

ELDERS

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DEACONS

Nathan Adkins
David Castle
J.C. Hughes
Brad Morris
Nathan Parks
David Smith
Jeremiah Smith
Jerry Sturgill
Matthew Vonderheide
Steve Wallace

SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study 9:45am
Morning Worship 10:45 am
Evening Worship 6:00 pm
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 pm

WEB PAGE

www.flatwoodschurch-
ofchrist.org

MISSIONS

-Dustin Bolks
Sioux Center, Ia.
-Dahn Ramkelawan
Suriname, So. America
-Michael Mayo
Thailand, SE Asia
-*"In Search of the Lord's
Way"* TV broadcast
-Stephane Maillet
SEIBS student
-Brandon Foresha
WVSOP student

SEARCH TV

Sundays 7:30 am (on Fox)

FLATWOODS CHURCH OF CHRIST
HERALD

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*...narrow is the way.
which leadeth unto life.
and few there be that find it.
Matthew 7:14*

We offer FREE: 4 Bible correspondence course series by mail:
an 8 lesson series by Hurt, a 6 lesson series "Acts Of The Apostles"
by Pharr, the "Studies In The Bible" 30 lesson series, and the
20 lesson series "Getting To Know Jesus" by Pharr. Let everyone know!

Faith: Believing the Truth Substantiated by Evidence

During a Q&A period of one of my seminars, an atheist asked a question that I have often received when discussing science with naturalists: “How can faith (belief without evidence) be used to arrive at truth?” Atheists are often told by theists that belief in God is not about evidence. It is a blind trust, regardless of the evidence—“fideism.” The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines “fideism” as “reliance on **faith rather than reason** in pursuit of religious **truth**.”¹ By faith, they mean a “firm belief in something for which there is no proof.”² To many in Christendom, biblical faith is such an idea.

Imagine an empty container representing the truth on a subject. A person “pours” evidence into the container, trying to fill it to the brim and arrive at the complete truth on a matter. When it comes to religious faith, however, according to many in Christendom, the container **cannot be completely filled**. The space that is left at the top of the container, between the evidence and the brim, must be filled in with blind “faith.” So, according to them, belief in God, for instance, rests ultimately, not on the evidence, but irrational faith.

In truth, the Bible does not so define faith. The Greek word for faith used in the New Testament (*pistis*) is not a mystical word only applicable when discussing religious faith. It is the Grecian word equivalent to the English words “belief” or “trust.”³ When we “believe,” “trust,” or “have faith in” someone, that faith is based on evidence. If a parent, for example, has proven himself to be trustworthy, we believe him. If we do not know a person and have no evidence to substantiate his integrity, to believe in him would be a blind (evidence-less) faith, which would be irrational and unwise. Scripture incessantly makes the point that we should come to a knowledge of the truth **based on the evidence** that has been provided to us. According to Romans 1:20, so much evidence has been provided to come to the truth of God, that not to come to the right conclusion is “without excuse.” We can **know** the truth—not merely accept it “on faith”—and it will set us free (John 8:32). We should test or “prove all things” before believing them, only holding to that which is good or right (1 Thessalonians 5:21). As did the “fair-minded” Bereans of Acts 17, God wants us to search for evidence that substantiates a claim before blindly believing it (verse 11). Since many false teachers are in the world, He tells us to “not believe every spirit, but test the spirits” before believing them (1 John 4:1). Unlike blind faith (i.e., fideism)—which pits itself against reason⁴—Paul believed in establishing truth using reason (Acts 26:25). In fact, Jesus told His audience to **not believe Him** if He did not substantiate His claims with evidence (John 10:37).

The blind “faith” idea is unbiblical. The biblical portrait of faith would be more like evidence being “poured” into our truth container. The “evidence” rises to the top of the container and begins pouring over the top. Where “faith” comes in is when we look at the truth, verified by evidence, and **choose** whether or not to believe it. Most do not and will not (Matthew 7:13-14). It is their own choice, but it is not because God has not provided enough evidence to come to the truth. Rather, they have rejected the evidence which is readily available, due to their own personal motives.

As is always the case when I receive the question that the young man asked at the seminar, he was shocked when I respond that I do not agree that faith is “belief without evidence”—that the Christian faith is in fact demanded by the evidence. In the “Christians Can Be Confident about Creation” seminar, we will explore many of these evidences. -by Jeff Miller, Ph.D.

Endnotes

¹“Fideism” (2015), *Merriam-Webster On-line Dictionary*, <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/fideism>, emp. added.

²“Faith” (2017), *Merriam-Webster On-line Dictionary*, <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/faith>.

