

Melbourne Church of Christ

"A family of believers seeking to grow spiritually while sharing Jesus and serving others."

Following at a Distance

by Chris Moore

"And they led Jesus away to the high priest; and with him were assembled all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes. 54 But Peter followed Him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he sat with the servants and warmed himself at the fire" (Mark 14:53-54).

Peter, who told Jesus he would never forsake Him, watched as He was taken prisoner. He didn't want to be harmed or persecuted, so he followed Jesus at a distance. He was a "secret" follower of Christ when things got tough and didn't want to be identified as one close to the Christ.

It's hard to imagine Peter doing this as He was so outspoken at times, but he did. He wasn't any different than us at times. How often are we so religious and spiritual near brethren, but when in a crowd, we become spiritually small. We begin to follow Jesus at a distance, as we don't want to be humiliated by others or persecuted by godless people. Our society is so politically correct, we might be afraid of our careers being harmed by letting others know that we follow or stand with the Lord.

Have you ever followed another car while on vacation in a strange city? They know the way and you start falling back. You start following at such a distance, you lose sight. This is kind of the way it can become if we don't stick close to the Lord in all situations. It gets easier and easier to fall back and fool ourselves into thinking we are ok and not in spiritual danger.

Let us focus on Christ and stick like glue with Him. No matter the trouble or situation we find ourselves in, stay close! He will not let you down and we can't allow ourselves to let Him down either.

Dates to Remember

- ★ Ladies meet the 4th Monday of every month @ 6 p.m. bring a finger food
- Men meet the 4th Sunday of every month for breakfast @ 8 a.m.

Sermons and bulletins available @
Melbournechurchofchrist.com

Sunday Bible Class 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.
Wednesday Evening 6:00 p.m.



Melbourne Church of Christ
A Place to Belong

Elders

Danny Brightwell
291-3439

Shelby Qualls
346-5255

Deacons

David Brightwell
307-5714

Joe Cooper
291-4653

Alan Love
243-4608

Minister

Ryan Lloyd
368-7886
Melbourne CoC
Box 267
Melbourne, AR 72556

Family News

- Eula Fulbright fell and broke her leg. She had to have another hip replacement as a result. She is currently at WRMC in room #4110 and going through a rehabilitation program. Please keep her in your prayers as she recovers.
- Emma Jean Cooper passed away last week. Please keep the Cooper family in your prayers at this time.
- Our annual cleaning of the fellowship building will be on Tuesday, May 23rd starting at 8:30am.
- Ladies Day will be June 3rd Registration is from 9-9:30am and the program ends with a salad luncheon. Kitty Smith is our speaker.
- * Communion is gluten-free and travel communion is available.

OPENING PRAYER Chip Master

CLOSING PRAYER Jim Usery



JOE COOPER

Do You Follow God's Son?

by Doug Kashorek

"And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.' Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry..." (Luke 3:22-23).

After many convincing proofs from His birth and childhood about who Jesus was, Luke, writing from his investigations and eyewitness accounts, ties in John's role as a forerunner to the Messiah's ministry and then gives the biggest endorsement of all: the Father's seal of approval. Without that, Jesus would have just appeared as a carpenter from Galilee who, either through deception or lunacy, was going around Judea declaring Himself to be the Christ.

But He, at thirty years of age, was baptized to fulfill all righteousness and publicly declare who He was and what He was about. This was not done in secret. The crowds that John was ministering to are well attested to earlier in the chapter. There were many who Luke must have spoken to who were there when Jesus stepped down into the water, who saw heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descend like a dove, and who heard the Father's voice declare Jesus to be His Son. Perhaps that was why they began to follow Him. Do you follow God's Son?

Prayer List

Military: Derek Love, A.J. Talkington **Officers:** Steve & Sherry Davidson, Josh Morehead, Jamie Irvin, Tyler Webb, Caeden Wolfe, Blake Johnson

Nursing Home: Debbie Hoskinds

Health: Ted Kidd	Richard Gunter	Donnie Vest	Joanna Smith
Joe Guiltner	Dan Clark	Wilma Cooper	Wayne Crosby
Tracy Thomas	Brooke Pritchard	Troy Gaston	James Nicholson
Bill Roland	Hayden Phillips	Donny Smith	Joanne Weston
Bill Wiseman	Debbie Nicholson	Helen King	Phil Haagenon
Mary Kosmitis	Dorothy Teague	Jim Fowler	Shirley Lewis
Diane Owens	Ivy Jo Slade	Jeff Young	Lynn Hicks
Justin Teague	Charlotte Cooper	Cecilia Broughton	Sue Campbell
Arlene Davidson	Chip & Regina Master	J.B. & Wanda Dill	Deborah Halcom
Ted & Sanyia Austin	Jerry Roland	Christie Haney	Nevin Hart
Dwain Welch	John Ward		Gary Fulbright
Treva Voyles			

April Birthdays

Betty Brightwell 2 nd	Bill Younger 3 rd	Tyler Kelly 4 th
Donna Hill 7 th	Derek Love 8 th	Imodean Webb 9 th
Lacey Weston 9 th	Cleve Weaver 12 th	Melissa Morrison 14 th
Nancy Richardson 15 th	Jack Hendrix 15 th	Rhett Morrison 17 th
Torrey Bishop 18 th	Francis Gillihan 22 nd	Doug Sipe 25 th
Michelle Smith 26 th	Kenya Wyatt 29 th	Dana Ingram 30 th

April Anniversaries

Joe & Dana Ingram 17th

1 Kings 18:21, "Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long *will* you hesitate between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people did not answer him a word."