

WE ARE GOING TO HELL?

The thing the churches of Christ are most identified with after being non-instrumental is the idea that we tell people that if they are not a member of the church of Christ they are going to Hell. It happens less and less now, but largely because we do fewer personal evangelism activities.

For better or worse, we actually have and have had members who would openly and bluntly say that. For everyone who would say that, there are likely many others who think it and whose attitudes imply it.

The last thing you want to is to have someone ask you that question and not have a ready answer. Not being able to answer the question generally readily confirms that it is what you believe. What we are suggesting is that you go over your answer and practice it so that when the question comes you can not only answer it but turn the question to your advantage.

First, what we know:

God will judge who is going to hell on judgment day. We can have a pretty good idea, but we simply don't know. Even within

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KNOWING GOD

The great generation suffered deprivation, crossed the sea and fought the battles. They learned to trust God the hard way. As they devoted themselves to the law and conquered lands they brought glory to God. "The people served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had seen all the great things the Lord had done for Israel." (Judges 2:7f)

One by one they died. One of the saddest verses in the Bible tells what this great generation left behind. "After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel." (Judges 2:10)

How could everything be lost in one generation? It seems unbelievable that their children became ignorant, ungrateful and evil. It is a reminder that we are always one generation away from apostasy.

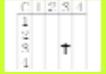
I like David's petition to God, "Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your might to all who are to come." (Psalm 71:18) We have a job to do and we must do it well!

"This is what the Lord says: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight, declares the Lord." (Jer. 9:23, 24)

Elizabeth Brown

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the churches of Christ there are one cup non-fermented, one cup fermented, no Bible class, no kitchen, instrumental, and non-institutional groups. Each of these sub-groups has serious reservations about the group to the right and to the left of themselves. God will judge however He judges and we do not know if it will be a hard check list (e.g. was the grape juice fermented or not) or will He be considering other factors (e.g. they lived in the middle of Africa and never even heard of Jesus).

We do have indications of God's judgment style.

The Old Testament was pretty much God giving laws, the people reacting, and then seeing God's judgment. The New Testament is God giving laws, we are reacting today, and judgment is to happen on Judgment day. The God of the Old Testament was a strict Father who expected his instructions to be obeyed. Although many people believe the God of the New Testament to be more of a kindly grandfather, it is the same God. As a free moral agent you can decide he is a different God now, but that does not make it so on judgment day

The laws and instructions which apply to us are in the New Testament.

The laws of the Old Testament were fulfilled and done away with by the New Testament events (Gal 3:24). No person, group, or organization is getting additional revelations today. A group today can vote to "upgrade" what the New Testament teaches to suit their preferences today, but that doesn't mean God is required to accept it.

The Old Testament clearly shows God's reaction to some well meaning person overriding His instructions. Nadab and Abihu (Lev. 10:1) or Uzzah (II Sam. 6:3-7). Our reasonable interpretation would be that He means what He says.

The churches of Christ attempt to be in conformance with what God's New Testament teaches.

We generally follow the motto "speak where the Bible Speaks and remain silent where the Bible is silent" which is a reasonable paraphrase of Rev. 22:18-19.

Other religious groups can be distinguished from the churches of Christ by their choices of what to do instead of what the New Testament says.

Go to www.thearray.org / The Christian Array / 4 INNOVATION ARRAY for specific departures on a number of groups.

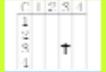
We are "free moral agents". This means that we can choose to do whatever we like to do in our lifetimes today (as long as it is legal which brings on swifter judgment.)

God is not limited by our personal choices.

He is free to judge by His law to whatever strictness He chooses.

AREN'T YOU THE CHURCH WHICH SAYS EVERYONE ELSE IS GOING TO HELL?

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WE ARE GOING TO HELL? P. 3

If you choose to follow rules, procedures, and practices of your preference rather than God's instructions, you are taking a gamble that it will be O.K.

In this situation you are doing what you prefer in the short run and it has eternal consequences.