³William Arndt, F.W. Gingrich, and Frederick W. Danker (1979), *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press), second edition revised, pp. 662-664.

⁴“Fideism.”

News & Notes



Sermons This Week

AM: *Addicted to Egypt*

PM: *Nothing But Leaves*

Scripture Reading: Mark 11:12-21

Little School News

We still have a few openings for 4 & 5 year olds. Orientation is Thursday, Sept. 6th at 7pm. There is a sign-up sheet for volunteers to bring food for this occasion and everyone is encouraged to attend.

Dates to Remember

Aug 26– elder/deacon/preacher meet–4:30p

Aug 31– ladies luncheon– 11:30a– Moe’s

Aug 31– Youth & Family overnight retreat

Nathan Adkins’ home– see Mark Day

Sep 4– Prime-timers resumes– 10a– annex

Sep 6– Little School Orientation– 7p

Sep 7– Little School begins 9am

Sep 7-9– ‘Christians Can Be Confident

About Creation’ seminar with Jeff Miller

Sep 9– potluck– 12p– annex

Sep 11– Prime-timers– 10a– annex

Sep 16–elder/deacon/preacher meet– 4:30p

Sep 18– Prime-timers– 10a– annex

Sep 25– Prime-timers– 10a– annex

Sep 30– Jessica & Chris Miller Wedding reception–3-5p–annex- (gift cards only)

Sep 30– Oct 3– Olive Hill Revival with Melvin Sapp, Sumter, SC (M-W 7p)

Condolences

Our sister Fay Wright, a shut-in since 2006, passed away August 16th at age 84. Her funeral was August 20th conducted by Mark Day. Please, remember her family in your prayers.

September Creation Seminar

We have flyers on the foyer table with information about our upcoming seminar on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 7-9. Please, take the flyers to distribute to your friends or in public areas. And sign up on the foyer bulletin board if you plan to attend (for meal planning purposes). Thank you.

August Ladies Luncheon

This Friday, August 31st at 11:30am, the ladies of the church will meet to have lunch at Moe’s Mexican Restaurant in Ashland.

Youth/Family Overnight Retreat

Nathan and Serpell Adkins are hosting an overnight retreat on Aug. 31st in Blue Creek, Ohio. Please, sign up on the board or see Mark Day if you plan to attend. Thank you.

Gauging Our Faith

	08/19/18	Goal	08/20/17
Bible Study	94	110	98
AM Worship	133	160	141
PM Worship	90	110	97
Mid Week	93	110	92
Contribution:	\$5360.36	\$5900.00	\$5590.50

Have you contacted
a shut-in lately?
Why not today?



☞ Today's Servants ☞

WELCOME:

AM/PM: Chris Scott

SONG LEADER:

AM: Brad Morris

PM: Dan Stone

FIRST PRAYER:

AM: Mark Parks

PM: Jordan Conley

LORD'S TABLE:

Presiding AM: J.C. Hughes

Assisting: Ben Poling,
Daniel Goshorn, George Wallace,
Steve Wallace, Luke Wallace,
Auston Clarkson, Eric McKinney

Presiding PM: David Smith

Assisting: J.C. Hughes

CLOSING PRAYER:

AM: Nathan Parks

PM: Ben Poling

☞ Wednesday Servants ☞

WELCOME: Greg Conley

SONG LEADER: David Trimble

PRAYER: Daniel Goshorn

DEVOTIONAL: Steve Wallace

☞ Weekly Servants ☞

POWER POINT: Matt Vonderheide

BLDG. ATTENDANT: Steve Wallace

ATTENDANCE: Mitch Stafford

COORDINATOR: David Smith

☆☆☆ Youth Notes ☆☆☆

☆☆ **Every Sunday** ☆☆

Pew Packers

at 5:45pm

in front auditorium

geared to age 12 & under,

but everyone can come.

**–Boys: have a song
ready to lead–**

☆☆☆☆ **Aug 31-Sept 1** ☆☆☆☆

All Youth & Family Retreat

at Nathan & Serpell Adkins' home

Please, sign up on foyer board



Welcome, Visitor!

We are so pleased to have you as our guest today.

If you are a **first-time visitor** with us, please, fill out a 'visitor card' that you find on the back of the pew. Please, put it in the collection plate or hand it to one of the men at the auditorium doors as you exit.

We have tract racks on the wall in the foyer with **free tracts and literature**. We offer **free Bible correspondence courses** you can receive by mail at no cost to you. Let our preacher know if you would like to set up an **in-home Bible study**. Thank you for attending. Come back anytime!