

## “Now Ye Are The Body of Christ...” continued from page 1

We have all been “called out of darkness into his marvellous light” (I Pet. 2:9) from very diverse backgrounds. Some of us grew up under the influence of the church; some came out of denominationalism; others were total reprobates—sinners of the worst sort with no religious background. Some of us are poor; others are very wealthy and most are somewhere in between. Some brethren are well-educated; others can’t even write their names.

We also come in all colors: black, brown, red, yellow and white. We come from a bewildering variety of cultures and customs. The body of Christ is comprised of people in almost every conceivable occupation: doctors, truck drivers, secretaries, mechanics, lawyers, businessmen, garbage workers, salesmen, janitors, computer programmers, professors, judges, school teachers, politicians, scientists, policemen, technicians, pilots, nurses, and on and on the list could go ad infinitum. Yet, in Christ, all distinctions are eliminated. Paul writes: “(You) have put on the new man, that is being renewed unto knowledge after the image of him that created him: where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, bondman, freeman; but Christ is all, and in all” (Col. 3:101),

The body of Christ is truly unique. Only in the church is each one so united with all other members and has such a loving concern for every brother that the church functions as the various members of the human body does. Paul wrote:

*“For as the body is one, and bath many members, and all the members of the body, being many, are one body; so also is Christ. ...God tempered the body together, giving more abundant honor to that part which lacked; 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 suffereth, all the members suffer with it; or one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ, and severally members thereof”* (1 Cor. 12:12,24b-27).

Since we are all one in Christ, we are told to “*speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfected together in the same mind and in the same judgment*” (I Cor. 1:10). The reason for this command is obvious: if we are careful to do this, the unity of the body of Christ will remain intact. It is not surprising, then, to learn that we are to have such unity in order that we may truly glorify God: “*Now the God of patience and of comfort grant you to be of the same mind one with another according to Christ Jesus: that with one accord ye may with one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Wherefore receive ye one another, even as Christ also received you, to the glory of God*” (Rom. 15:5-7).

Because of what is revealed in scripture, we know that this “oneness” is a very precious thing to God. We also realize its fragility. It can be destroyed so easily. Unfortunately, the devil also knows this. Throughout history Satan has used self-willed, unbelieving men, with their opinions and traditions, to tear the unity of the church into shreds, and he is still using the same kind of people, disguised as ministers of light, to accomplish this devilish work. These unwitting accomplices of Satan face a tragic destiny, as well as those who follow them into error. Let us, however, be careful to “*contend earnestly for the faith once for all delivered to the saints*” (Jude 3). Let us work with all our might to “*keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*” (Eph. 4:3), knowing that if we continue faithful unto death, we will receive the crown of life (Rev. 2:10).

*Al Brown  
Deceased*

**BELVEDERE BEACON**  
*Ye are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14)*  
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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES  
SUNDAY:      WEDNESDAY:  
Bible Classes for all ages 10:00 am.      Bible Classes for all ages 7:00 p.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 am.  
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.  
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## “Now Ye Are The Body of Christ...”

Some of the most beautiful passages in all of God’s word speak of the unity of believers in the church of Christ. They make it clear that this unity exists because the members have the same mind; that is, they all accept the teaching of the word of God. To “have the same mind” means to believe the same thing.

It is only natural for the Lord to expect those who embrace his religion to believe what he and his divinely-commissioned apostles taught. Indeed, Jesus made it clear that if a person rejects the teaching of the apostles, he, by this very act, rejects Christ; and if he rejects Christ, he also rejects the heavenly Father (Luke 10:16). Since this is the case, anyone who has rejected the teaching of Christ and the apostles is not a Christian at all, for a Christian, by definition, is one who follows (believes in and obeys) Christ.

As strange as it may seem, some who profess to be Christians claim people cannot speak the same thing. This is a devil’s lie. All humans who walk this planet could speak the same thing if they wanted to. There is nothing which prevents any individual from believing the very same thing that every other person believes. The truth is, men choose not to believe as others do.

There is not a single fact or promise in the gospel of Christ which any and every person on earth cannot believe if he chooses to do so, nor is there a single command every individual cannot obey. It is true that most choose not to believe, but in every instance, it is because they allow the lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eye, and/or the pride of life (I John 2:15-17) to determine their beliefs rather than what God has revealed in his word. One of the most salient facts about the true religion of Christ—that which is revealed in the New Testament—is that every follower must believe what Christ and the apostles taught and all they taught. Of necessity, then, they must, all speak the same thing, and the curse of God rests on all who do not (Gal. 1:6-9; II John 9-11). Therefore, when someone insists that all cannot speak the same thing, he is only revealing his unwillingness to believe what must be accepted if he intends to follow the Lord, his refusal to obey the revealed will of God, and his lack of commitment to the religion of Christ.

