

ALL THING WORK TOGETHER FOR THE GOOD....

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Romans 8:28 **“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”** NASB The surface understanding of this is that all the “saved” would only have good things happen to them. If we know of any who are “saved” at this time, this would certainly not be an observation of their lives today. This is a paradoxical statement in that we know the Bible is true, but this doesn’t actually work out in real life. When everything is going well, we say it with gusto. When things are not going well, we don’t quote this verse or at least we feel a little funny about it.

As a practical matter, the writer of this Paul, had a very rough life including a couple of stonings to near death. After this, he still said this was at least a truism, although he knew everything in his life was not “good” in an earthly sense.

Can it mean that only good things happen to the saved? Clearly Paul’s example would say this is not the case. Additionally, if only good things happened to the saved, you could identify the “saved” because they would be the healthiest and wealthiest of all mankind. That would have people trying to become “saved” because of the money in it. Surely, that is not the plan of God.

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CONTINUOUS TEACHING

“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.” (1 Cor. 11:1)

Our example is showing! Someone is always influenced by what we do or say. Everything we believe eventually shows up in our attitude and behavior. There is no escape from the responsibility to influence others for good. We need to live a life purposefully to teach others.

You are writing a gospel,
A chapter each day,
By deed that you do,
By words that you say.
Men read what you write
Whether faithless or true.
Say! What is the gospel
According to you?

Paul demonstrated that anyone can come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved. Paul utilized everything under his control to teach others. He not only spoke the message, he lived the message so confidently that he could say, “Follow my example.” His challenging message is that no matter what we’ve done, we can change and do good. There are no sins too big for the saving blood of Jesus.

Press on, keep learning, and teach purposefully with your example just like Paul did. *“Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me- everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.”* (Phil 4:9)

So what is the casual observer reading in your life? Have you underestimated your ability to influence others? Don’t hold back, let your life story be used to influence others.

Elizabeth Brown

ALL THING WORK TOGETHER FOR THE GOOD....P2

We can take it for granted that bad things are going to happen to the "saved". The extreme example here is the death of a small child or a small child getting cancer. This is similar to the "problem of pain and suffering". In some way these must work for the good of the "saved". But how?

Lets start with "those that love God" are Christians and not necessarily non-Christians. What is "good" for Christians which would not necessarily be "good" for non-Christians. Going to Heaven is certainly a good thing a Christian might expect that a non-Christian would not.

Could it be reasonable to paraphrase Romans 8:28 that all things work together to help you get to heaven? We are going to suggest herein that the things we might call "not good" tend to assist you in achieving what is "good" (or going to Heaven). As an easy example, people in struggling situations are more likely to believe in God than people with a lot of wealth who frequently feel self-sufficient and don't need God. This would make it as simple as saying that some "bad" things in your life keep you more humble and more likely to realize your need for God.

Church attendance is almost inversely proportionate to wealth. Nothing makes you receptive to God more than a serious illness or other serious problem. The truth of the truism written by Paul is relatively obvious if you think about it. First you must overcome all the teachings of "health and wealth" gospel preachers who have muddied the waters.

Whereas one might like for God to have made some pain and suffering a little less intense, you can see the wisdom of the system which God has put in place.

WHAT AN MISSIONARY DOES

A missionary goes to a location to win souls for Christ and in doing so does a reasonably predictable number of activities in frequently unpredictable ways.

The objective is not just to win a convert, but also to "build a church" which will be a support for the new Christians in that area. Consider some of the activities the missionary will do:

PERSONAL WORSHIP

- Arrange financial support
- Arrange a location
- Baptismal preparation
- Study bible
- Singing
- Pray
- Communion
- Be charitable
- Be of service to the community

MAKE A CONVERT

- Learn environment
- Learn language in some cases
- Make contact
- Develop a relationship
- Broach subject
- Consider impact on spouse an children
- Serious teaching
- Closing
- Baptism

MATURE CONTACT

- Mature new convert in his/her faith
- Prepare new convert to be evangelistic
- Mature new convert for leadership

Seems like a rather extensive list, but if the missionary does not do close to every one of those things, the mission will fail.

Consider that any successful congregation will also do all these things. Does you congregation focus on some of these and neglect some of the others?

CHURCH GROWTH: EFFECTIVE—NOT BUSYNESS

You can be criticized for not having enough activities on your church schedule to involve your members. You can be criticized for having too many activities on your calendar and merely involving your members in “busy work”. Somewhere between the two there must be an area of reasonableness.

