

# University Heights Church of Christ

BULLETIN

October 26, 2008

## When? Where?

In the New Testament no local church was ever without a “when” and a “where”. Without a church time and a church place you cannot church. At Troas the disciples knew when and where to come together. The place had been prepared in advance with “many lights” for the purpose of accommodating an evening assembly of the saints.

**Acts 20:7** “*And upon the first [day] of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached to them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight”*

The thousands of disciples that made up the very first local church in Jerusalem had from the very beginning a place where they all assembled. That assembly place had to accommodate those thousands that were members of that local church and it did.

**Acts 4:31** “*And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.”*

**Acts 5: 12** “*And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.”*

Every Israelite from the time of the Tabernacle in the wilderness understood that the assembly place where God’s people came together was the result of contributions from God’s people. Upon becoming Christians those Israelites did not lose that understanding of where the assembly place for God’s people came from. The temple at Jerusalem that the first local church “*churched*” in was built by Herod; but the original temples of the Jews were built by the Jews with the assets of the Jews. The Jews understood that. The Jews also provided and maintained local places of assembly in which to assemble to read and study the copies of the inspired scriptures that were kept in those places for that purpose. In New Testament times those local places of assembly for the reading and study of the Holy Writings were known as “synagogues”. A Roman centurion built the synagogue in Capernaum (**Luke 7:5**) but synagogues were usually built and maintained by the local Jews in the community where the synagogue was located.

The church at Antioch in Syria had a place of assembly that made it possible to teach “*much people*”.

**Acts 11: 26** “*And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people.”*

In the New Testament when the Lord’s church is referred to the Greek word used is “*ekklesia*”. In New Testament times that word indicated a group of people viewed as a body. The word is used in **Acts 19:32** to refer to the riotous mob that came together in the theatre at Ephesus. It is also used to refer to local churches where elders were ordained.

**Acts 14:23** “*And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.”*

In the New Testament the word “*ecclesia*” is always used to refer to people and never to place, but it should be noted that every local ekklesia had an ekklesia place. Every local assembly no matter how large or how small had a place where the assembly took place. Whatever size the local church in Jerusalem was in **Acts 15** that local church had an assembly place.

**Acts 15: 25** “*It seemed good to us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,”*

All of the local churches in Asia had assembly places. The assembly place for one of those local churches was the house of the tentmakers, Aquila and Priscilla.

**1Corinthians 16: 19** “*The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.”*

When Aquila and Priscilla later moved back home to Rome their house was once again used as the place of assembly of one of the local churches in that city. Their occupation may have helped to influence that because tent making requires a large open area in which to layout cut and sew the material of which the tents are made. With all of the tent pieces rolled up out of the way such an area might accommodate the assembly needs of a fairly large local church.

**Romans 16: 3** “*Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus: 4 Who have for my life laid down their own necks: to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. 5 Likewise [greet] the church that is in their house”*

One interesting point on places of assembly is found in the wording used by James in writing to Jewish Christians.

**James 2: 2** “*For if there come into your synagogue a man with a gold ring, in fine clothing, and there come in also a poor man in vile clothing; 3 and ye have regard to him that weareth the fine clothing, and say, Sit thou here in a good place; and ye say to the poor man, Stand thou there, or sit under my footstool;” (1901 ASV)*

Where did those Jewish Christians to whom James wrote get their synagogue with its good places to sit and its footstools? Once those Jewish Christians had their synagogue how did they maintain it? Those Jewish Christians got and maintained their synagogue just like the Israelites had usually acquired and maintained their local places of assembly. But how do I know that James is here talking about the place of assembly and not the assembly itself? My answer to that is this:

1. The men are described as coming into a furnished place that James called “your synagogue”.
2. When James referred to the Lord’s people James used the Greek word “*ekklesia*” exactly like every other New Testament writer did. **James 5: 14** “*Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church;*”

**According to the Bible, assemblies of God’s people have always owned and maintained places in which to assemble.**

## Remember to Pray For

Sarah Phillips, cancer  
David Alford, is much improved  
Carol Bach  
Marian Lyda  
Edith Tirey, has improved greatly  
Waldine Childress  
Jeanette Lindsey  
Lucy Hale  
Ruben Amador's daughter Pamela  
Newborn baby of Nate & Tricha  
Shannon  
Ella Wells, and her family  
Debra Craig  
Dallis and Alma Isaacs  
Lorene Pagan  
Freddie Ward  
David and Chessie Harwell  
Donna Caldwell  
Mabel Greene  
Tony Tyree  
Ruth Brundige  
Cindy Miller  
Christie Ellis  
Shirley Lewis  
Brady Gibbons  
Gail Hunter  
Larry Flannery  
Donnie Joseph  
Cheryl Spear  
Lanny Hiller  
Charity and Abdiel Pallafox  
Helen Stephens  
Chris Handshoe  
Chris and Jen Dooley  
Jeffrey Howerton  
Addison Pervine  
Carl Stripplehoff  
Tom Kemp  
Freda Blakey

All who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus and here's how.

