

one family

hope Lord Spirit body
faith baptism hope

August 3, 2014

12932 S. Elwood Ave. • Glenpool OK, 74033

What Label Would Jesus Choose?

Christians love to label one another. Some of these labels begin as a derogatory term (e.g. Campbellites, Quakers, Methodists, etc.). Sometimes Christians embrace a label and proudly wear it to distinguish themselves from other Christians. There are premillennial Christians, postmillennial Christians, feminist Christians, fundamentalist Christians, and on and on it goes. There is a never ending ocean of Christian labels. This is not something new. The Christians who began the restoration movement recognized this and sought to throw off their labels and be Christians only.

So, what would Jesus do? Would Jesus welcome and embrace a label? Would Jesus call himself a _____ Christian? We get a good idea of what he would do simply by looking at the gospels and understanding a thing or two about the culture in which he lived. The Jews of Jesus' day were just as guilty of dividing themselves and using labels as Christians are today. We read about some of these groups in the New Testament. There were Pharisees, Sadducees, Zealots, and Essenes. Jesus was aware of these groups. He interacted with them. Simon, one of his disciples, was a Zealot, but Jesus also invited Matthew, a tax collector, to follow him. Jesus did not choose sides. He did not pick one group over another. He did not identify with any of them, but instead worked to tear down the walls that divided. No one would have included a Zealot and a tax collector in the same group, but Jesus did.

There are no longer any Pharisees, Sadducees, or Essenes, but Christians have managed to continue this tradition of division. Two of the most popular labels used today are conservative and liberal. There were conservative and liberal Jews in Jesus' day, but because these terms are so vague it is sometimes hard to identify exactly who they were. Most people assume the Pharisees were the conservatives since they were strict and rigid when it came to following God's law. They went beyond the law in order not to violate it. I have also heard people make the case that the Sadducees were the conservatives since they accepted the Torah, God's true word, and did not add anything to it. Who was really conservative and who was really liberal? It depends on who you ask. It depends on their perspective. The labels we use often cause confusion and stymie meaningful conversations.

Jesus had the opportunity to choose a label. He could have identified with one group over another, but he did not. Jesus sought out people who had been rejected by others. He challenged Jewish prejudices regarding Samaritans and Gentiles. He questioned the legalism of Pharisees, a practice that separated them from others. He defended the resurrection before Sadducees who saw it as a point of division. Jesus showed us how to follow God without labels. Instead of worrying about what to be called or what to call someone else, he was

ELDERS

Carl Burrus
Jesse Byers
Bobby Hill
Bill Path

MINISTER

Benjamin Williams

PRISON MINISTER

Bill Hamrick

DEACONS

Matt Caldwell,
ASSOCIATE MINISTER,
YOUTH & EDUCATION

Keith Riggs,

WORSHIP

James Hamilton,

WORSHIP

Bruce Rothell,

MISSIONS

SECRETARY

Karen Brown

SUNDAY

Bible Classes for All Ages 9:30 am
Morning Worship Assembly 10:30 am
Evening Worship & Classes 5:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Classes for All Ages 7:00 pm

willing to talk about issues, prejudices, and beliefs that hampered a person's relationship with God.

Some say you cannot avoid labels and that may be so, but Jesus did. He never once embraced the labels within his culture that divided so many. What label would Jesus wear? The answer is none. Jesus was neither a conservative, nor a liberal. He was not this or that. He was a follower of God and that is what we should all strive to be.

Throwing off our labels will not solve all our problems. It will not even fix all the divisions within Christianity. Christians will continue to be divided. We will continue to find things to disagree upon. Refusing to be a hyphenated Christian is not about ignoring doctrines. It is about imitating Jesus and this is what we are called to do. Instead of writing off another human being because they have been given a label we do not like, we must now get to know them. We must begin a conversation with them and hear their story from their own lips. Refusing to use labels means we give up on assumptions. We begin each introduction with a clean slate. We start each meeting with a belief that is central to Scripture. Every human being is a person created in the image of God. Everyone is somebody. Each person I meet deserves to be treated with respect and dignity, rather than just assigned a label.

What would Jesus do? I think you know. Let us throw off the labels that divide us and often get in the way. Let us refuse to label others and make assumptions about them. Instead, may we follow in the footsteps of Jesus who did not concern himself with labels or groups, but rather devoted himself to simply following God.

by Scott Elliott

FALL QUARTER TEACHERS

Sunday Morning	Wednesday Evening
Auditorium: Survey of Luke - Jack Lierly	Auditorium: Job - Bill Hamrick
Young Adult: TBA- Ben Williams	Teens: Job - Matt Caldwell
Teens: Survey of Luke - Carl Burrus	4th-6th grades: Job - Jeff Bullinger
4th-6th grades: Survey of Luke - Bobby Hill	

WILL YOU HELP?

Debbie Whitchurch is looking for teachers for the nursery and toddler age classes. Please consider working with these cute kids. Class material will be supplied and Debbie will show you how. Will you please help?

LOOKING FOR YOUR INPUT

James Hamilton is looking for ideas or suggestions on how to divide up the old auditorium after we move into the new auditorium. Do you have any good ideas? If so, please **put your ideas on paper** and hand it to James in the next couple of weeks. Thank you!