What is the measure of reasonableness in this area. One would think it would have something to do with the goal of the church. The goal of the church should be in the mission statement of the church.

There have been a variety of mission statements adopted by congregations, including being a light to your neighborhood, hospitality, sharing, helping, sharing, patience, unity, seeking God’s love, being a positive influence, grace, love, and truth. One thing most of these have in common are that they are non-measurable. You may or may not be doing them well. You can say you are doing well, but how do you actually know a measure.

What does Jesus say is the goal or mission statement of the church? Would that not be in the Great Commission (GC) in Matthew 28:19-20. Jesus gave us a clearly measurable goal. You can know you are making progress towards that goal in your area.

This charge is for the whole church, and each congregation is not responsible for taking the gospel to the whole world. However, it is measurable as to whether you have done your share of the GC in your area. Additionally, it would be reasonable to say that a portion of the GC belongs to each of us individually.

If we are taking the GC to the world in our area, our congregation will show it by numerical growth. There are certainly some examples where this will not happen. However, in most cases it should be true.

It is important to note that if 10% more present members moved into our area and our con-

gregation becomes 10% larger, we have not accomplished any of the GC. GC growth would be beyond changes in your service area size, whether positive or negative. All that is to say that we have a measurable characteristic as to whether we are accomplishing our part of the GC.

Why could we not also apply that measure to the activities at our congregation to determine which ones are beneficial? Which ones help you accomplish the GC?

What gets a little tricky here is that every activity likely helps on the GC in some way. Filling the communion cups in preparation for a service may not feel like the GC, but if the cups are not filled, you are not going to accomplish the GC.

A solitary missionary in the field has to do everything from contacting to preparing communion. (See the prior article) As any congregation gets larger, it allows some to focus on the personal evangelism part and others for focus primarily on the support services part. If a larger congregation focuses all their efforts on personal evangelism without follow-up or focuses primarily on support services to the neglect of personal evangelism, both extremes are bad.

A congregation which focuses on making babies in Christ without maturing them may grow in numbers, but will soon become a non-committed social institution. A congregation which focuses on internal support services will not grow, but will likely plateau and eventually die. Neither are good.

**YOUR CHOICE IS TYPICAL
NON-MEASURABLE GOALS
OR MEASURABLE GOALS
LIKE JESUS GAVE US!**

CHURCH GROWTH: EFFECTIVE—NOT BUSYNESS P. 2

It needs to be emphasized, if everyone focuses primarily on personal evangelism in a larger congregation, the congregation will fail. To involve members in all aspects of the GC process is a serious management challenge. It may not be the challenge that leaders want, but it is the job.

It is absolutely critical that the congregation engage as many members as possible in beneficial activities in the spectrum of accomplishing the GC.

Important steps in this process are:

1. Learning the talents and preferences of your members.
2. Insisting that any middle managers in your congregation (committee chairs) organize their work and goals to maintain open slots for new members.
3. Matching new and inactive members with appropriate open roles.
4. Actively monitoring that it is happening.
5. Making ongoing adjustments.

If you are not set up well to do this, there are computer programs to assist you in this type process.

Some potential examples of activities becoming the end rather than a means are:

1. Static Groups: Any activity which has the same participants it did 3 years ago is likely not evangelistic. Having the same participants for that long a period typically makes the group a closed social grouping.
2. Bible classes which never have a graduation time. They go on forever on verse-by-verse or generic topics. Do they become the end rather than the means to an end? Consider instead topical studies of issues which would actually face a member if they were to be in contact with a contact. It should be done in written form so mem-

bers can build up a collection of understood information.

3. Annual rereading of the Bible: A very time consuming activity which is non-threatening and is of very little educational benefit. May be the closest thing we have to saying the rosary. After the first reading, it tends to become an end rather than a means. Consider reading the Bible through once with a high lighter to mark interesting verses.
4. Paid services: Paying someone to do activities which members can do is a management convenience, but is potentially devastating to member involvement. Examples may be paying someone to prepare your communion, care for your shrubbery, clean the church, visit hospitals, or a number of other activities. Payments to replace activities which members can be involved in doing should be considered carefully. Staff should primarily assist members in doing the GC, not doing it for them. Your goal should be high member involvement to support the GC.

Matt. 28:19-20 says not only to convert but to "teach all things". It is reasonable to say this is to mature them in the Word and work of the church. Ongoing GC work says we must convert, and then equip the converts to make converts also. This requires intentionality to accomplish.

