

WORDS OF TRUTH

A Weekly Bulletin for the Sunrise Acres church of Christ

Volume IX ~ Issue XXX ~ April 19th, 2009

<http://www.wordsoftruth.net>

Edited By: Brian A. Yeager



Sunrise Acres CHURCH OF CHRIST

Meeting at:
8625 Robert Drive
El Paso, TX 79904

915-525-5794

OUR MEETING TIMES:

Sunday Bible Class: 9:45 AM
Sunday Worship: 10:55 AM

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!

Is There Racism Among Brethren?

By: Brian A. Yeager

Open your Bible up, use a concordance, and find the "Black church of Christ". Then, look and see what Scriptures mention the "White church of Christ". Okay, now find the "Hispanic church of Christ". While you're at it, find the "Korean church of Christ". Notice this quote about an **unscriptural human institution**: "Southwestern Christian College (SwCC) is a historically-black college in Terrell, Texas, 30 miles east of Dallas. SwCC is operated by the Churches of Christ"

(<http://www.campusexplorer.com/colleges/5D83F60C/Texas/Terrell/Southwestern-Christian-College/>). Do you know what these all have in common? None of them are found in the Scriptures! So, why would they be found among those claiming to "speak where the Bible speaks and remain silent where the Bible is silent"?

Those who find themselves in white, black, Hispanic, etc. churches of Christ often teach that there is one church. They are right to teach this truth (Matthew 16:13-18 and Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4). However, their hypocrisy speaks louder than their actions. In our area there are those who are part of struggling Hispanic churches. When they cannot make their services some will visit with us. They can read, write, and speak English. So, do you think it is a language barrier? No, it is a skin color barrier.

Some "churches of Christ have: "Black History Programs" (http://www.southcentralonline.org/scnews_detail.asp?ID=193), lists of "Hispanic Churches" (http://arkansaschurches.org/?page_id=49), and while I cannot site a source we know there are churches in this country who are less than welcoming for those who are not white. When you look at a brother or sister in Christ you should not see them based upon the color of their skin. Regardless of skin color, our brethren have been washed by the blood of Christ (Revelation 1:5) and added to THE CHURCH OF CHRIST **by the Lord** (Acts 2:47). Larossa told me that when he moved here he was given a list of black churches. I for one am glad that he opted to look for the Lord's church instead. Racism is a statement of ignorance. Those who claim to be Christians, should know better!

We Ought To Know Better Because Of What God Has Said

From henceforth, I simply want to allow the Scriptures to finish this article. You should be able to see and make the applications from the Scriptures below. One thing is for sure; we must stand ready to keep racism out of this local congregation. Notice what the Lord has said:

- 📖 *“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth”* (Genesis 1:26-28).
- 📖 *“Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be”* (James 3:9-10).
- 📖 *“Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him”* (Acts 10:34-35).
- 📖 *“If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: **But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors**”* (James 2:8-9).
- 📖 *“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise”* (Galatians 3:26-29; cf. Genesis 22:15-18).
- 📖 *“God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent”* (Acts 17:24-30).
- 📖 *“So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another”* (Romans 12:5).
- 📖 *“That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular”* (I Corinthians 12:25-27).
- 📖 *“And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.... And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful”* (Colossians 3:10-11; 15).
- 📖 *“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth”* (I Timothy 2:1-4).
- 📖 *“To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men”* (Titus 3:2).

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 2:38-41; 47, I Corinthians 12:12-13, and Romans 6:1-6; 16:16). One must then remain faithful (Colossians 1:23).