

Dean Road **CHURCH OF CHRIST**
2018 GOSPEL MEETING

“Bind Us Together”

“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching”
(Heb 10:24–25 NKJV).

“BIND US TOGETHER”

Schedule

Saturday, April 14:

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| 5 pm | Introduction
Kids Program (Room #1) |
| 5:15 pm | Allen Cross – “United in the Same Mind” (Phil 2:1–8) |
| 5:50 pm | David Compton – “One Body in Christ” (Rom 12:3–8) |
| 6:30–7:30 pm | Dinner |
| 7:30 pm | Introduction |
| 7:45 pm | Art Wilson – “Unity in the Spirit” (Eph 4:1–6) |
| 8:15 pm | Closing Prayer |

Sunday, April 15:

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| 9:30 am | Scott Shifferd – Study and Discussion of Previous Lessons |
| 10:30 am | Ronnie Powell – “Salvation Together” (1 Thess 4:13–18) |
| 6 pm | Gene Bryant – “Bind Us Together” (Heb 10:24–25; Col 3:12–15) |

WELCOME

The Dean Road church of Christ stands and is saved by the Gospel of Jesus's death, burial, and resurrection (1 Cor 15:1–4). We believe Jesus Christ is sinless, His words are infallible, and inspired words are inerrant throughout the Bible. The mission of the church to make disciples is the mission of the Dean Road church of Christ. We do this by baptism and teaching, building on the foundation of Christ, and equipping the saints for ministry (Matt 28:18–20; 1 Cor 3:6–15; Eph 4:11–16).

Focus

For 2018, the elders of the Dean Road congregation have set a focus of unity on the theme, "Bind Us Together." The defining scripture is Colossians 3:14, "And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony" (ESV). The theme also builds on the scripture of Hebrews 10:24–25,

"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching" (NKJV).

Purpose

The annual purpose of this gospel meeting is to edify and unite congregations by God's Word addressing vital subjects regarding personal change, evangelism, making disciples, and Christian evidences.

The speakers at this gospel meeting are sound brethren from local congregations. They have spent years in study of the Bible and hours in preparing their messages. We hope that you will join us in taking these messages to strengthen your love for God with your whole heart, life, mind, and strength. Let us love our neighbors as ourselves, and let us love our enemies and pray for them.

SPEAKERS

Gene Bryant grew up in the Arlington area of Jacksonville and attended Terry Parker High School, FCCJ, FSCJ, and other institutes of higher learner. His children and their spouses are Christians. They have provided him with 8 wonderful grandchildren and two granddogs. Additionally, there's more than a dozen grandkids from couples at this congregation, who know and love him as "Poppy" and his wife, Belinda, as "Bimbe." Gene has served as a teacher of classes ranging from the 2nd Grade to Adult. Gene has been serving as an Elder of the Dean Road congregation since 2016.

David Compton serves as a Deacon and teacher at the Lake Forest congregation where he has been a life-long member. He is married to Andrea and they have three energetic children (Noah, Andrew, and Lily). David has an undergraduate degree from the University of North Florida and a MBA from the University of Florida. David is currently a Director within Supervision at Merrill Lynch.

Allen Cross has been preaching the Gospel of Christ for over 45 years. He had a Master's degree in theology and another Master's degree in religion. He has had the privilege to preach in New Mexico, Kentucky, Tennessee, Michigan, Texas as well as in Tampa, Hollywood, and Miami here in Florida. Allen now serves as the preacher for the Riverview congregation here in Jacksonville. As well as appearing on Lectureships and conducting Gospel Meetings, Revival Meetings, Seminars, and Workshops in 23 states, Canada, and the Panama Canal Zone, he organized the Eternal Truth Radio Broadcast in 1968, which is still aired today in many of the cities in which he has previously labored.

Ronnie Powell serves as a deacon of the Arlington congregation and is privileged to work with high school students. He also has the pleasure of pursuing his passion of evangelism. Ronnie has been married to the love of his life, Sha-Kerra, since May 2008 and together they have a daughter, Riley, who is the blessing of their union. He works in the banking section and is a graduate University of Georgia.

Art Wilson began preaching in 2001 at age 15 and entered full time work in 2006 upon graduating the Memphis School of Preaching. He has preached for congregations in Tennessee, Arkansas, and Georgia. He met and married his wife Amy while he was preaching in Cairo, GA. The Wilsons have two daughters Natalie (age 6) and Evelyn (age 3). Art has been the pulpit minister at the St. Mary's Church of Christ in St. Mary's, GA since December 2012.

“UNITY BUSTERS”

David Compton

Subject: *One Body in Christ*; Focus Scripture: Romans 12:3–8

Notes

- I. Our _____ has always struggled with _____.
 - a. From nearly the beginning, we saw division lead to problems between _____ & _____ in Genesis 4.
 - b. The United States is no different as divisions have been with the country since its beginning.
 - i. Examples include:
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 - c. Jesus wanted his people and the church to be better than this
 - d. In _____, Jesus prayed that his followers be _____.
 - e. Tonight’s text warns Christians of three ways that our unity can be interrupted.

