
- Greg and Linda Head and Bill and Shirley McNeece had Covid-19.
- Cathy has had bronchitis but is feeling better now.

- Debbie Wilkins has been sick with a cold and coughing.
- Elsie Chapman has been sick with hand foot and mouth disease.

December Birthdays

- ☆ 18 - Travis Head
- ☆ 28 - Risa Schamel

December Anniversaries

- ☆ 28 - Travis & Brita 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

- We enjoyed having **Rick Sparks** with us November 6th & 7th.
- Other than that it has been a fairly quiet month.

December Birthdays

- None

December Anniversary

- None

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)

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

- Christy Henderson spent some time in Florida helping to take care of her grandson, Judah Purdy.
- Several of our members traveled over the Thanksgiving holiday.
- Visitors this month: Steve & Cerine Proudfit and girls; Evan & Jordan Haas; John & Sharon Mineart; Ethan & Megan Schreck; Kathy (Pam Deckler's cousin); and Kirk & Bethany Ford..

December Birthdays

- ☆ 10 - Mary Proudfit
- ☆ 12 – Teresa Bown
- ☆ 29 – Drew Teghtmeyer
- ☆ 30 – Hannah Housom

December Anniversaries

None

Pleasant Hill

Meeting Times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 6:30 p.m.

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

- **November ITBS** — Praise God! There were 14 Bible students & 6 adults who attended ITBS. Alan Klein



taught a lesson covering 1 Cor. 15, *“Understanding the Gospel!”*

What an incredible blessing this time in study & fellowship are for our youth and teachers. It's a joy to witness these friendships grow strong in the Lord. Special thanks to the Twaddell's for their hospitality!

- This past month we welcomed **Margaret Harris** to the flock at Pleasant Hill. She has been worshipping with us since August. Her home congregation sent a beautiful letter offering much love and praise for this dear sister's faithful life in service to the Lord.

The elders encouraged Pleasant Hill to utilize her many talents. We pray the sincere love and fruits of the spirit that can be offered by brethren at Pleasant Hill will be a source of encouragement to Margaret.

- **Praise God!!! Karla Fetters** made it home on Wednesday, November 17 after 23 days of being treated for COVID in Iowa Methodist Hospital. Continued prayers for her full healing.
- **Marilyn McClurg's** doctor is continuing to work toward regulating her blood pressure medication. God be with you during this trial, Marilyn.
- **Nora Lee Ingle** had laser eye surgery to remove a film over her eye. Nora Lee's blood pressure has been unstable so please also keep that in your prayers.
- Praise God! **Kelly George** had an encouraging report when he met with the Iowa City Hospitals and Clinics chief of surgery. The surgeon feels confident Kelly is a candidate for bypass. Surgery will be scheduled once the VA approves and, Lord willing, this can fix his leg.
- **Stephen Thompson** has been dealing with nausea and ended up in the ER due to dehydration. After medical staff administered fluids, he was able to go home and is doing better.
- **Brenda Fillman Bohall** was taken by ambulance to Iowa Methodist for Afib and lung exasperation. She spent a few days in the hospital. Brenda's echo test shows her heart is only working at 37%. As well, her lungs have some fluid and pneumonia (light case). Brenda could certainly use encouragement and prayers during these medical trials
- **Shirley Warner's sister, Rinda Gladman**, is in the hospital with a bad lung. They are unsure when they will be able to go home. The family appreciates your continued prayers.
- Prayers are needed for **Ron Gearhart**. Mary said a recent scan revealed a spot on his lung to be cancer. Pray doctors can help them navigate a road to treat and heal this cancer and for God to grant them strength to cope.
- **Alonzo Jones** younger brother passed away at the end of October. They have been traveling to be with family in Kansas City this past month. Please

keep Alonzo, Joyce and their family in your thoughts and prayers.

