

# WORDS OF TRUTH

*A Weekly Bulletin for the Sunrise Acres church of Christ*

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<http://www.wordsoftruth.net>

Edited By: *Brian A. Yeager*

## *Sunrise Acres* CHURCH OF CHRIST

Meeting at:  
8625 Robert Drive  
El Paso, TX 79904

915-755-8137 (Building)  
915-525-5794 (Preacher's Office)

### OUR MEETING TIMES:

Sunday Bible Class: 9:45 AM  
Sunday Worship: 10:55 AM  
Tuesday Bible Study: 7:00 PM  
Thursday Bible Study: 7:00 PM

### Are You Visiting With Us?

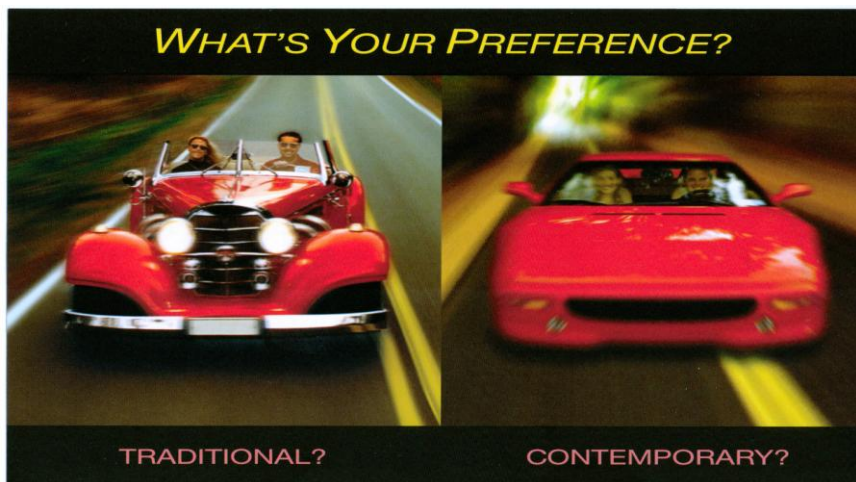
If you are visiting with us, we want to welcome you to the Lord's church (Matthew 16:18 and Colossians 1:18). Our goal is to simply get to Heaven and to help you do the same. We use the Bible as our standard to govern what we do in our work and worship for the Lord (Colossians 3:17, II Timothy 1:13, II Timothy 3:16-17, and I Peter 4:11).

We welcome your questions and would love the opportunity to study further with you. Luke recorded a fascinating statement we all need to consider: *"Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able"* (Luke 13:23-24). We invite you to join us in being one of the few that are saved!

## Churches of Convenience

By: *Brian A. Yeager*

The ways of man today would have Romans 16:16 to say: "Salute one another with a cup of coffee, donuts, and a casual conversation. The churches of Convenience salute you" (check your copy of the Scriptures and you'll see this is far from what's truly written. Close friends of ours in Arkansas (the Nannie's) sent me a card they received in the mail. Here is what the front looks like:



On the back of the card you see this:

### CHOOSE YOUR STYLE AT BELLA VISTA CHRISTIAN CHURCH!

On the road of life there are "fast lane" people and "leisurely drive" people. No matter what your style, **Bella Vista Christian Church** has a celebration service where people of all ages can experience God in a comfortable atmosphere. Our 9:00 AM service is contemporary and casual, while our 10:30 AM service features a classic, more traditional style. Whichever you choose, you can express your worship to God through music, teaching, media, drama and communion.

**Jump in and join us on our journey with God!**

#### Sundays



Coffee Connection .....	8:30-10:30 AM
Contemporary Worship .....	9:00 AM
Classic Worship .....	10:30 AM
Children's Worship & Nursery .....	9:00 & 10:30 AM
"Becoming..." Student Worship .....	6:30 PM

#### "THE WEDNESDAY GATHERING"

GATHER WITH FRIENDS AT A FAMILY DINNER SERVED AT 5:00 & 6:00 PM

*There's something for everyone... children, students, singers, musicians and people interested in learning more about God and how to do life better:*

"Faith Lessons on the Death & Resurrection of the Messiah" ..... 4:00 PM  
"Making Children Mind without Losing Yours" ..... 6:30 PM

