



*For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place.  
(1 Thessalonians 1:8)*

Vol. 38, No. 28

July 14, 2010

## Schedule of Services

### Sunday

Worship 9:30 AM  
Bible Study 10:30 AM  
Worship 6:00 PM

### Wednesday

Bible Study 1:30 PM  
Bible Study 7:00 PM

### Bible Call

(618) 667-9603

[www.collinsvillecoc.org](http://www.collinsvillecoc.org)

# NO ILLEGAL ALIENS ALLOWED

**I**llegal immigration is a huge issue in this country. Many are crossing the borders into the country. There are many who think amnesty should be granted to those who are here illegally. Others disagree with the idea of granting amnesty to those who are here illegally.

There are others that have a more middle of the road approach. They suggest that mercy and grace should be offered to those who want to better themselves. They do not deserve to participate in the rights and privileges of those who are citizens of this country. However, if they are willing to yield to the laws of the land, becoming productive citizens, then means should be provided to help them do so. Only then would they be allowed to remain.

Regardless of what you think on this issue, one thing is sure. There will be no illegal aliens in heaven. Amnesty is available, but it must be obtained before entering the heavenly city.

Illegal aliens will not be allowed in the heavenly city. There will be no liars, no idolaters, no fornicators, or murderers in the heavenly city (Revelation 21:8). There will be no homosexuals, no thieves, no covetous people, or drunkards in the heavenly city (1 Corinthians 6:9-10). There will be none in the heavenly city who are wrathful, lascivious, divisive or unclean morally (Galatians 5:19-21).

Unlike those who enter this country and then become citizens, one must become a citizen of the heavenly city before entering in. The Sovereign Ruler of the heavenly city is a gracious and merciful God. He wants all men to enter into that city (1 Timothy 2:3-4). He has provided for all men that they might enter into His city (Titus 2:11). He sent His Son as a sacrifice for all men that they might be able to enter into His city (Romans 5:8). He has, also, given instruction by which one might live and obtain citizenship (Titus 2:12).

In order for one to enter into the heavenly city he must learn of that city and of what is required before he can enter in. He must examine the evidence and come to accept and know the Sovereign Ruler of the city (Hebrews

11:6). He must examine the evidence and believe that the Sovereign Ruler raised His Son from the grave to sit as High Priest at His right hand (Romans 10:9; Hebrews 4:14). He must rid himself of those ways that are not allowed in the city. That is called repentance (Acts 17:30). He must be cleansed, forgiven, of those acts not allowed in the heavenly city (Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16). He must confess the Son of the Sovereign Ruler as Lord and Christ (Romans 10:9-10).

Once one becomes a citizen of the heavenly city, he awaits the time when he will enter into that city (Philippians 3:20-21). Meanwhile, he must live as a sojourner in this foreign land called earth. During that sojourn, he must be a faithful steward (1 Corinthians 4:2), laboring as a servant for his Master and the Sovereign Ruler (John 9:4), enduring until the end (Matthew 10:22).

As there are great blessings available to those who are citizens of the United States of America, there are many and greater blessings available to those who are citizens of the heavenly city (Ephesians 1:3). The fruit of the Spirit will fill his life (Galatians 5:22-23). He will become a child of the Sovereign Ruler and a joint heir with His only begotten Son (Romans 8:16-17). He will, therefore, have the assurance of a wonderful inheritance (1 Peter 1:3-5).

One who is a citizen, however, must continue to remain faithful to his citizenship. For, if he falls back into the ways of the world of darkness which he left, he will lose the rights and privileges of his citizenship (2 Peter 2:20-21).

If you want the privileges and blessings of the heavenly city, you must become a citizen of that city before you leave this earth. You must live faithfully to the Sovereign Ruler while you sojourn on this earth, while showing the proper respect to Him (1 Peter 1:17).

