



# Blackfoot Church of Christ

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## **The Local Church #1864**

by swordtips

To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours: (1 Corinthians 1:2, NKJV)

This salutation from Paul the apostle and brother Sosthenes gives us a number of insights into the character and purpose of local churches. First, the local church belongs to God, not to us. Culture and consensus do not legitimize rearranging the local church after our image. Next, each local church is identifiable and independent. This church was “at Corinth.” There is no hint of an overarching ecclesiastical and organizational oversight of this (or any other) local church. The centralization of authority over churches is unheard of in the New Testament. Scripture sufficiently organizes local churches to function and fulfill their God-given work. Next, the members of the local church are “sanctified in Christ Jesus” and thus, called “saints” (holy ones). Each Christian is a saint, purified from sins by the blood of Christ (Col. 1:20-22). As such, we are called to live holy lives before God and the world (Rom. 12:1). Finally, the Corinthians needed to know they were not alone. There were other saints “who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.” Christians still need the encouragement that comes from knowing others share common faith and fellowship with them in Christ our Lord (1 Cor. 1:9).

## Why Was Judas Replaced?

By Edwin Crozier

Today's reading is Acts 1.

Why was Judas replaced as an apostle? Have you ever noticed Peter's reason? It was not because Judas had died. Apostles were not replaced at death (at least there is no biblical indication they were). No, Peter says they needed to choose someone "to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." Judas needed to be replaced because he gave up his place among the apostles. The fact is we still have apostles today. Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Thomas, Matthew, Bartholomew, James the Less, Simon, Thaddeus, Matthias. Paul is one (perhaps a couple others depending on your view of a few passages). Of course, none of these men still live on earth. But they are still our apostles. They didn't get replaced when they died. Judas didn't get replaced because he died. He got replaced because he abandoned his place. He would have been replaced even if he hadn't killed himself. This reminds us that the apostles and prophets of the New Covenant are still the foundation of Christ's church with Jesus as the chief cornerstone (see Ephesians 2:20). Thank God for these men, His instruments to bring His Word in the world and establish His kingdom of light.

### **A Word for Our Kids**

Hey kids, did you catch what I shared with your parents about Judas. I want to highlight it for you today mainly because it is one of those biblical points that I missed for years and years. I don't know how many times I had read Acts and just believed Judas was replaced because he died. In fact, I didn't even notice what the text said for myself. Someone else showed it to me. I bring this up simply because I want to encourage you to talk with others about what you are reading. I know we like to think about "just me and my Bible." However, when it is just me and my Bible, I miss things. Certainly, we don't need to sit around just discussing, "What it means to me." We need to figure out what it means to God. However, we also need to recognize that I probably won't figure out what it means to God on my own. But discussing the Word with others will get me closer. So keep reading. Keep studying. Keep learning. And keep talking about this great Book with others.

## Inadequate!

By Doy Moyer,

“If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness” (2 Cor 11:30). Paul shows us a man who felt his own weaknesses and knew that he had to rely on God if he would succeed. Paul even felt afraid and needed encouragement from the Lord (Acts 18:9-10).

We often will show the world our successes. Perhaps it makes us feel good. We get positive feedback and it give us a boost. It's fine to be encouraged when we do well. However, it may be that we are also leaving impressions that things are always great with us and we are afraid for weakness to show. Even in the lives of those who always seem happy, there are significant trials. I'm not a fan of personal pity-parties, and it's easy to emphasize all the bad in our lives. When we just focus on the things going wrong and how everyone is against us, we may be turning the attention to ourselves in a way that is unfitting for a child of God. I can seek self-justification and undue attention for myself and away from God by how I seek pity just as much as how I seek praise. We may be tempted to enter into a “things are so much more worse for me than for you” drama bit, and we find satisfaction in thinking this way because “no one else knows what I'm going through.” “Oh yeah, well you don't know the half of it...”

Balance, as always, is appropriate. We all have our successes and we all have our weaknesses. It's okay to let people vent without feeling like we have to give them all the answers (think the book of Job). It's also good not to “one-up” another when someone is struggling.

As a preacher, I often feel inadequate to my task. Sometimes, even with much preparation, I feel ill-prepared. I often feel unable to connect with others, and my own weaknesses beset me while I want to encourage people. Preachers are just regular people, too. Regular people are preaching and teaching regular people, all of whom ought to know something about what it means to be human, complete with weaknesses, strengths, and everything in between. We're in this thing called life together.

Let's all remember that each of us battles weaknesses. Each struggles and each needs to be encouraged. If Paul could “boast” of what shows his weakness in order to bring attention to and glory to God, then there is a place for this. Let's just make sure it's about pointing to God and not ourselves. The same goes for sharing in successes. The glory and power of our Lord needs to be magnified in what we share and do.

## **Prayer Requests & Announcements**

- Porters are returning from travels this week
- Sylvia Ward, Ross's Mom, has ended rehab
- Scott Boucher (Sparks NV) cancer treatments have had mixed results
- Keep April in your prayers as she deals with health issues
- The Christians in the Philippines
- Worship Assignments for the month of March are posted on the bulletin board
- Annual Men's meeting Saturday, February 29, 2020

**For prayer requests, call or text**

Chad @ (208) 221-2587 or Ross @ (208) 680-6590

## **Worship Assignments**

### **Today**

**Song Leader** – Ray Mitchell

**Lord's Table** – Tom Mitchell

### **Wednesday**

**Song Leader** – Ray Mitchell

**Invitation** – Ross Ward

Blackfoot Church of Christ  
370 North Shilling Ave.  
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

### **Meeting Times:**

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM  
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM  
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



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