
NEWS FROM MCCK

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH † KNOXVILLE, TN



VOLUME 30, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2010



FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIAL CLUB WELCOMES EVERYBODY BACK

After taking a break for the holidays, the Friday Night Social Club will resume on Jan. 22. Everyone is invited to join in the fellowship and enjoy refreshments, board games, cards, etc. We start at 7 p.m. and wind things up between 9 and 10.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE AT RAY'S HOME

Now that the holidays are officially over, choir director Ray Evette is giving us one more excuse to party and to welcome the new year. Ray invites everyone to an open house at his home on Saturday, Jan. 9 from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. The address is 2512 Blount Ave. in Maryville.

OUR SUFFICIENCY IN CHRIST

(Pt. 1)

By Wayne Sacchi

As we begin the new year and feel the emptiness that many times accompanies the excess of the Season, Paul's letter to the Colossians has something relevant to say: "For in Him (Christ) dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and

you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power." (Col. 2:9-10 NKJV) This is a monumental truth that many times is distorted by religion. To say it simply, when you take hold of Christ (or better yet, when He takes hold of US), you have everything you need and need nothing else!

The Colossians had begun to "add" different elements to their community that corrupted the truth of Christianity. In the coming months, this series will examine these additions to faith.

What exactly was going on here that made Paul write such a powerful letter? Paul never visited Colosse. We know from the wake of Paul's ministry in Ephesus that a man named Epaphras who later joined Paul in prison at Rome founded this church. Here is where he told the apostle of the strange teaching threatening the churches of the Lycus Valley. We are not exactly sure of what this false teaching was, but we have enough data and historical background to make a pretty good picture of what was being taught. We see the Colossians were struggling with a Greek-influenced form of Jewish philosophy that viewed Christians still vulnerable to spiritual forces. These "forces" were appeased through veneration, through some sort of food and drink rights, and honoring certain days prescribed in the Old Testament ceremonial law. Paul writes to these Christians to let them know for

them to gain acceptance before God, they need Christ only PLUS NOTHING ELSE. God has already made peace and accepted them by virtue of their union with Christ in His death and resurrection. While we still grow in Grace, we are already “complete in Him,” who is the Pre-eminent One.

Colosse was in the Phrygia region of Asia Minor. This region gave birth to Cybele, characterized by ritual cleansing in the blood of a bull, ecstatic states (similar to the Corinthian problem), prophetic rapture, and a type of spiritual dancing. Montanism, a teaching that had ecstatic and apocalyptic prophecy, freedom from responsibilities of daily life, and rigorous fasts and penances for ritual purity, found its haven in Phrygia. What makes it difficult to pin down what this teaching was is that Paul responds as a critique of error and only certain features of the erroneous teaching emerge. The term “philosophy” (2:8) is a Greek term that has more to do with occult speculations rather than inquiry to ideas based on a body of tradition. The teaching appears to be largely Jewish because of its emphasis on legal ordinances, Sabbath and New Moon observance. We also see the Galatian problem of circumcision mentioned as an “addition” to salvation. The role of angelic spirits was also an important element to this teaching.

The phrase “basic principles of the world” (2:8, 20) also points to angelic beings. At this time, the term “basic principles” was used to refer to gods of stars and planets, and even to the physical elements (earth, wind, fire, and water) that were thought to control the destiny of humankind. Many Bible

scholars suggest that the popular myth of the Phrygian god Cybele and her lover Attis were transformed into cosmic powers. Some Jewish thinking merged the angels with the astral powers. The role of angels in the Colossian error is found in the statement, “worship of angels.” (2:18). The false teaching in Colosse had confused the limited and proper role of angels as “ministering spirits” with the larger role of angels in some parts of Judaism and the astral powers found in the Gentile stories.

In the coming months we will examine why we are sufficient in Christ because of His pre-eminence in everything. We will also look at what false additions to our faith (and their modern-day counterparts) such as legalism, mysticism, ritualism and monasticism have again taken hold of us. As GLBT Christians we need to remind those that point their attacking fingers at us that Christ saved us solely by God’s grace and nothing more is needed -- that WE are COMPLETE IN CHRIST -- and nothing else can make us any more righteous in Abba God’s sight than that!

GAY MEN’S GROUP TOPICS

- Jan. 4 - Open Discussion – Free HIV Testing 8:30 p.m.
- Jan. 11 – My Winter Gay Reading List
- Jan. 18 – Standing Up for My Rights
- Jan. 25 – Bisexuality – A Community Divided?

Lectionary

January 3	Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9), 10-18
January 10	Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
January 17	Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11
January 24	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21
January 31	Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30




Calendar of Events



Event	Date
St. Ninian meal and worship	NEW YEAR'S DAY, 6:30-9 p.m. (Every Friday, 6:30-9)
Choir practice resumes	Wednesday, Jan. 6, 6:30 p.m.
Administrative Council Workshop – Church Survey discussion	Thursday, Jan. 7, 6:30 p.m.
Deadline for next newsletter (February)	Sunday, Jan. 17
Deacon's food pantry collection Potluck following 11 a.m.. service Potluck following 6 p.m. service	Sunday, Jan. 17, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 12:30-1:30 7-8 p.m.
MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY	Monday, Jan. 18
Deacons' Meeting	Wednesday, Jan. 20, 6:30-8 p.m.
Friday Night Social Club	Jan. 22, 7 p.m.
Administrative Council, regular meeting	Thursday, Jan. 28, 6:30-8:30 p.m.


<p>Metropolitan Community Church Knoxville</p> <p>Rev. Bob Galloway, Pastor</p> <p><i>Sunday Worship: 11:00AM & 6:00 PM</i></p> <p>Phone: (865) 531-2539 * Toll Free: (866) 531-2539 * Fax: (865) 531-6190 E-mail: MCCK@mccknoxville.org Web Site: www.mccknoxville.org Newsletter: newsletter@mccknoxville.org</p> <p>* GLBT Helpline 7 to 11 PM staff permitting</p>	<p>Directions to MCC Knoxville</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>From I-40 west bound</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Take Exit 380 (West Hills) - Continue through the first stop light (West Town Way) <i>From I-40 east bound</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Take Exit 380 (West Hills) - Turn right at the first stop light (heading to Montvue Rd.) 2. Turn left at next stop light (Kingston Pike) 3. Turn right at the second stop light (Morrell Rd.) 4. Continue straight through the next five stop lights (1.3 miles, finally crossing Westland Dr.) 5. Turn right at the next 4-way stop (Nubbins Ridge Rd.) 6. Continue 3 blocks 7. Turn left on Tranquilla Dr. (at crest of hill) 8. Turn right on Redeemer Lane 9. Parking lot is at the top of the hill (through red brick gateposts)
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