Sunday, August 10th

Elder's and Deacon's meeting, 3:30

Sunday, August 31st

5th Sunday fellowship meal - group Path

Sunday, Sept 14th

Elder's and Deacon's meeting, 3:30

Sunday, Sept 28th

Fellowship meal after evening services - group Hill

IN NEED OF OUR PRAYERS

- Anita Exendine is waiting on test results after her surgery.
- Cindy Khoury's mother, Nancy Bentley, is having problems with high blood pressure, they are running tests.
- Tanis Williamson's mother, Louise Dicks, is suffering with severe pain in her side.
- Bert Shelby is requesting prayers on behalf of her sister, Ann Isom, who is suffering with severe Alzheimer's. Bert has been taking care of her this summer and has not been able to attend with us.
- **Service men and women:** Jenna Sullivan; Jacob Littlebear
- **Our friends and family:** Suzanne Stamps; Sue Gilbert (Leasa's mother); Jeannene Thomas (cancer); Barbara Vaughan; Eric Vaughan (heart); Sylvia Paddubny (rehab); the Mulkey family; & others.

PRAYERS

Michael Brown responded to the invitation Sunday evening asking for prayers on his behalf.

MEETING

Elder's and Deacon's meeting Sunday, August 10th at 3:30.

AREA-WIDE SINGING

Park Plaza is hosting an Area-wide Singing on Sunday, August 3rd from 6-7 pm. There is a flyer posted on the bulletin board.



Sunday, August 24th the youth are invited to eat pizza and play mini golf.  This will be after morning services and they will return in time for the evening services. Parents you may consider bringing a change of clothes. If you have any questions see Matt Caldwell.

MARRIAGE SEMINAR

The Owasso congregation is hosting a Marriage Seminar on Friday and Saturday, August 8-9. Flyers are posted on the bulletin board with more information.

RADIO PROGRAM

Tune in on Tuesdays at 9 am to KTTRadio.org for a new broadcast called "The Minister's View". This is a live internet radio program by the church of Christ.

What This World Needs

A little more kindness is what this world needs
A little more living in words and in deeds;
A little more helping of brother along;
A little more smiling, a little more song;
A little more lifting of somebody's care;
A little more giving, a little more prayer;
A little more thinking of things that are true;
A little more patience and tenderness too;
A little more brushing of worries away;
A little more thanking for blessings each day;
A little more climbing toward some shining goal;
A little more seeking for things of the soul;
A little more courage in paths still untrod;
A little more trusting in mankind and God!

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Larry & Angela Growns, Aug 3
Tucker Davidson, Aug 4
Rachel Figueiredo, Aug 6
Steve & Sandy Rucquoy, Aug 6
Katrina Treat, Aug 6
Matt Caldwell, Aug 6

Carl Burrus, Aug 6
Melissa Causby, Aug 6
Todd & Cindy Khoury, Aug 6
Marc Pulliam, Aug 9
Jesse & Becky Byers, Aug 10
Randy Crawford, Aug 11

Chris Patterson, Aug 16
Bobby & Shirley Hill, Aug 16
Jerry Buller, Aug 17
Jonathan Hamilton, Aug 20
Paul & Dorothy Ennis, Aug 20
Bob & Mickey Hecht, Aug 21

GLENPOOL church of Christ

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Attendance: Last Week

Sunday Bible Classes
Sunday AM Worship
Sunday PM Worship
Wednesday Bible Classes

111
142
75
70

Contribution

Sunday Contribution \$3,785.35
Budget \$4,185.00
Under Budget <\$399.65>
Building Fund \$1,785.92

Men To Serve

Sunday Morning

Song Leader Bobby Hill
Opening Prayer Robert Hill
Scripture Reading Hayden Bullinger
Closing Prayer Larry Potter
Lord's Table Keith Riggs
James Hamilton
Harry Reeve
Chris Patterson

Ushers

Scott Lack
Jeff Bullinger

Greeter

Bob Hecht

Lock Building

Bruce Rothell and Bobby Hill

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Bobby Hill
Opening Prayer Jerry Buller
Closing Prayer
Lord's Table Keith Riggs
James Hamilton

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader James Hamilton
Opening Prayer Johnny Riggs
Closing Prayer Jack Lierly

Communion Preparation

8/3 Edwards Ladies
8/10 Autumn Caldwell
8/17 Tonya Davidson
8/24 Causby Ladies
8/31 Rita Risely
9/7 Marcia Riggs
9/14 Shirley Hood
9/21 Earline Lierly
9/28 Cathy Burcham

Next Quarterly Ladies Meeting

Sunday, Sept 14th
3:30 pm



IN SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY®

"These were more noble...they searched the scriptures daily..." (Acts 17:11)

Sundays at 7:30 a.m. KWHB
TV47 or Cable Channel 7

Search Programs:

Aug 3 - What Happens at Death?
Aug 10 - The Second Coming
Aug 17 - The Resurrection
Aug 24 - The Judgment
Aug 31 - Heaven

Sunday Morning Sermon

The Right Hand of the Father
Benjamin Williams
Acts 1:9-11

Sunday Evening Adult Class

The Pastoral Epistles
Benjamin Williams