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My trip to England began on October 5, 2009 when I left for Columbia airport. It ended two days later than planned on October 25, 2009 when I arrived home at about 7.45 pm. This extension across London of the plane to take off without being able to get me out of the airport and taking the train to Keith Sisman's (my rental car was already returned) for the night. Next morning Keith had me at the airport in good time but when I went to check in there were no available seats. The flight was overbooked at the start of the half-term holiday for British Schools and as the flight continued from Atlanta to Orlando for Disneyworld, that was understandable. Thus, the airline had to make other plans for me. They flew me to Manchester and they put me in the hotel at the airport for the night and I flew out of Manchester Sunday morning. They ended up putting me in business class to get me home!



came about as a result of missing my Friday flight as a result of an accident closing the main road to Heathrow airport in London. This meant that a journey about 40 miles ended up taking 4 and 1/2 hours. It was almost time for before I actually reached the entrance to the airport. The airline was later that day and rebooked my tickets for the flight on Saturday to give a seat assignment. In ended up leaving my luggage at the airport and taking the train to Keith Sisman's (my rental car was already returned) for the night. Next morning Keith had me at the airport in good time but when I went to check in there were no available seats. The flight was overbooked at the start of the half-term holiday for British Schools and as the flight continued from Atlanta to Orlando for Disneyworld, that was understandable. Thus, the airline had to make other plans for me. They flew me to Manchester and they put me in the hotel at the airport for the night and I flew out of Manchester Sunday morning. They ended up putting me in business class to get me home!

When I arrived in England on October 6 along with Dennis Francis from Liberal, Kansas, who had traveled with me from Atlanta, we took off in the rented car towards Mildenhall. That evening, I taught the mid week Bible study for the congregation as I also did for the following two weeks that I was there. This time I stayed with a young couple who had been posted to Mildenhall this past Summer who were very gracious. They are eagerly awaiting the birth of their first child early in the New Year. The next few days much time was spent with brethren discussing the work and the upcoming lectureship. This year, there were two separate sessions. The one in Huntingdon was held at the former home of Oliver Cromwell on October 10. The attendance here was not as high as had been in previous years, but that was expected because of the addition of the second session. This second session was hosted in London by the Thamesmead congregation on October 17. The attendance was very good and when the two were added together we had above the regular attendance. The Thamesmead brethren appreciated the effort that was made there and would like to be able to host the lectureship next October.

Both Sundays I was scheduled to be there, I was with the Mildenhall congregation preaching and teaching. On the second Sunday, the Ramsey congregation worshipped at Mildenhall followed by a pot-luck lunch together. This was the last time I will be with the brethren in Mildenhall and also the brethren at Ramsey as the two congregations have merged and begun Cambridge, home of the University to be known as the first assembly for the new congregation is being held facility they have been able to rent. The men of both determined that it was in the best interests of the Lord's Cambridge is about equal distance from Ramsey and 11, the men of both congregations met together with those lectureship to discuss the merger and ask for input from those of us who were visiting. We would solicit your prayers for the success of this new work. Both congregations are excited about the new work.



a new work in the city of Cambridge City church. this weekend at the congregations had work to join forces. Mildenhall. On October who were there for the lectureship to discuss the merger and ask for input from those of us who were visiting. We would solicit your prayers for the success of this new work. Both congregations are excited about the new work.

One highlight of the trip this years was being able to go up to the Lake District to view some old church buildings. Some of these dated from the nineteenth century and were buildings that had been used by members of the church as meeting places but now, sadly, faithful brethren are no longer meeting in the area. Also, we were able to view some much older buildings were during the mid 1600's congregations

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Keep in your prayers the following: Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, Maomi Aaron's sister, Leann Rogers, who is having health problems, Myrtle Grimsley, and Lanny Niver together with his daughter and son, and Tim Smith.

There was no bulletin for October 25 as the editor did not get home as planned October 23<sup>rd</sup> to finish it and run it off. As you know Ken Chumbley arrived home from his trip to England on Sunday evening, October 25<sup>th</sup>. He would like to thank Ron Wilson for teaching the Bible Class and Glenn Aaron, Les Culpepper and Michael Farmer for preaching in his absence. Special thanks to brother Culpepper for "standing in the gap," at short notice, when it became known that Ken would not even be in Saturday. Myrtle Grimsley is now at her daughter's home, located in front of sister' Grimsley's mobile home, after her release from the hospital following her heart attack. She is now receiving hospice care. Please keep her and her family in your prayers. She celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on October 26. She is showing some improvement this week.

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known as to assemble You will the other the baptistry. view for any



Churches of Christ met, often in secrecy as it was illegal for any for worship except as part of the established church of England. note two pictures one is remains of the outside The building was well coming through the area existence. It was interesting to know that there were those follow the Bible that met even under these very trying



a building and pool used for a hidden from not aware of its seeking to conditions.

There were numerous such congregations around the country and there are some records that remain that are available. I believe there is more history to be discovered concerning these churches that needs to be explored. There were several such congregations in the Lake District that were acquainted with each other as well as others in other parts of the country.

I would like, has finally Joan, with Joan and mental to visit with



as I conclude this report to tell you about the Moulton's Joan been able to obtain a part-time job and she is thankful for that. Rebecca and Hannah are doing well. Joan's mother, pictured and Rebecca is a care home near Birmingham as her physical health is deteriorating. I was able to go with Joan and Rebecca her. She is a member of the church. Please continue to keep Joan and the girls, along with Joan's mother in your prayers.

The other pictures are of an English mail box and a view of Cambridge.

*Ken Chumbley*