In summary:

The churches of Christ believe that God's word and instructions for us to follow are in the New Testament and we try to follow it in accordance with the general motto of "speak where the Bible speaks and remain silent where the Bible is silent". We understand that each group is putting their salvation at risk in doing what they prefer rather than what the New Testament teaches, but that is God's call on judgment day rather than ours. We cannot make that judgment but recommend that you consider following the New Testament rather than gamble with your salvation on some other group's teachings.

You probably have a better way to say this and to summarize it, but it needs to be said and practiced in our sermons, Bible Classes, homes, and personal evangelism encounters.

Benton F. Baugh

PERSPECTIVE



David Beegle shared Norma Hart's photo.

2 hrs · 🌐

CAUSES OF DEATH in the USA in 2016 (through June 15)

Abortion:	501,325
Heart Disease:	282,038
Cancer:	271,640
Tobacco:	160,680
Obesity:	140,939
Medical Errors:	115,439
Stroke:	61,106
Lower Respiratory Disease:	65,623
Accident (unintentional):	62,460
Hospital Associated Infection:	45,449
Alcohol:	45,908
Diabetes:	35,114
Alzheimer's Disease:	42,943
Influenza/Pneumonia:	25,354
Kidney Failure:	19,631
Blood Infection:	15,363
Drunk Driving:	15,521
Unintentional Poisoning:	14,580
All Drug Abuse:	11,479
Prescription Drug Overdose:	6,886
Murder by gun:	5,276

Irrespective of whether you are a gun advocate or not, it is interesting to note that for every murder by gun in the U.S., there are 1000 murders by abortion.

Tom added two interesting points which are appropriate for today's situation. First, to date in 2016 there have been 522 deaths by the Police (justified and unjustified total). That is an average of 10 / State or 1.6 / State / Month. Secondly, that only slightly exceeds the homicide rate in the city of Chicago, which is currently at 365 and counting.



ZIP CODE 77433

A group from Zip Code 77433 is going to host an evening meal at Spring Creek Barbecue on Thursday 8/4/16 at 7:00 p.m. to consider the personal evangelism advantages of starting a new congregation in their area. (Spring Creek is at 25831 Northwest Frwy., near the intersection of 290 and Fry).

This will be a fresh start-up of a non-instrumental scriptural based work.

If you would like to attend this dinner / meeting,
RSVP to either of the addresses below.

For more information, contact:

Philip Bailey, 713-304-0011, pbailey@thecatalystinitiative.com
Benton F. Baugh, 713-419-8683, bbaugh@thecatalystinitiative.com

THE CATALYST INITIATIVE

GOAL: Help the kingdom grow by encouraging those without a neighborhood congregation to start one.

PREMISE: The difficulty of doing personal evangelism is proportionate to the distance you are from your congregation.

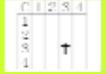
If you live far enough from your established congregation that it makes it difficult to do personal evangelism and would like to consider starting a new local autonomous scriptural congregation, let us know.

We have experienced volunteers available to assist you in starting your new congregation or to discuss the possibility.

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE: www.thecatalystinitiative.com

Led By:

Philip Bailey, 713-304-0011, pbailey@thecatalystinitiative.com
Benton F. Baugh, 713-419-8683, bbaugh@thecatalystinitiative.com



IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION #64: FEVER

"Back in 1980, a prominent pediatrician named Barton Schmitt coined the term "fever phobia" to describe the understandable desire of many parents to bring down fevers in their children as quickly as possible. Although almost a quarter-century has passed since Schmitt's phrase caught on, fever phobia is still alive and well.

A recent study in the journal *Pediatrics* shows that 91 percent of parents surveyed thought that a fever can cause harmful effects, with 56 percent of caregivers very worried about the potential harm of fevers for their own children. And 89 percent of parents reached for such fever reducers as acetaminophen and ibuprofen before temperatures reached 102 degrees.

