

Paul's important phrase "in Christ," or its equivalent, appears about 35 times in the book of Ephesians. The believer is...

- In Christ (1:1)
- In the heavenly place in Christ (1:3)
- Chosen in Him (1:4)
- Adopted through Christ (1:5)
- In the Beloved (1:6)
- Redeemed in Him (1:7)
- Given an inheritance in Him (1:11)
- Trusting in Him (1:12)
- Sealed in Him (1:13)
- Made alive together with Christ (2:5)
- Raised and seated with Him (2:6)
- Created in Christ (2:10)
- Brought near by His blood (2:13)
- Growing in Christ (2:21)
- Partaker of the promise in Christ (3:6)
- Given access through faith in Him (3:12)

Now, wouldn't you agree that all of this wealth is worth a walking and talking faith?

### Navarre News and Notes

Remember Those On Our Sick List: Jim Wetzstein, Shelby Durfee, Kenny Cauley, Francis Mansfield, Starr Wilkins, Carrie Hare, Sister Gerry Wiemert.

Remember in your prayers: Houston Perry now in the states and hopes to be home for a visit soon.

We meet on James M Harvell Rd next to the public library in Navarre. Call us for directions and more information (850) 939-8109



Navarre church of Christ  
8490 James M Harvell Rd  
Navarre, FL 32566

Place  
Stamp  
Here

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday  
 Bible Class for all ages.....9:00 AM  
 Morning Worship Service.....10:00 AM  
 Evening Worship Service ..... 6:00 PM

Wednesday  
 Bible Class for all ages.....7:00 PM

VISITORS ARE WELCOME!

If you know of someone who would like to receive this publication, please let us know.

For a free Bible correspondence course by mail, call us.

# Navarre Messenger



"Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee." Matthew 11:1

Volume 2 Issue 22

December 10, 2006

### Thought To Ponder

Moderation in sin is no more possible than moderation in hanging!



I Peter 2:11  
I Thessalonians 5:22  
Romans 12:9

### Inside This Issue:

- Page 2 - "Church Growth: Overcoming Decline"
- Page 3 - "The Prudent Pause"
- Page 4 "In Christ"

Jim Bell  
Evangelist & Editor

## IS JESUS MY LORD?

In Acts 2, on the day of Pentecost, Peter concluded his sermon by proclaiming that "God hath made this same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ" (v. 36). All who claim to be followers of Jesus Christ surely must admit that He is Lord! The Jews who gathered at Jerusalem on that occasion believed that Jesus was Lord and became followers of Him. But what does it mean to say "Jesus is Lord!"

First, the word "Lord" means "master, sovereign." The word then carries the idea of ruling with power and authority (Matthew 28:18). God demonstrated this power by fulfilling the prophecy of David in Psalm 16. God did not leave Jesus in hell or the hadean realm, but raised him up to sit on the throne of David (Acts 2:27-30). Therefore, Christ is Lord, sitting on the throne and ruling over His kingdom. So today, when people profess that Jesus is Lord, they are proclaiming that Jesus is on the throne, ruling and they are subject to His rule and authority. And, whether men profess this or not does not change the fact that Jesus is Lord.

The obvious question now is, "If followers of Christ claim Jesus as Lord, then why are there so many different beliefs among His followers?" The fact

is there should not be. Jesus once asked, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46). The point Jesus was making is that to be a follower of His means more than just calling Him Lord. In order to serve Jesus acceptably as your Lord means doing what he says (Luke 6:47; cf. Matthew 6:21-23). Recognizing Jesus as Lord, we must give our lives wholeheartedly to Him, presenting ourselves to Him as a living sacrifice, and doing the things He has said.

Looking back to Acts 2, we see these Jews that Peter had convinced that Jesus is Lord and Christ, asked the question "what shall we do?" They understood that since Jesus was Lord they must submit to His will to be pleasing to God. Serving God as a Jew was no longer acceptable. It could not be that they were going the same way, but just on different roads. Why? Because Jesus is the Lord and the only way to be pleasing to God is to do His will. Now, each one of us must asked ourselves the question, "Is Jesus My Lord?" The answer will be determined by what you and I do, just as it was in Acts 2. Let us all determine that we will confess Jesus as Lord and follow Him in His example and obey Him in all things. - - David Cox

Check us out on the internet: [www.navarrechurchofchrist.net](http://www.navarrechurchofchrist.net)

## “CHURCH GROWTH: From Decline To Growth” Overcoming Church Decline

### Attitude changes are essential!

There are many positive changes a congregation may make to reverse declining numerical trends and establish attitudes and patterns of behavior that will result in positive growth. Let's consider some of these essential changes.

