

Who Wrote the NEW TESTAMENT?

There are eight (or nine) inspired writers of the New Testament. All of them wrote what the Holy Spirit instructed them to write, and each author's style/personality is observable in the text. The Bible is amazing, partly because people from such diverse backgrounds were able to write an intertwined account without contradictions or mistakes.

- Luke was a Gentile author that wrote 2 books, was a companion of Paul and was a physician by training.
- Paul wrote 13 books, was known as both Saul & Paul, he grew up in Tarsas as a devout Jew and a Roman citizen.
- John wrote 5 books and was a disciple that Jesus loved, and one of Jesus' inner circle.
- Matthew wrote 1 book and he left his life as a tax collector to follow Jesus.
- John Mark wrote 1 book and he accompanied Paul and Barnabas on their 1st missionary journey.
- The author of the book of Hebrews is not given and many authors have been suggested. The book was originally stored with the books of Paul.
- Peter wrote 2 books and was a fisherman that became one of the inner circle of the apostles.
- James wrote 1 book and was the half-brother of Jesus, who did not initially believe in Jesus, became a devout disciple after resurrection.
- Jude wrote 1 book and the half-brother of Jesus, he was also an unbeliever until after the resurrection of Jesus. H to H

People

- ⇒ He who knows not and knows not he knows not: he is a fool - shun him.
- ⇒ He who knows not and knows he knows not: he is simple - teach him.
- ⇒ He who knows and knows not he knows: he is asleep - wake him.
- ⇒ He who knows and knows he knows: he is wise - follow him.

Does MUST Mean Must?

Marshall Keeble was famous for saying "The word must is one of the strongest words in the English language.

Jesus made faith (**Hebrews 11:6**), and true worship (**John 4:24**), divine "musts," as He did the new birth. Without the new birth (baptism), one cannot enter the kingdom (church) (**John 3:3-5**), which the Bible says is absolutely necessary (**Hebrews 12:28; Colossians 1:13-14; Matthew 5:23-25**). The Greek carries an imperative force (**John 3:14, 12:34, 20:9**).

Someone says, "Surely if I intended to be baptized and died before I did, God would let me into heaven anyway." Consider the following parallels: If Naaman had died before he reached the Jordan River so that he might dip himself seven times, would he have died a leper? (**2 Kings 5**). If the blind man had died before reaching the pool of Siloam, where he was to wash his eyes, would he have died blind? (**John 9**). If a young man should be killed while he and his fiancée are traveling to a preacher's house to get married, would they be married in God's eyes merely because they planned to be married?

While time is on our side, let us not deal in hypothetical ideas; instead, let us make immediate preparations to have our sins washed away (**Acts 22:16**).

"Make your call and election sure." (**2 Peter 1:10**) H to H

This Week's Birthdays:

- 3/2 Rhonda Crabtree
- 3/2 Kimberly Dunlap
- 3/6 Mirinda Kattawar
- 3/6 Pam Mitchell
- 3/7 Michelle Diaz
- 3/8 Seth Owens



Mexico Missions are taking up reading glasses and old prescription glasses (**new, old, or used**) for people in need that cannot afford them.

If you would like to help with this collection, please drop your glasses off in the plastic box on the information desk. If you have any questions, please see Isabella Terry. Thanks!



Meadows Leadership

ELDERS:

- Jerald Bass (409) 926-7998
- Derrell Hart (409) 769-0099
- Donnie Landrum (409) 842-3236
- Brad Mansfield (409) 781-3987
- Doug Smith (409) 767-1824
- Carl Sundgren (409) 658-0027

DEACONS:

- Andy Bailey
- Micah Bell
- Duane Browning
- Bobby Case
- Joey Case
- Guy Crabtree
- Bradly Hailey
- David Owens
- Daryl Phelps
- Ben Terry

PULPIT MINISTER:

Rick Walker (303) 359-9160

YOUTH MINISTER:

Seth Pearman (580) 812-2550



March 2, 2025
Vol. 9 # 7

Schedule of Services:

Sundays:

Morning Worship 9:30 AM
Bible Class 10:45 AM
Evening Worship 5 PM

Monday Night Study:

Monday Nights 6:30 - 8 PM

Tuesday Ladies Bible Class:

Tuesday Mornings 9:45 AM

Wednesday Night Devo / Bible Class:

5:15-6:15 PM Meal
6:30 PM Service

Beaumont Nursing Homes Service Times

Harmony @ Beaumont
(2660 Brickyard Rd., Bmt)
Sunday @ 2 pm

Birchwood of Beaumont
(4195 Milam St., Beaumont)
Sunday @ 3:30 pm

Brookdale Dowlen Oaks
(2250 Dowlen Rd., Bmt)
Sunday @ 2 pm

Meadows Church of Christ
P.O. Box 5126
Beaumont, Texas 77726

409-892-7063 Office
409-892-6420 Office

On the web:

Meadowschurchofchrist.com

Meadows Messenger



"Strugglers" versus "Practitioners"

Only in heaven will everyone have their act together. This ain't heaven! Unfortunately, however, some of us have gotten pretty good at *appearing* to have our act together. It's no wonder why some who come seeking answers walk away from church frustrated! They look at us and don't think their lives will ever be where ours *appears* to be (you see, they don't know it's just an act).

I believe most people are either "strugglers" or "practitioners." The "strugglers" are those plagued by certain persistent temptations. They could be "struggling" with: drugs, alcohol, same sex attraction, pornography, lying, profanity, etc., etc. They may get past their "struggles" for a while. Then they relapse and hate themselves for it. They desperately want a life without "struggles."

"Practitioners," on the other hand have given up the struggle. They grew tired of the Yo-Yo lifestyle of "sin/guilt/repent ... sin/guilt/repent ..."! Now they believe their sin as just a normal part of who they are. They choose to no longer feel guilty and they resent those who seek to restore their relationship with God. They have accepted their sin and have tossed away the yo-yo!

So what can we do? For the "strugglers," we need to be honest. Let them know struggles are a part of life, "*In the world you have tribulation*" see **John 16:33**. Even Paul said, "*It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I AM* [present tense] *foremost of all,*" **1 Timothy 2:15**. Wait, wuh?! The *Apostle Paul, a sinner?!* Yep! Honest Christians have taken themselves out of the judgmental game and now choose to serve!

Once "strugglers" know we won't (can't!) judge them, they may become more open to hear how Jesus can help! Then we can serve by encouraging them, (see **Hebrews 3:13**). We can allow them to hold us accountable as together we accept God's accountability. And yes, we remain committed to them even during a relapse! This is what God meant when He said, "*Bear one another's burdens and thus fulfill the law of Christ,*" **Galatians 6:2**.

But what can we do for "practitioners"? PRAY! Just because we may not know how to help doesn't mean God's hands are tied. For as much as we love "practitioners," God loves them far more – and He won't give up on them. For in His providence, God will keep seeking to soften their hearts so they will let Him help. Who knows, one day a "practitioner" may come and say to you that they are "struggling" with some sin. Won't that be a great day!!!

Rick Walker

EVENTS

Current Events & Activities:

Our congratulations to Nyiah Keller in her decision to put on Christ in baptism last Sunday (23rd) afternoon. Please keep Nyiah in your prayers as she begins her walk with the Lord.



The Annual Budget Presentation will take place next Sunday, March 9th at the end of morning service. It is very important for everyone to be here so that the elders can show you the predicted budget for 2025.



The eldership has decided to have an ongoing disaster relief fund for people facing hardships after catastrophic events. This fund will go to places that have been affected by disaster as decided by the elders. This way, we will not have to wait til we collect money to send it. Please earmark your check for Disaster Relief or give online under disaster relief. The running balance will be listed in the bulletin each week.



Meadows Evangelism Workshop

Saturday, March 8th
8 AM ~ 12 PM

Jerald Bass, Seth Pearman,
& Rick Walker (spkrs)

“Importance of Sharing the Gospel”

“INITIATING AN EVANGELISTIC CONVERSATION”

“Utilizing Evangelistic Material”

Lunch Provided

***RSVP on sign up sheet in foyer

There is a **NEW** additional Sunday Morning Adult Bible class that is starting up today. This is for any adults (men/women) and it will start out being taught by Joey Case. Check it out!

Dear Brothers & Sisters at Meadows, Thank you so very much for the cards, prayers, and beautiful plant for our Peggy. You all have been such a blessing to us in our time of loss. Blessings!
In Christian Love, Dianna Alcede & Family
Edy Mathews and Larry & Vicki Thomas



The Meadows family is giving Logan Lobb a “diaper sprinkle.” Please bring diapers, wipes (or any baby items that you would like), and drop them in the decorated box in the foyer. Thanks!



The Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible class will be taught by Chris Walker for the month of March. The monthly luncheon will be Tuesday, March 11th following class. Bring your favorite covered dish. **There will be no class during the week of March 18th due to Spring Break. ***Mark your calendars now for **Friday, May 9th** ! The ladies will caravan from church parking lot to Camp Red Oak for a day of FUN!



The Annual Spring **EGGS**travaganza Hunt is scheduled for April 5th. If you would like to help with planning the activities prior to the scheduled day, please sign up on the form on the round table in the foyer. If you need more info, please contact Vicki Mansfield. The **EGGS**-travaganza is a wonderful time for the kids to hunt eggs, fellowship, and have fun together.



Attendance & Contribution

2025 Weekly Budget:

\$12,950.00

Collection 2/23/25:

\$11,622.54

Sunday AM (2/23) ... 135

Bible Class (2/23) ... 104

Sunday PM (2/23) ... 52

Wednesday PM (2/26) ... 55

Weekly Averaged Collection

for February: \$12,027.43

Building Fund / Parking Lot:

\$63,763.42

Disaster Relief: \$100.00

Meadows Prayer List:

Members:

Wayne Bibb / health
Tiggie Boswell / heartbeat issues
Kent Fowler / recovering from surgery
Daryl Phelps / health issues
Erskine Reliford / heart, lung issues
Reba Riggs / upcoming surgery TBD
Elmer Sabrsula / health, tests
Josh Sherman / Home recovering
George Southerland / pneumonia

Members Unable to Worship With Us:

Charles Baird
John Beard
Mildred Campbell
Majorie Crabtree
Floyd & Georgia Guillory
Marsha Hoskins
Mary Kattawar (severe eye issues)
Annie Pearl Leigh
Betty Jo Sorrell
Shirley Sturm (chronic pain)

Our Friends & Family:

Diane Bellamy / home recovering, taking treatments
Leslie Grymes / C. Bailey's mom, recovering from stroke
Josefa Ibarra / daughter of Cindy Rodriguez, cancer
Kristi (Barnes) Langham / Auston's sister, cancer
Aubrey Rodriguez / Cindy Rodriguez' 5 yr old granddaughter, has Hpoylori
Don Roerick / health
Jennifer Welch / Cathy H's sister inlaw, cancer, chemo (husband's name is Mike)

Members taking Treatments/Chemo:

Rhonda Crabtree * Sharon Hood
Terry McNeel * Keri Robin
Mark Thompson

Out of Town College Students:

Jaden Keller * Rolan Phelps
Jack Thompson

Who To Thank

Sometimes a situation arises when we have to make a decision as to who do “I thank”. When several people are involved, it can be difficult to pick out that one person who needs thanking more than the others. Thanksgiving to God for all of His blessings should be one of the most distinctive marks of the believer in Jesus Christ. We must **not** allow a spirit of ingratitude to harden our heart and chill our relationship with God (and others). And nothing will do more to restore contentment and the joy of our salvation than a true spirit of thankfulness. Today, ingratitude and thanklessness are far too common. Children forget to thank their parents for all that they do for them. We often take for granted the ways that others help us out. Above all else, we fail to remember to thank God for His blessings.



In my own life, I often wonder who do I need to thank the most? Have I thanked my wife enough for leading me to Christ? Or her grandfather that instilled the best Christian values in his family? You can go on and on. As you review your life, you come to the conclusions there are just too many people to thank. So therefore, it comes down this: “**God wants us to have a grateful heart**”. One of the Bible’s indictments against rebellious humanity is that “**although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him**” (Romans 1:21). An ungrateful heart is a heart that is cold toward God and indifferent to His mercy and love. It is a heart that has forgotten how dependent we are on God for everything.

From one end of the Bible to the other, we are commanded to be thankful. In fact, thankfulness is the natural outflowing of a heart that is attuned to God. The psalmist declared, “**sing to the Lord with thanksgiving**” (Psalm 147:7). Paul wrote, “**always be thankful**” (Colossians 3:15). A spirit of thanksgiving is always the mark of a joyous Christian.

Why should we be thankful? Because God has blessed us richly, and we should be thankful for each blessing.

Carl Sundgren

Men's Breakfast
Saturday, **March 15th**
8 AM



“Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans”

March Anniversaries:
3/16 Larry & Gloria Sanders
3/20 Ricky & Wendy Riggs