Why should any of this matter? Because it is often not necessary -- and may not even be wise -- to be too quick to rush for the medicine cabinet when your child has a fever. "Nothing bad is going to happen if you don't treat the fever," says Dr. Ari Brown, a pediatrician in Austin, Texas, and spokesperson for the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

A fever, not surprisingly, indicates that your child is fighting off some kind of infection, such as a simple cold, the flu, or an ear infection. It is not an illness in itself. In fact, a fever may do some good. A study published in the February 2004 *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology* found that children who ran a fever during their first year were less likely to develop allergies later in childhood than children who did not have fever.

More importantly, according to the AAP, a fever can help your child's body fight off infection. **Many illness-causing microbes do best at the body's normal temperature. A fever raises the temperature beyond which certain microbes need to reproduce.** A fever also

kicks your child's immune system into high gear, spurring the rapid production of bug-clobbering white blood cells. A small but growing body of research shows that letting a fever run its course may reduce the length and severity of such illnesses as colds and flu.

As for the concern among parents that fevers can have harmful effects, these instances are very rare. **The brain has an internal regulatory mechanism that prevents fevers caused by infections from getting higher than 105 or 106 degrees.** Body temperature must get above 108 degrees to cause damage. Temperatures this high are caused only by exceptional circumstances, such as central nervous system disorders or heatstroke."

Taken from <http://www.parents.com/health/fever/fever-benefits/>

The point to quoting this article is in the underlined portions. First imagine that there are bad for us microbes which can reproduce at 98.6° F. and cannot reproduce at 102° F. Hard enough to imagine in the first place but take it for granted that they are there. Now imagine how you in all your intelligence know that this is true (and we bet you didn't) and figure out how to raise your body temperature just enough to stop their reproduction but not high enough to harm you. There is no way to evolve this if you don't know it.

If we presume in the olden days before something "learned" how to develop a fever, what would have happened. As best we can guess the microbes would have simply kept reproducing and killed the host (you). It would have taken an intelligent designer to have conceived of and implemented this defense. That intelligent designer is Jehovah.

Benton F. Baugh, Ph.D., P.E.



DON'T WIDEN THE PLATE!

In Nashville, Tennessee, during the first week of January, 1996, more than 4,000 baseball coaches descended upon the Opryland Hotel for the 52nd annual ABCA convention.

While I waited in line to register with the hotel staff, I heard other more veteran coaches rumbling about the lineup of speakers scheduled to present during the weekend. One name, in particular, kept resurfacing, always with the same sentiment — “John Scolinos is here? Oh man, worth every penny of my airfare.”

Who the ---- is John Scolinos, I wondered. No matter, I was just happy to be there.

In 1996, Coach Scolinos was 78 years old and five years retired from a college coaching career that began in 1948. He shuffled to the stage to an impressive standing ovation, wearing dark polyester pants, a light blue shirt, and a string around his neck from which home plate hung — a full-sized, stark-white home plate.

Seriously, I wondered, who in the hell is this guy?

After speaking for twenty five minutes, not once mentioning the prop hanging around his neck, Coach Scolinos appeared to notice the snickering among some of the coaches. Even those who knew Coach Scolinos had to wonder exactly where he was going with this, or if he had simply forgotten about home plate since he'd gotten on stage. Then, finally ...

“You're probably all wondering why I'm wearing home plate around my neck. Or maybe you think I escaped from Camarillo State Hospital,” he said, his voice growing irascible. I laughed along with the others, acknowledging the possibility. “No,” he continued, “I may be old, but I'm not crazy. The reason I stand before you today is to share with you baseball people what I've learned in my life, what I've learned about home plate in my 78 years.”

Several hands went up when Scolinos asked how many Little League coaches were in the room. “Do you know how wide home plate is in Little League?”

After a pause, someone offered, “Seventeen inches?” more of a question than answer.

“That's right,” he said. “How about in Babe Ruth's day? Any Babe Ruth coaches in the house?” Another long pause.

“Seventeen inches?” came a guess from another reluctant coach.

“That's right,” said Scolinos. “Now, how many high school coaches do we have in the room?” Hundreds of hands shot up, as the pattern began to appear.

“How wide is home plate in high school baseball?”

“Seventeen inches,” they said, sounding more confident.

“You're right!” Scolinos barked. “And you college coaches, how wide is home plate in college?”