### Put the past behind!

It is very important for churches to understand the contributing causes of numerical loss. Understanding them will help us correct our attitudes and actions in constructive ways. But, having learned from past mistakes we need to put them behind us and start looking ahead (Phil. 3:13).

### Evaluate congregational strengths!

In the midst of decline, churches often forget the assets they have. They focus on who's not here rather than who is, on what we don't have rather than what we do have! It is essential then that we affirm our strengths and assets, and how we may use them to rebuild (Rev. 3:2).

### Determine to make things better!

If the church is to grow, we must make a personal commitment to make meaningful contributions to the work rather than sitting on the sidelines moping over losses or blaming and criticizing others. We have a choice! We can talk about how discouraged we are, or we can get back to work and become more encouraged (Rev. 2:4-5).

### Make the commitment to excellence!

Depression results in half-hearted effort. It shows in poorly attended services and meetings, unenthusiastic worship, dull Bible classes, and a general congregational malaise (Rev. 3:15). All this can be changed by each person committing to do the best job he can in whatever role he finds himself.

### Be a team player!

As a church declines more and more people take the sidelines or bail out. Fewer and fewer people are left to work. Some enjoy this condition because it feeds the egotistical conception that the church cannot exist without them and their perceived value increases more and more. The truth is, the cause of Christ has no superstars! Everyone is needed and everyone must be a team player who will work with all other members if the church is to succeed (Eph. 4:16).

### Look to God for blessings!

If there was ever a time to pray together, to look to God for help, it is now! We can experience true growth only when we want to grow in our relationship with God and renew our commitment to His work. He has promised to supply the blessings we need, if we will pray fervently and work faithfully! (Mt. 28:20; Phil. 2:12-13).

### Don't give up hope!

With these attitude changes on the part of every member, amazing things can happen in a relatively short period of time. With God's blessing, a congregation can reverse past mistakes and plain bad luck and thrive again. God can open doors for us and make us succeed (Rev. 3:8)!

— Johnny Felker

---

***"I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it." (Revelation 3:8)***

---



## THE PRUDENT PAUSE

We live in a time in which restraint and self-discipline are not widely considered to be virtues. Impulse guides behavior more than reason. The gap between the impulse and the resulting action is sometimes so small that, to many, it seems not to exist. Many seem to be willing to pronounce any act justified if the impulse that prompted it is in any way justified (Lorena Bobbitt, et. al.).

But we are accountable to God for our actions whether the world recognizes our accountability or does not. When tempted to do a thing that is wrong we are equipped with the God-given ability to pause and think before acting. What happens during that pause may have eternal consequences. The Philadelphia Youth Study Center used to have this slogan: "The difference between the delinquent and the non-delinquent youth is the pause between the temptation and the act." The slogan is just as true if we delete the word "youth".

As we pause in the midst of temptation we ought to remind ourselves that we do not usually have to act swiftly. We sometimes make rash decisions rather than allow ourselves to choose our actions or words slowly and deliberately (**Proverbs 6:18; Romans 3:15; James 1:19**). Slow down. Widen the gap between the impulse and the action.

Take the time to think about the earthly consequences of your actions. How will your actions affect your family, the church, your friends, or your own reputation? Do you want to live with those consequences?

Take the time to consider all of your options. Under pressure we sometimes develop "tunnel vision". We see only one course of action when, in fact, there are many options

available to us. Look for them. At least one of your options will always be morally right (**1 Corinthians 10:13**).

Take the time to consider the eternal consequences (**Revelation 21:8**). The fear motive may not be the "highest" motive in the rating system that some brethren use, but we ought to be grateful that God has revealed both his goodness and his severity (**Romans 11:22**). If a knowledge of God's wrath helps us to gain one ounce of resolve to do right and avoid evil, then we ought to be pleased to have such knowledge.

Take the time to contemplate the goodness of God. He is the source of every good gift (**James 1:17**). He loved you enough to give his son that you might have eternal life (**John 3:16**). Pause to think of the debt of gratitude that you owe.

Pause to consider God's word. It contains divine guidance that can keep you from evil (**Psalms 119:9-16**). Sometimes in the midst of temptation, when tempers or passions are hottest, we search the Word of God less when we need it most. It is during such times that we would do well to heed the words of our heavenly father who said, "Be still, and know that I am God" (**Psalms 46:10**).

— Tim Nichols

---

***"So then,<sup>1</sup> my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath." (James 1:19)***

---