**Acts 19: 9** *"But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spoke evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus. 10 And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks."*

When all of the Jews that attended the synagogue at Ephesus were not converted and the remaining unbelievers began to speak evil of the way, the disciples moved to facilities at an alternate location in which instruction in the teachings of Jesus could go on every day of the week without the distractions caused by the unbelievers in the synagogue. Local churches have always needed facilities that will as much as possible expedite successful and unhindered instruction in the teachings of Jesus to everybody that is willing to come and learn at any time 24/7/52 if feasible.

## Thoughts

The "Book of False Assumptions" is often quoted as if it were Holy Writ and not infrequently given far more respect than the actual recorded words of God.

- **False Assumption:** To be a sin a thing has to be ugly to me. Adam and Eve proved that is not so **Genesis 3**.
- **False Assumption:** Worship that pleases me pleases God. Cain proved that is not so **Genesis 4**.
- **False Assumption:** There are big sins and little sins. How much littler can you get than eating a piece of fruit or offering fruit of the ground instead of a dead animal in sacrifice?
- **False Assumption:** If sin is popular enough God will not punish sin. Noah's pre-flood neighbors proved that is not so **Genesis 6-8**. So did Lot's neighbors in Sodom and Gomorrah **Genesis 19**.
- **False Assumption:** Doctrine is unimportant. The Galatians found out that is not true. **Galatians 1:6-10** So did the Ephesians **1Timothy 1:3** So did those at Jerusalem **Acts 2:42**
- **False Assumption:** It doesn't make any difference what you believe or practice as long as you are sincere. Saul of Tarsus proved that is not so **Acts 23:1; 1Corinthians 15:9; 1Timothy 1:13; Acts 9:1-5**.
- **False Assumption:** That people in all religions are saved. Jesus said that is not so. **Matthew 15:12-14; John 4:23,24**
- **False Assumption:** That everybody cannot understand the Bible alike. When Jesus prayed for oneness of the believers he proved that is not so. **John 17:20, 21** Also every Bible based argument Jesus made indicated that Jesus thought that all must understand the Bible alike. Paul taught the Corinthian Christians to all be one in word, thought and in judgement, without divisions. **1Corinthians 1:10** Paul told the Philippians the same thing. **Philippians 3:16, 17**
- **False Assumption:** That you do not have to believe the Bible in order to be saved. Jesus proved that is wrong when he gave the great commission **Mark 16:15,16**. According to Jesus those who do not believe the Bible are lost.
- **False Assumption:** That it is acceptable to God for us to act in religion without Bible authority. According to John and Jude that is not so. **2John 9,10; Jude 3**
- **False Assumption:** That at some time out in the future the teachings of Jesus will become generally popular and accepted in this world. According to Jesus that is not true. **Matthew 7:13,14** Jesus did not put a time limit on the unpopularity of Jesus' teachings with the majority of the population of this world.
- **False Assumption:** That only Christians in the first century AD could please God by abiding by the teachings of the New Testament only. According to the New Testament in order to please God all must obey the doctrine that is preserved in the New Testament and not anything else. **1Timothy 4:6; 6:3; Romans 1:16; Galatians 1:6-9; 2Thessalonians 1:8-10**

HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD  
Isaiah 1:10

IF ANY MAN SPEAKS, [LET HIM SPEAK] AS  
THE ORACLES OF GOD;  
1Peter 4:11

A person is not speaking "*as the oracles of God*" unless they can give the book, chapter and verse in the Bible that supports what they are saying.

## Notes

OUR GOSPEL MEETING  
WITH  
FRANK WALTON  
PREACHING  
STARTS NEXT SUNDAY

We get to come together and study everyday like the people did in Berea (Acts 17:11) and in Ephesus (Acts 19:9)

INFORMATIONAL MEETING  
TODAY AT 4:30PM

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING 3:00PM  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

### Hebrews 11

The faith that saves is a faith that:  
Offered acceptable worship  
Pleased God  
Built a huge wooden box  
Moved to a foreign country  
Conceived a son in old age  
Offered a son at God's command  
Acted on God's promises  
Willingly accepted suffering in order to be identified with God's people  
Obeyed God's commandments  
Walked around and around and around a city  
Took the side of God's people  
Subdued kingdoms  
Won battles  
Suffered persecution sometimes to death  
Was cast out to wander in deserts and mountains

THE FAITH THAT SAVES IS NEVER  
"FAITH ONLY"

## Schedule of Services

### Sunday Morning

Bible Classes 9:45 AM  
Worship Service 10:45 AM

### Sunday Evening

Worship Service 6:00 PM

### Wednesday Evening

Bible Studies for all ages 7:30 PM

### Monthly Song Service

First Friday each month 7:30 PM

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COME STUDY THE BIBLE  
AND WORSHIP WITH US

HELP GOD'S WORD GROW  
LEARN IT • OBEY IT • TEACH IT