“Seventeen inches!” we said, in unison.

“Any Minor League coaches here? How wide is home plate in pro ball?”

“Seventeen inches!”

“RIGHT! And in the Major Leagues, how wide is home plate in the Major Leagues?”

“Seventeen inches!”

“SEV-EN-TEEN INCHES!” he confirmed, his voice bellying off the walls. “And what do they do with a Big League pitcher who can't throw the ball over seventeen inches?” Pause. “They send him to Pocatello!” he hollered, drawing raucous laughter.

“What they *don't* do is this: they *don't* say, ‘Ah, that's okay, Jimmy. You can't hit a seventeen-inch target? We'll make it eighteen inches, or nineteen inches. We'll make it twenty inches so you have a better chance of hitting it. If you can't hit that, let us know so we can make it wider still, say twenty-five inches.’”

Pause.

“Coaches ...”

Pause.



DON'T WIDEN THE PLATE! P. 2

"... what do we do when our best player shows up late to practice? When our team rules forbid facial hair and a guy shows up unshaven? What if he gets caught drinking? Do we hold him accountable? Or do we change the rules to fit him. Do we widen home plate?

The chuckles gradually faded as four thousand coaches grew quiet, the fog lifting as the old coach's message began to unfold. He turned the plate toward himself and, using a Sharpie, began to draw something. When he turned it toward the crowd, point up, a house was revealed, complete with a freshly drawn door and two windows. "This is the problem in our homes today. With our marriages, with the way we parent our kids. With our discipline. We don't teach accountability to our kids, and there is no consequence for failing to meet standards. We simply, widen the plate!"

Pause.

Then, to the point at the top of the house he added a small American flag.

"This is the problem in our schools today. The quality of our education is going downhill fast and teachers have been stripped of the tools they need to be successful, and to educate and discipline our young people. We are allowing others to widen home plate! Where is that getting us?"

Silence.

He replaced the flag with a Cross.

"And this is the problem in the Church, where powerful people in positions of authority have taken advantage of young children, only to have such an atrocity swept under the rug for years. Our church leaders are widening home plate for themselves! And we allow it."

"And the same is true with our government. Our so called representatives make rules for us that don't apply to themselves. They take bribes from lobbyists and foreign countries. They no longer serve us. And we allow them to widen home plate and we see our country falling into a dark abyss while we watch."

I was amazed. At a baseball convention where I expected to learn something about curveballs and bunting and how to run better practices, I had learned something far more valuable. From an old man with home plate strung around his neck, I had learned something about

life, about myself, about my own weaknesses and about my responsibilities as a leader. I had to hold myself and others accountable to that, which I knew to be right, lest our families, our faith, and our society continue down an undesirable path.

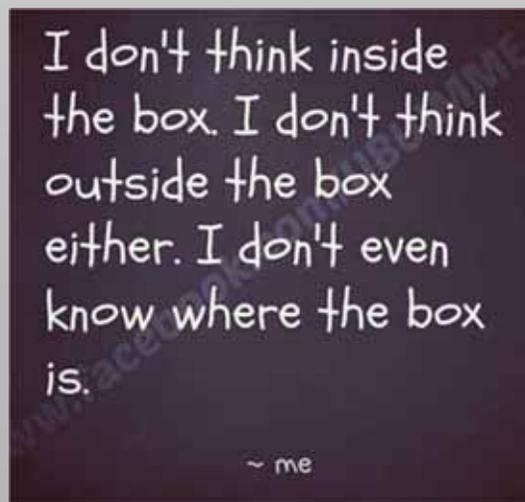
"If I am lucky," Coach Scolinos concluded, "you will remember one thing from this old coach today. It is this: if we fail to hold ourselves to a higher standard, a standard of what we know to be right; if we fail to hold our spouses and our children to the same standards, if we are unwilling or unable to provide a consequence when they do not meet the standard; and if our schools and churches and our government fail to hold themselves accountable to those they serve, there is but one thing to look forward to ..."

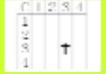
With that, he held home plate in front of his chest, turned it around, and revealed its dark black backside. "... dark days ahead."

