

SCHEDULE OF ASSEMBLIES

Sunday morning worship (Bible study)	9:30 AM
Sunday morning worship (Preaching)	10:30 AM
Sunday afternoon worship (Preaching).....	4:00 PM
Wednesday evening worship (Bible Study).....	7:00 PM

NEWS AND NOTES

VISITORS: If you are visiting with us, we welcome you and ask that you please sign our guest book and fill out a visitor's card and put it in the collection basket or give it to one of the men in the congregation.

SCHEDULE: The schedule for May is posted on the bulletin board so the men can see what their responsibilities are for the month.

TRAVELS: Jerry and Dottie enjoyed a good and safe trip to see their grandson graduate High School in Athens, GA. Thanks to those who filled Jerry's place while he was away.

SICK AND SHUT-INS: Beulah Tooley had back surgery Wednesday and is doing well. Jack and Brenda Elliott and Donna Criswell were not feeling well this past week. We hope they are feeling better now. Helen Sparks fell a little over a week ago, but no broken bones, just quite sore. She also has other health issues that sometime keeps her from services. Brittney Day continues to have back problems occasionally. Telford Hamm received a good report about his eye problems. There may be others who are sick that I am unaware of, if so, please tell Randy Elliott, who is making announcements in May.

NEW PROGRAMS: Our TV/Radio program on local Cable TV channels 12 and 97 are on TV at 6:30 AM and 4:30 PM on Sunday and at various times through the week on TV and local radio stations 1430 AM and 97.9 FM. This program is aired a minimum of three times a week. Please pray that these efforts will reach those who are interested in studying and learning God's word.

GOSPEL MEETINGS / SINGINGS: Somerville Road June 1 singing 7 PM with Tim Stevens. Quinn Memorial June 3-7 with Gardner Hall and a singing June 8 7:30 PM. Jackson Drive June 3-8 with Chuck Durham 7 PM. Fourth Street (Cullman) June 10-15 with Tommy Peeler 7 PM (?). Elgin Hills (East of Florence) June 10-15 with Isaac Munoz 7 PM. College View Lectureship June 11-14 Speakers: Dee Bowman, Russ Bowman, Jason Cicero, Steve Patton. Highway 157 (Cullman) June 17-20 with Doy Moyer 7 PM. Eastside (Athens) with Greg Chandler June 17-22 Mon - Fri 10:00 AM & 7 PM. If you know of meetings that should be listed, please let me know.

NOTE: To have information put in the bulletin please get it to Jerry before Saturday afternoon.

POINTS TO PONDER

- Some People really enjoy their religion; others just endure it.

THE EASTSIDE REMINDER

2Pet 1:12-15

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"BECOMING" A CHURCH - MEMBER

By Robert F. Turner

For years gospel preachers have taught "one does not join the church"; and members have parroted "one does not join the church, one is added to the church." The distinction is valid if properly understood; but I fear it is not widely understood, and often the words become mere "church of Christ" nomenclature.

Receiving Christ gives one "power to become" a child of God (John 1:12). Of "become" Robertson says, "to become what they were not before." The new baby does not "join" the status of son or daughter—it "becomes" a child, and a member of the family. Of the new life, Paul wrote, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2Corinthians 5:17). Coming into Christ one becomes a part or member of Christ's body (Ephesians 2:13,16) thus one "becomes" a member of Christ's church (Ephesians 1:22-23). Now take it slow and easy—and read the scriptures cited with great care.

One does not "become" a Christian and then, at some later date, "join" the body of Christ. One "becomes" both a Christian and a member of the church of Christ by one and the same process. The "church" of which we are writing is, of course, that one great universal body of saints, those called out of darkness by His gospel. This church is not a "church-hood" or "brother-hood of sister-churches"—if you can picture such. It is neither all the churches, nor a special portion of the churches. It is simply a figurative (or "spiritual")

if you prefer) gathering or assembly of saints, of which you may "become" a part. But when you have become a member of the body of Christ (His "church" in the universal sense) you will, if possible, "join" with other disciples in your worship and service of God. Paul sought to "join" with the disciples in Antioch—at least he was no longer considered a part of the Jerusalem company (Acts 15:22).

These local groups, or fellowships, (such as the saints at Philippi; 1:1) were also known as "churches" (1Corinthians 1:2; Romans 16:16) and exemplify the one and only church organization known in the New Testament. Perhaps one may speak of "joining" the local church and do no injustice to language; but we should understand that we "join" with other disciples to form a local church. "Join" (kollaw) means to glue or cement together; then generally, to unite, to join firmly. In passive voice it signifies to join oneself to, be joined to" (W.E. Vine).

The true church of Christ on earth today is not a group of congregations bound together in some "church-hood" by name, creed, or practice. The true church of Christ is, today as always, the body of called-out people who acknowledge Christ as their head and serve Him faithfully. If, in your community, there are true disciples of Christ "joined together" to do the Lord's bidding, they constitute a local "church of Christ." But don't be fooled by a Name. Test their preaching and practice by the Word of God. The true church of Christ welcomes such investigation. They urge you to "become" a Christian, and "join" them.

Via Plain Talk, March 1966

CHURCHES AND THEIR BUILDINGS

By Bill Hall

Burton Coffman, in his Commentary on Romans, makes the following comment concerning the church's meeting in the house of Aquila and Priscilla:

In view of this historical fact, and the inspired evidence of it before our eyes, one may only marvel at the divisions among brethren over the question of whether or not food may be served in a church house! From the facts, as evidenced in, the example of Priscilla and Aquila, it can safely be inferred that anything a Christian might do in his house could under the proper circumstances, be done in a

religious meeting house, the home in fact having been the original meeting house of the apostolic church (513).

We suspect that our readers are surprised at such a statement. Do we really believe that anything that can be done in one's home can be done appropriately in the meeting house owned by the church?

But wait! This is not the real issue involved in the "division" mentioned above. According to these brethren not only can churches serve meals in their meeting houses but they can build the facilities into their meeting houses that are needed for serving meals - and this from the money contributed for the Lord's work. Could we not carry brother Coffman's reasoning one step further, and say that anything a Christian might build into his house can, under the proper circumstances, be built into religious meeting houses? Bedrooms? Swimming pools? Recreation rooms? We know a family who has built a beauty shop into their house. A beauty shop in the church building? And the lady gives perms and sets hair as a business in her home. Could she do this "under proper circumstances" in the church building? In fact, it is at least possible that Aquila and Priscilla had a "tent-making" area in their house, for that was their occupation. A tent factory built into the meeting house with money from the treasury?

Besides, we have known of churches that met in YMCA's, union halls, prisons, and courthouses. Does it follow that anything a Christian might do in one of these facilities "could, under proper circumstances," be done in a religious meeting house?

The truth is a church meeting house is authorized as an aid to worship and Bible teaching, which are God-ordained church activities. Whatever is needful to facilitate these God-ordained activities should therefore be built into meeting houses. In keeping with this, if God ordains social activities, recreation, and secular education as local church activities, churches should build facilities, and provide food, balls, bats, racquets, school teachers, books, etc., that will serve as aids to these activities. But if they are not God-ordained church activities, churches have no authority to build into their buildings facilities for such. And to do that for which there is no authority is sin (2Jhn 9; 2Tim 3:16, 17; 1Jhn 3:4). This is the real issue in this controversy.