- **JC & Melanie Castro** have been worshipping with brethren at the Courthouse church of Christ in Virginia during the month of November. They parked their bus at Melanie's mother, Kay's house, and spent Thanksgiving with their son, Jacob.
- **Niko Felice** announced his engagement to Kim Horak. Congratulations, Niko! May your love for Kim and love for the Lord keep growing!
- **Jason & Theresa Brady** vacationed in Estes Park, CO.
- **The Needham family** enjoyed a cross-country road trip for 10 days.
- **Tom & Fred Brady** along with Julene Pappan vacationed in Florida for a few weekends.
- **Nora Lee Ingle** visited Iowa family and the Pleasant Hill congregation Tuesday, 11/23- Tuesday, 11/30
- **We have been thankful to have the following visitors worship with us this past month:** Daniel Suhr, Kim Horak, Medina Jusufovic, Danielle, Sydney and Jaden Brand, Merissa & Sydney Schiebel, Diane & Tom Collier, Matt, Kelly, Blake, Alexandria, Colton, Easton and Dylan Harvey, and Nathan & Kathleen Williamson.

There will be no December ITBS.

Instead – Save the Date!!!

Winter Youth Rally in KC December 28-30.

Ages: 11- High School Juniors @ Gregory Church of Christ w/Doug Twaddell.

T-Shirts are generously provided to all who attend either Youth or College Rally.

High School Seniors – College @ Lone Jack Church of Christ

Housing, t-shirt & meals provided for both meetings.



December Birthdays

- ☆ 12/3 – Jed Wood
- ☆ 12/4 – Steve Brady
- ☆ 12/7 – Gabriel Heron
- ☆ 12/8 – Leah Anguiano
- ☆ 12/18 – Jason Brady, Paul Zinnel
- ☆ 12/22 – Alonzo Jones, Harper Kent
- ☆ 12/23 – Dominique Blackman
- ☆ 12/29 – William Conner

December Anniversaries

- ☆ 12/19 – Alonzo & Joyce Jones
- ☆ 12/30 – Nick & Susan Conner

Vandalia

Meeting Times: Sunday: 9:45 a.m. and Wednesday: 7:00 p.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

Website: <https://vandaliacoc.com>

- Joy Cummings had a stint put into her right kidney due to tumor restricting proper drainage. The procedure went well. She has two appointments with integrative doctors to learn about and discuss next steps.
- Lynnette Dowdy made trips to Missouri visiting her daughter, Dawn and family and also her son Jason and family.
- Doug Fiorentin's family and friends surprised him with a 60th birthday party on Saturday, November 20 at the Prairie City Community Building. Doug's cousin Steve Owens and his wife Barb came from Indiana to surprise him also.
- Josie Fiorentin was in the hospital for a few days with breathing problems and is home now. They have a good start on medications to help her.
- Families gathered for Thanksgiving dinners to enjoy one another's company, to eat, and especially to give thanks to God for countless blessings!

- Visitors this month were: Chelsie Rankin, Sue Schreck, Sam McDonald, Wes Kirscher, Steve and Barb Owens, Ryan and Jaimie Ingle and Rylee, Taylor, and Patrick, Dawn and Matt Mikus and children Cora and Austin, Jason Dowdy and children Sterling, Hunter, Malachi, Gatlin, Shiloh, and Aspen.



December Birthdays

- ☆ 2 Bonnie Harkins
- ☆ 3 Carson Dowdy
- ☆ 3 Kelsey Fiorentin
- ☆ 8 Leah Fiorentin
- ☆ 27 Melody Burkman
- ☆ 27 Jason Henle
- ☆ 29 Staci Miller

December Anniversaries

- ☆ 12 Robert & Sharon Cummings

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)

✧ The world celebrates in song the coming of the Savior ✧

“All the world shall worship thee, and sing unto thee, even sing of thy Name.” ~ Psalms 66:4

God rest you merry, gentlemen

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior
Was sent to show the way,
To save us all from Satan's power
For we have gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy!

Hark The Herald Angels Sing

Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Risen with healing in his wings,
Light and life to all he brings,
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

It came upon the midnight clear

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to men,
From heaven's all-gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

O come, O come, Emmanuel

O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's stem,
Unto Thine own and rescue them!
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
O come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe for us the heav'nward road,
And bar the way to death's abode.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

What Child Is This?

What Child is this, who laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Angels we have heard on high

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ Whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!