

October 27, 2024

Melbourne Church of Christ

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

Jesus's Upside Down Kingdom

by Preston Sprinkle

The Prince of Peace was born into a world drowning in violence. The years between the Old and New Testaments were anything but silent, as kingdom rose up against kingdom, nation warred against nation, and the Jewish people hacked their way to freedom with swords covered in blood.

About two hundred years before Christ, the Greeks who ruled over Israel banned the practice of Judaism and slaughtered those who resisted. But the Jews wouldn't give in so easily. Led by Judas "the Maccabee" (literally, "the hammer"), zealous Jews donned the sword and threw off the yoke of their Gentile overlords, massacring thousands in their wake.

A few decades later, the Maccabees reclaimed their religious and political freedom and set up a pseudo-messianic kingdom through violent force. The success of Maccabean swords would shape the way Jewish people in Jesus's day would understand—and inaugurate—the kingdom of God.

Enter Jesus. The Prince of Peace talked often about establishing God's kingdom. He also talked about loving your enemies, doing good to those who hate you, and giving your left cheek to the one who hits you on the right. Even Pilate was confused when the Jews accused Jesus of being a nuisance to Rome. The Roman governor must have laughed to himself when Jesus talked about setting up a territory and kingdom without fighting.

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The Encouragement Group meets on Thursday's at 9 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Come serve with us as we reach into our community!

**Sunday Classes 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:10 a.m.
Wed. Services 6:00 p.m.**

Visitors, please take a card from the back of the pew, fill it out, and put it in the offering tray. We are glad you're here and want you to know that you're welcome in the family of Christ that meets here!

Listen to sermons at Melbournechurchofchrist.com

Elders

Danny Brightwell 291-3439
Alan Love 243-4608

David Brightwell 307-5714
Shelby Qualls 291-7424

Deacons

Joe Cooper 291-4653
Dalton Grigg 421-6240

Rusty Treat 373-1884

Minister

Ryan Lloyd 217-1109
Melbourne CoC
Box 267
Melbourne, AR



- Wedding shower for Halle Jo Cooper and Gage Guest on Sunday, November 10th @ 2pm at the Fellowship Hall.
- Martha Peters was released from Pioneer and went home yesterday.
- Bill Roland is still recovering at Pioneer from a broken leg.
- Blaine Johnson, Lacey Weston's father, injured his back. He is recovering pretty good at home.
- Shayann Caraway has a cardio follow-up appointment on Wednesday.
- Congregational devo with Fall Festival games and hayride on Oct. 30th from 5:30-7:00pm. We're grilling hot dogs. Please bring chili, Fritos, chips, or deserts.

Opening Prayer.....Brent Qualls

Communion Reading.....Joe Cooper

Closing Prayer.....Alan Love



OCTOBER

**JOE COOPER
BRITAN TREAT**

**RUSTY TREAT
BRAD SIPE**

NOVEMBER

**SANDERS LEE WYATT
TYLER WEBB**

**RANDY HANEY
KELLEY DON WEBB**

Continued....

Every kingdom ever established has always been set up by fighting—and, of course, winning the fight. This foolish Jew is out of his mind, Pilate must have thought. "I find no guilt in him," he declared (John 18:38). But as it turns out, the Jews turned his hand and got their wish. Jesus received the death penalty for treason.

It is through being defeated by earthly powers that Jesus conquered the spiritual forces of evil and set up his kingdom. It's an upside-down kingdom where leaders are servants, neighbors and enemies are loved, and poor widows give away half their money. Under the Lordship of King Jesus, humility is exalted, the first shall be last, offenders are forgiven 70 times 7, and ethnic outsiders kneel down to help 1/2 dead strangers lying in a ditch.

The way of Jesus is countercultural. It is upside-down and inside-out—a kingdom, where weakness is power, power is weakness, and suffering leads to glory. "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world (John 18:36)".

Prayer List

Military: Derek & Allison Love **Officers:** Steve & Sherry Davidson, Jamie Irvin, Tyler Webb, Caeden Wolfe, Blake Johnson

Nursing Home: Al Gillihan, Debbie Hoskinds, Imodean Webb, Sue Campbell, Barbara Watson, Bill Wiseman, Shirley Hill, Imogene James

Boyde Martin	Wilma Cooper	Phyllis Gilbreath	Dorothy Teague
Bill Roland	Joe Guiltner	Debbie Crow	Cornelia Summers
Christie Haney	Joanna Smith	Wayne Crosby	Brooke Partin
Toby Weatherford	Sanyia Austin	Charlotte Cooper	John Young
Regenia Gillihan	Regina Master	Shawna Teegarden	John Ward
Joe Anne Hendrix	Gage Barns	Ruby Patillo	Vance & Kaicey Little

October Birthdays

Charlotte Treat	2 nd	Rory Weston	2 nd	Trena Humphrey	5 th
Anna Parrish	7 th	Lolly Engles	7 th	Chad Lawrence	10 th
David Brightwell	12 th	Tyler Wammack	15 th	Rylee Hoskinds	19 th
Ava Bolfa	19 th	Wayne Langston	21 st	Julie Qualls	22 nd
Melanie Crosby	25 th	Hadleigh Grigg	25 th	Rita Hoskinds	26 th
Brooke Pritchard	26 th	Thomas Lamb	27 th	Heather Elms	30 th

October Anniversaries

Mary & Ken Bone 14th
Lance & Maggie Cannon 21st

Dates to Remember

Ladies Night Out 4th Monday of every month @ 6 p.m. bring a finger food.
Ladies Bible Study 1st, 2nd, 3rd Monday @ 6 p.m.
Men meet 3rd Sunday of every month for breakfast @ 8 a.m.
*Family game night will resume at a later time.
Potluck every 5th Sunday after services, please bring a dish.

Colossians 3:1-3, "If you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God."