Coach Scolinos died in 2009 at the age of 91, but not before touching the lives of hundreds of players and coaches, including mine. Meeting him at my first ABCA convention kept me returning year after year, looking for similar wisdom and inspiration from other coaches. He is the best clinic speaker the ABCA has ever known because he was so much more than a baseball coach.

His message was clear: "Coaches, keep your players—no matter how good they are—your own children, your churches, your government, and most of all, keep yourself, ALL, at seventeen inches.

Forwarded in an e-mail, don't know source.





CORPUS CHRISTI AREA WIDE ELDER'S WORKSHOP

JULY 30, 2016

REINFORCING OUR SCRIPTURAL BASIS
THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE CHURCH
NEW APPROACHES AND CONCEPTS
ROOT CAUSES OF CHURCH GROWTH

The OC Church Growth Think Tank has been addressing church growth with over 500 years of collective church of Christ experience, a great respect for our scriptural basis, and a keen understanding that some of our customs have not been accomplishing the Great Commission.

LOCATED AT ARLINGTON HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST
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KEYNOTE SPEAKER
KENT ALLEN, OKC

This event is organized by the Oklahoma Christian University Church Growth Think Tank and is being sponsored by the Arlington church of Christ and the Christian Array E-Magazine.
For more information and registration, visit ocgthinktank.org.



Meeting at Tom Wilson Elementary
5200 Falcon Landing Blvd.
Katy Texas, 77494.

Bible class at 9:00 am
Worship at 10:00 am.

Please plan to attend and tell your friends and neighbors. Most importantly, please pray for this mission effort.

www.nfbcoc.org

For more information, contact:
info@nfbcoc.org

Vacationers

As you travel this summer, you can be of assistance in local congregations in helping them to understand how they are seen by potential visitors and prospects.

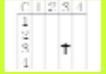
On the ocgthinktank.org website, Project Papers tab is a paper titled:
MYSTERY GUEST PROGRAM

This paper and the forms included will help you anonymously communicate with the congregation and improve their "curb appeal".

A project of the OC Church Growth Think Tank
www.ocgthinktank.org

THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

AN E-MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO SUSTAINED SCRIPTURAL CHURCH GROWTH IN OUR GENERATION



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AREA WIDE ACTIVITIES

Each Wed. Northeast Houston Preacher's Meeting, Darien Loop CofC, 7014 Darien St. 11:00—1:00, Contact Cecil Herndon, aj10@ridemetro.com for more details

2nd Tues. Northwest Houston Preacher's Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Rancho King Buffet, 5900 N. Frwy., confirm with Dale Foster at dalefost@gmail.com for info.

7/30 Elder's Workshop and Church Growth Symposium, Corpus Christi, TX, Arlington Heights

**8/20-21 Houston Area Campaign for Christ
See attachments for details (High resolution posters and PPT slides, and bulletin inserts are on www.thearray.org)**

The Christian Array E-Magazine

This e-magazine is sent to members of the church on a monthly basis as an attempt to promote scriptural teachings, area wide activities and church growth. If you do not want to receive this e-magazine, send an e-mail to bbaugh@thearray.org and it will be stopped.

If you know of anyone who would like to receive this newsletter, send their e-mail addresses to bbaugh@thearray.org. All past copies of the newsletter can be found on the website "thearray.org".

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E-MAIL ADDRESSES

A goal of this newsletter is to develop a mailing list of as many members of the church as possible and to communicate church related information to as many members as possible. In that light, we would appreciate it if you would:

1. forward the church member e-mail addresses which you have,
2. send the directory of the congregation you attend or any other directories which you might have, and
3. give us an idea of how to collect church member e-mail addresses.

The Christian Array is dedicated to support the sustained scriptural growth of the churches of Christ. It is published by BCE Publications, a 501(c)(3) organization with Benton F. Baugh, Ph.D., P.E. as editor BCE is solely responsible for the content. Any announcements, requests for publication, or comments should be e-mailed to bbaugh@thearray.org.