- II. _____ leads to division.
 - a. Romans 12:3 – “For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to _____ of _____ more _____ than he ought to think, but to think _____, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.”
 - b. Pride leads to finding _____ in others.
 - i. Luke 18 – Jesus’ Parable of the _____ & _____
 - c. The proud do not _____ to others.
 - i. Jeremiah _____: _____ – _____

d. Pride often leads to the downfall of _____ and impacts the unity of the church.

- i. Proverb 16:18 - Pride goes before _____, And a haughty spirit before a _____.

III. Failure to accept each person's _____ role as a member of the church impacts _____.

a. Romans 12:4–5 – “For as we have many members in _____ body, but all the members do not have the _____ function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of _____.”

b. 1 Corinthians 12: _____ – _____

- i. Verses highlight the need for members who have different strengths and weaknesses.
- ii. Church is not made up of cookie cutter Christians.

IV. Unity is _____ when we fail to use our _____ in the Kingdom.

a. Romans 12:6–8 – Having then gifts _____ according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

b. The church needs _____ not _____.

c. Jesus emphasized the need for _____ in John 4:34–36.

V. Conclusion

a. What are you doing for unity in your congregation?

b. Concept of unity is not important to only the local congregation.

c. How is your unity with the Father?

“UNITY IN THE SPIRIT”

Art Wilson

Focus Scripture: Ephesians 4:1–6

Notes

1. The clarion call of the Restoration Movement that took place many years ago in this nation was _____.
 - A. The movement grew out of a passionate desire for unity among all believers as they left creeds, traditions, dogmas and united under the banner of the Bible and the Bible only!
 - B. A common catch phrase during this period was “In matters of _____; unity, in matters of _____, liberty; and in all things, _____.”
2. In the book of Ephesians, we have a platform/basis for that unity and instructions on how to practice or maintain it:
 - A. One of the first things we learn in the book is that all spiritual blessings are in Christ (Eph 1:3).
 - B. Christ died so that the church might be united – Jew and Gentile, slave and free, etc. (2:14–16).
 - C. Now that all of us are heirs of the same body (3:6) we have to endeavor to maintain this unity (4:3).
3. Paul’s plea for unity as the prisoner of the Lord (4:1; cf. 3:1; 6:20).
 - A. Anytime an inspired apostle is _____ us to do something that should get our attention.
 - B. His plea is to walk worthy — live in such a way that we bring honor to God and His divine plan.

I. THE PLATFORM OF UNITY

A. **ONE BODY** – one church (Eph 1:22–23).

1. The Lord only has but one place for the saved – the family of God.
2. Why pictured as a body?
 - a. Because we are under control of the _____ (Col 1:18).
 - b. A body functions in harmony because of the cooperation of its _____; so, must we also (1 Cor 12:12ff).

B. **ONE SPIRIT** – Dwells in us all (Rom 8:9) and He directs through the word of God (cf. Eph 6:17).

C. **ONE HOPE** – This is the hope of eternal life through the _____ (Acts 23:6).

1. It's more than _____ thinking but something we are confidently assured of in scripture (John 14:1–3).
2. Our goal is to please God so that He may one day say, "Well done, good and faithful servant...enter into the joy your lord" (Matt 25:21).

D. **ONE LORD** – One body for one Head – the Lord Jesus has all authority (Matt 28:18–20).

E. **ONE FAITH** – Refers to the _____ of faith; "the faith" (Jude 3).

1. It is from the faith system that we get our personal faith (Rom 10:17).
2. The only way anyone can hope to achieve real unity is for people to have the same _____.

F. **ONE BAPTISM** – This is the same disciple making baptism as commissioned by Christ (Matt 28:20).

G. **ONE GOD & FATHER OF ALL** – God greatly desires unity and is not the Author of confusion (1 Cor 14:33).

*“The **one God** so loved the world that He gave us the **one Lord** who after returning to heaven sent the **one Spirit** Who revealed to us the **one faith** which commands the **one baptism** which if obeyed adds us to the **one body** wherein is found the **one hope** of our calling.” Franklin Camp*

II. THE PRACTICE (ENDEAVOR) OF UNITY (4:2–3) – Practical instructions of what this unity looks like in real life.

A. **LOWLINESS** – this is often translated as _____.

1. Realize that we each have limitations and that we are not morally perfect.
2. This attitude is necessary because it helps us to realize that we need each other and our Lord!

B. **GENTLENESS/MEEKNESS** – This is the quality of _____ in our relationships.

1. It has been described as power at peace in how we treat others.
2. The opposite of this is a _____ with our actions and words towards relationships.

C. **LONGSUFFERING** – often translated patience/endurance; has to do with holding in an _____ response.

1. It’s governing our temper, when someone annoys/wrongs us, by not letting our response out all at once.
2. We all sin against each other – how will I react when it happens to me? Remember _____ (2 Pet 3:9).