TLM

# WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE?

BY GERALD R. REYNOLDS

**M**embers of the church of Christ are asked questions from time to time as to what we believe. According to 1 Peter 3:15 we are to “be ready always to give an answer to ever man that asketh...” An answer to the question posed is here given for the readers of this bulletin. This is not to be used as a man made creed, for we have no creed but Christ and His word.

We believe the Bible — God's word, the truth (John 17:17; John 8:32). The Bible was written that we might believe (John 20:30,31). Faith comes by hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17). Yes, we believe the Bible because it will stand forever (Matthew 24:35), and we will be judged by it (John 12:48).

Specifically, we believe the New Testament is binding on us today. The Old Testament is the inspired word of God but is not binding on us as Christians (John 1:17). The Old Testament law was fulfilled and was nailed to the cross (Matthew 5:17-19; Colossians 2:14). The Old Law was removed that the new might become binding (Romans 7:1-4; Hebrews 9:16-17; 10:9-10). God speaks to us through His Son Jesus Christ (Acts 17:5; Hebrews 1:1-3). We are under the blood of Christ (Hebrews 9:12; 10:4; Matthew 26:28).

Further, we believe in the God of the Bible who is the creator (Genesis 1:1). He is the one God and Father of us all (Ephesians 4:6), He is Spirit (John 4:24). He has spoken through His Son Jesus Christ (Matthew 17:5; John 1:1-3; Hebrews 2:1 -3) whom He sent Christ into the world (John 3:16).

We believe in the Christ of the Bible. He was with God in the beginning (John 1:1-3; Genesis 1:26). He was born of the virgin Mary (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23). He came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). There is but one Lord (Ephesians 4:1-3) and He willingly died for man's sins (Romans 5:8).

We believe in the Holy Spirit. There is one Spirit (Ephesians 4:1-3). He was promised to the apostles (John 16). He came upon them to give them power to do miraculous things and to delivered God's word (Acts 2). The apostles had the power to lay their hands on certain ones that they too might have miraculous powers (Acts 8:6; 18). The Holy Spirit guided the apostles and others in the writing of the New Testament (II Timothy 3:16-17). He gave us the complete law of liberty (James 1:25).

Still further, we believe in the church of the Bible. The one Christ promised to build (Matthew 16:18). It was established on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2). The saved are added to it (acts 2:41,47). Christ died and shed His blood

for it (Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:25). Christ is the savior of it (Ephesians 5:23). He is the head of it (Colossians 1:18). There is just one (Ephesians 4:4,5) and wears His name (Romans 16:16).

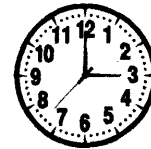
We believe in following the Bible plan for worship that pleases God. It includes singing (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16), praying (Acts 2:42), preaching (Acts 2:42), partaking of the Lord's Supper, (Acts 20:7) and giving (I Corinthians 16:1-2) on the first day of week.

We believe in the Bible plan of salvation the Lord gave. He commanded the alien sinner hear, believe, repent, confess Him, and be baptized (John 6:45; 8:24; Luke 13:3, 5; Matthew 10:32; 28:18-20;

Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38). The child of God must then be faithful to the end (Matthew 10:22; Revelation 2:10).

*Sunnyview Standard*  
Volume 3 Number 26, July 10, 2005  
Sunnyview church of Christ  
Farmington, Missouri

## Mabery's Minutes



Many in this congregation committed themselves to completing the thirty lesson correspondence

course. *Studies in the Bible*. As of a week ago, one-hundred twelve, almost half the congregation, had completed lesson one. Ninety-four people had completed lesson two. Sixty-three people had completed both lessons three and four. Don't allow Satan to discourage you. Don't allow your busy life keep you from continuing, or even beginning, if you have not enrolled. If you would take the time each week that you spend watching just one thirty minute television show, you can complete a lesson a week. You still have time to finish the entire course this year, or at least by early next year. Contact Bud or Gretchen Luna if you have questions.

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