IF YOU ARE TAKING THE GREAT COMMISSION TO YOUR AREA, IT SHOULD TYPICALLY SHOW IN NUMERICAL GROWTH

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION – VEIN VALVES

Your heart circulates blood all over your body, and all circulation has wall friction or flow loss.

When your doctor takes your blood pressure, they frequently like the measurement to be taken with your arm near the elevation of your heart. When your blood pressure is taken in your ankles, you will normally lay down, which again puts the point of measuring near the elevation of your heart.

One reason of this is that the pressure of a liquid like blood or water increases about 0.433 p.s.i./foot. That means that standing up, the blood pressure in your ankles is about 4 feet. Time 0.433 p.s.i./ft. or about 1.732 p.s.i. greater.

When your doctor determines that your blood pressure is 120, it means 120 millimeters of mercury equivalent. This equates to about 2.317 p.s.i., so the blood pressure in your feet is a total of 4.049 p.s.i. or would be 210 on a good day.

This means that the blood vessels in your legs and feet have extra pressure due not only the elevation or head, but also the flow path restriction of a long flow path. It works the opposite way in your head, which is why you sometimes become “light headed”.

This causes a series of ailments such as varicose veins, leg or ankle swelling, ulcers, heaviness, fatigue, pain, aching, cramping, burning or itching of skin, restless legs, and skin changes.

It is impossible for evolution to address this problem because it doesn't happen until after propagation of the species, or in other words, older age. The individuals with a cure don't have an evolutionary advantage at all.

The cure is “vein valves” or flap type check valves built into the veins of your legs. They only allow flow in the direction of back towards your heart. Also, when your leg mus-

cles move, they tend to squeeze some of the veins and give a pumping motion to them using the vein valves. It is sort of like squeezing a tube of toothpaste.

Vein valves are not an evolutionary modification of something else. They are a specific design by an intelligent designer.

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

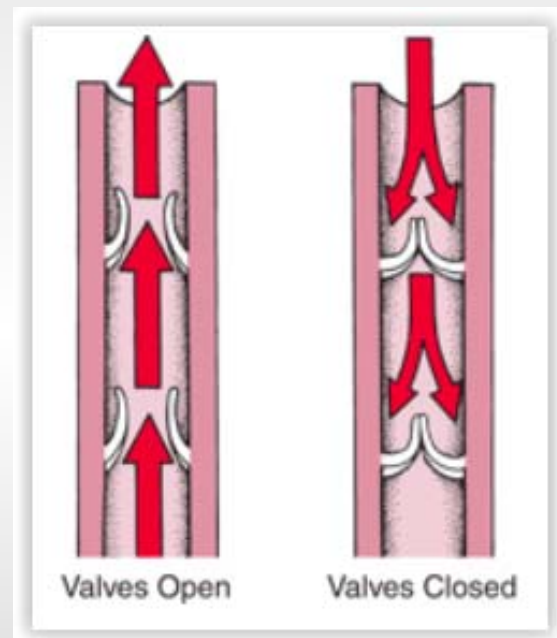


Image by Merck

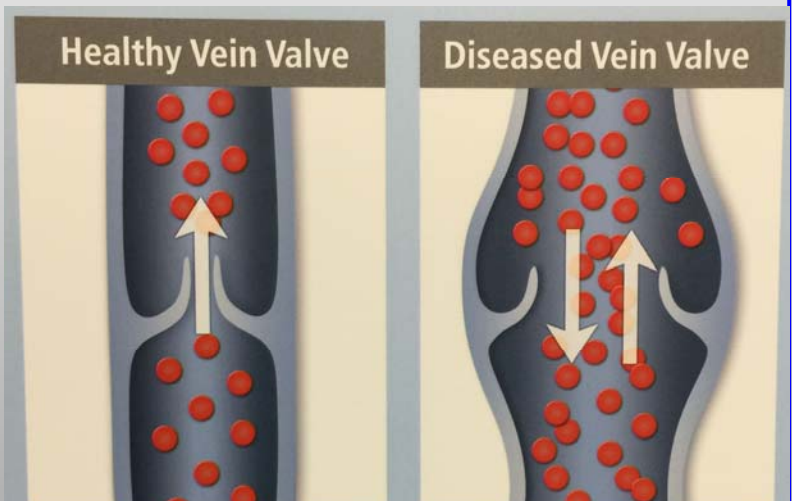


Image by Merck

THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

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

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IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION



**IMPOSSIBLE
FOR
EVOLUTION!**



IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION is a 97 page 8 1/2" x 11" full color book by Benton Baugh which includes many of the "impossible" articles in this newsletter plus discussions on what impossible means, definition of terms, what evolutionists are going to teach your kids, and answers for evolutionists. Price: \$30.