#### Bella Vista Christian Church

103 Riordan Rd.  
Bella Vista, AR 72714  
479-855-1616

[www.bellavistachristian.com](http://www.bellavistachristian.com)



## Folks, Coffee Won't Do It!

People may look for a casual worship service, but God desires that we serve Him acceptably with reverence and godly fear (Hebrews 12:28). While people may want a cup of coffee to go with their mockery of a worship service, God says that the kingdom of God is not meat and drink (Romans 14:17). Some may not want to miss their morning donut, but the Lord says Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4). Some really will follow to have their bellies full (John 6:26), but Jesus instructs: *"Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed"* (John 6:27). It is hard to believe that some would look for a babysitting service (staffed nursery) in choosing their fellowship of people to worship God with. God forbid, kids might learn something if they stay with mom and dad (Ezra 10:1 and Matthew 14:13-21)? Some want contemporary worship and others traditional, the Bible only speaks of one acceptable way to worship God (John 4:23-24). Faithful Christians see these errors. However, could it be that within the body of Christ modern conveniences have influenced brethren?

## How About Our Cup of Tea?

Maybe its tea you like instead of coffee. The social Gospel may not be your "cup of tea", however, what about those days where you may look for more convenient times to worship, study, pray, obey, etc. (Acts 24:24-25)? What about those times where God is second place in your life (Colossians 3:1)? What about those who will compromise the truth to worship with a conveniently located "church" (I John 1:3-7 and II John 9)? What about Christians who "shop" around for programs offered, rather than look for a sound congregation to serve God with (II Timothy 1:13 and Titus 2:1)?

There are those who start a "temporary" church of convenience. That is, why they are traveling they establish a work in a hotel room, on a shore, or elsewhere that is intended to only exist for a week or two until they get back home. This is done so they can partake of the then perverted Lord's Supper. This is not the pattern we see in the New Testament (Acts 20:7). There are also those who decide to just worship at home instead of attending with faithful brethren (I Corinthians 11:18; 20; 14:23)? They like pajama party worship styles. Now, there is nothing at all wrong with a congregation meeting in a home (I Corinthians 16:19, Colossians 4:15, and Philemon v.2). Nor is there anything wrong about starting a congregation where there is no sound work located (Acts 19:5ff.). However, it is not right to start a congregation out of convenience for yourself, as this would just be serving your own desires (Colossians 2:23). Starting a congregation should not be something we resort to as a last ditch effort for a place to worship. A task such as this should be something we have purposed and planned to do as a long lasting work for the Lord (Luke 14:28-32). I know of some who have had to do this and they are faced with many struggles such as not being able to travel because they'd have to dissolve the congregation while out of town. They also have challenges such as to making sure their services do not get out of order (I Corinthians 14:40). There are many struggles that are faced in the difficult task of a single family starting a work, most would not and could not handle those challenges because conveniences win out in their lives.

Think about those who erringly think a long worship service is inconvenient (Nehemiah 9:1-3). If you're worshipping God (Psalms 95:6), studying His word (Psalms 1:1-2), and spending time with brethren (Acts 2:42-46); what in life can be even nearly as important? We must make sure that we are not Christians or congregations that serve God out of mere convenience. When what is convenient for us decides where we worship, how we worship, where we serve, and how we serve; we have left behind what it means to worship and serve God (Philippians 3:3, Deuteronomy 10:12, Matthew 22:37, and Romans 12:1).

## Conclusion

The ad says "choose your style" and many do. Choosing what we think is right is ignorant (Proverbs 16:25 and Jeremiah 10:23). Shouldn't we be more worried about pleasing God than ourselves (Colossians 1:10 and Hebrews 13:21)? How many people would say they'd die for the Lord? I would assume most would. However, they won't sit and listen to His word very long. They won't drive somewhere that is possible, but far to worship Him. They won't move from an area destitute of the truth (Luke 14:33), but they will die for Him. Truly and honestly, there is a lot more worship and service done out of convenience than most want to admit. Are we seeing the Lord's church turn into the church of convenience?

**What must one do to be saved (Acts 2:37)?** Hear and believe the Gospel (Mark 16:15-16 & Romans 10:17), repent of their sins (Acts 3:19), confess Christ (Acts 8:37), and be baptized (immersed) for the remission of sins into the church of Christ (Acts 2:38, I Corinthians 12:12-13, and Romans 6:1-6). One must then remain faithful (Rev. 2:10).