To order this book go to:

<http://www.thebookpatch.com/Bookstore/Genre.aspx>,

click on Religion, then click on Religion and Science

(All net proceeds go to Oklahoma Christian University)

HALLOWED BE THY NAME by Misti Stevens

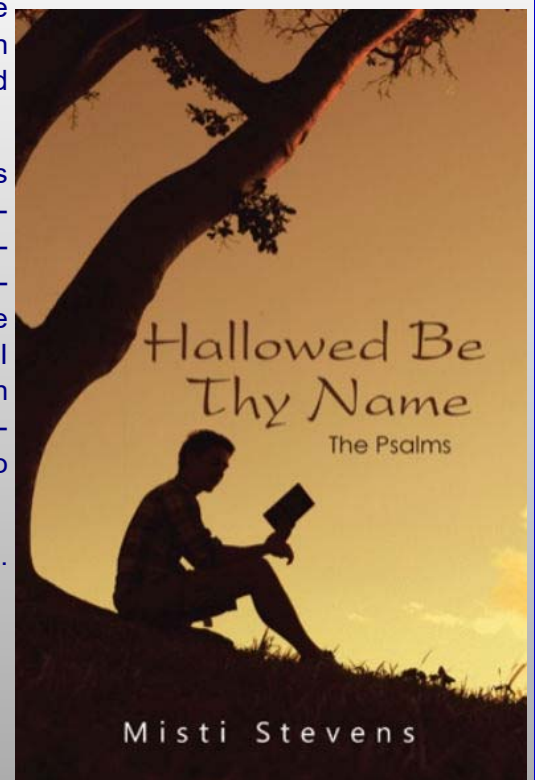
"Names are important in our culture. Families take great pains to name their children, often honoring previous relatives or friends who have made a difference in their lives. We even develop nicknames that express a person's character or the relationship we have with friends and family members, and we take great care when naming a child. It should be no surprise, then, that the names of God are just as important. Yet the Hebrew words for His names are most often just translated as "God" in English. Thus, we miss the fervor associated with each name unless we also happen to study the Hebrew text.

In *Hallowed Be Thy Name: The Psalms*, author Misti Stevens invites believers to know God by all His names so that we too can forge a special relationship with our Father in heaven. She offers a faithful translation and commentary of the book of Psalms, where God's names appear over 1,200 times in distinct forms and with distinct meanings—the God of Jacob, Adonai, Yahweh, Elohim, the Mighty God, the Great I AM, and more. Through a simple presentation of the text of Psalms with the meanings of names substituted in, you will be given a rich, meaningful look into who God is—and have the chance to draw closer to Him.

We can hardly say we know someone if we don't know them by name. So how well do you know God?"

This book can be purchased at:

<https://www.westbowpress.com/Bookstore/BookDetail.aspx?Book=764934>



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 occgthingtank.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.occgthinktank.org



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Meeting at Tom Wilson Elementary
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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

PREACHING SPECIALISTS

Congregations sometimes need fill-in preachers and speakers with special subjects which are difficult for the local minister to become proficient in. Following are a list of speakers with topics which may be of interest to you. Each of the speakers are known to us and reliably present the Word.

If any of the topics are interesting to you, contact information is provided. Some speakers may require expenses and/or stipends.

- **CHRISTIAN COLLEGE IMPACT ON CHURCH FAITHFULNESS**
- **CHRISTIAN COLLEGE IMPACT ON MARRIAGE**

Kent Allen, Oklahoma Christian University
405-315-3008

- **CROSSING THE LINE IN ADDICTION**
Philip Bailey, Memorial Church of Christ, Houston, TX, 713-304-0011
Pbailey@gpbaileyconsulting.com
- **GOD IS SCIENTIFIC**
- **IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION**
- **WHAT ATHEIST ARE GOING TO TELL YOUR CHILDREN, WITH ANSWERS**

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EEM (EASTERN EUROPEAN MISSIONS)

Many Eastern European administrators, librarians and teachers believe giving the Bible to their children will change the future of their country.

What can you Do? You can supply Bibles and biblical materials: For \$1000 for a school, \$150 for a class, \$50 for ten students, or \$5 for a child!



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Jerry Heiderich: Director
 Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist

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 Clinic 979-578-9091, Cell 214-862-8964

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Individual programs available for a fee.

Programs

The Grief Recovery Method: For all Grief Experiences
 When Children Grieve: Helps parents help children grieve

Pet Loss: Program specifically for the loss of a pet

Also available for speaking to groups/
 congregations about grief.

THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

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CONFESS YOUR SINS ONE TO ANOTHER

10.2.1

CONCLUSIONS:

1. We need to establish ourselves in support groups in which we can confess our sins to one another and effectively receive the prayers of our brothers and sisters.
2. The support group can be friends, your class, part of your class, or the entire congregation (if it is small).
3. The contemporary tradition of confessing that you have faults to a large congregation does not accomplish this Biblical instruction.

"CONFESS YOUR SINS TO ONE ANOTHER, AND PRAY", James 5:16

This verse implies that:

1. You acknowledge that you have sins,
2. You have a personal relationship with other Christians to which you can tell your sins (weaknesses and problems),
3. You believe in prayer, and
4. You will pray for one another's sins.

INVITATION SONG CONFESSION

Today we normally attempt to fulfill the requirement of confessing one to another by going forward at the invitation song and asking for prayers because we have unspecified sins:

1. We confess that we have faults, not what our faults are.
2. The group to which we are confessing that we have sins is frequently large and not acquainted with our personal problems. In some cases, we do not even know many of the people.
3. Disclosing details (even brief) of our sins to a large non-involved congregation would be effectively like spreading gossip. This is probably the reason why the custom of confessing that we have faults has replaced actually confessing our faults one to another.

THOUGHT QUESTIONS"

1. Do you have a group of Christian friends with which you feel comfortable to discuss your problems?
2. What benefit is there to confessing your sins one to another rather than confessing that you have sins?

COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF NEW TESTAMENT USES OF "CONFESS", "CONFESSING" AND CONFESSED:

(Verse for "confessing your sins in **Bold**)

- Matt 3:6** and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they **confessed their sins**.
- Matt 10:32 "Everyone therefore who shall **confess** Me before men, I will also **confess** him before My Father who is in heaven. (NAS)
- Mark 1:5** And all the country of Judea was going out to him, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, **confessing their sins**. (NAS)
- Luke 12:8 "And I say to you, everyone who **confesses** Me before men, the Son of Man shall **confess** him also before the angels of God; (NAS)
- John 1:20 And he **confessed**, and did not deny, and he **confessed**, "I am not the Christ." (NAS)
- John 9:22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed, that if anyone should **confess** Him to be Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue.

THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

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CONFESS YOUR SINS ONE TO ANOTHER

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- John 12:42 Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not **confessing** {Him,} lest they should be put out of the synagogue; (NAS)
- Acts 19:18** Many also of those who had believed kept coming, **confessing and disclosing their practices**.
- Rom 7:16 But if I do the very thing I do not wish {to do}, I agree with the Law, {**confessing**} that it is good.
- Rom 10:9 that if you **confess** with your mouth Jesus {as} Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; (NAS)
- Rom 10:10 for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he **confesses**, resulting in salvation. (NAS)
- 2 Cor 9:13 Because of the proof given by this ministry they will glorify God for {your} obedience to your **confession** of the gospel of Christ, and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all,
- Phil 2:11 and that every tongue should **confess** that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- 1 Tim 3:16 And by common **confession** great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, was vindicated in the Spirit, beheld by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory. (NAS)
- 1 Tim 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good **confession** in the presence of many witnesses. (NAS)
- 1 Tim 6:13 I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good **confession** before Pontius Pilate, (NAS)
- Heb 3:1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our **confession**. (NAS)
- Heb 4:14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our **confession**. (NAS)
- Heb 10:23 Let us hold fast the **confession** of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;
- Heb 11:13 All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having **confessed** that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. (NAS)
- James 5:16** Therefore, **confess your sins** to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. (NAS)
- I Jn 1:9** If we **confess our sins**, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (NAS)
- I Jn 2:23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who **confesses** the Son has the Father also. (NAS)
- I Jn 4:2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that **confesses** that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; (NAS)
- I Jn 4:3 and every spirit that does not **confess** Jesus is not from God; and this is the {spirit} of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.
- I Jn 4:15 Whoever **confesses** that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.
- Rev 3:5 `He who overcomes shall thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will **confess** his name before My Father, and before His angels.

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AREA WIDE ACTIVITIES

- Each Wed. Northeast Houston Preacher's Meeting, Darien Loop CofC, 7014 Darien St., Houston, 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., Houston, confirm with Gerald Fruzia fruzia70@sbcglobal.net for info.
- 10/2018 Greater Houston Area Campaign for Christ

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 info@thearray.org and it will be stopped.

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 info@thearray.org.