

## October 30—November 05

<b>30</b> Sunday	<b>31</b> Monday College-age Bible study 6:30 p.m.	<b>01</b> Tuesday Porter's anniversary	<b>02</b> Wednesday No Bible class tonight.	<b>03</b> Thursday Happy Birthday, Glen Dale, Nicholas	<b>04</b> Friday	<b>05</b> Saturday
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2 birthdays and 1 anniversary this week.  
No Wednesday Bible classes until we meet and decide.

October 23, 2022  
Contribution: \$512.00  
Attendance: 18

Campus minister: **Caleb Hughes**  
Minister: **Curtis Wubbena**

WiFi name: ALPINECHURCH402  
Password: b14Smiley  
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<http://www.alpinechurchtx.org/>

# Welcome to the Alpine church of Christ

October 30, 2022



Ordinary people serving an extraordinary God.



Are you available to help? The Terlingua Church of Christ will be in need of some temporary help while their minister recovers from surgery. Get practice on Sundays in November in Alpine.

# ***Local Church Membership***

Must each Christian be a member of a local congregation? Like so many questions, this one cannot be properly answered either yes or no without considering existing circumstances. The reason for this is that the essentiality of local church membership is contingent upon two important factors: (1) Being where other Christians are and (2) Their walking according to truth in their congregational practices. I would certainly deny that one is obligated to be a member of a local church when such is impossible due to there being no others with whom he could unite or when those who compose the church are engaged in unauthorized congregational activities. But granting these two conditions, **membership is essential!** The local church of Christ is a relationship (fellowship) between individuals. This fellowship is designed for those who are partakers of the common salvation, dedicated to the common service of God, subjects of the common authority of Jesus Christ, and renderers of common worship. In view of man's gregarious nature it seems only natural that God would make provision for Christians to enjoy fellowship (mutual, active participation in common interest) in the fulfillment of their work and worship. The Lord has made such provision in His Word. The local church is the result of that provision. If God gave the local church, membership is necessary. There can be no church without members thereof. There can be no members thereof without membership therein.

Those who are to oversee the churches of Christ (elders, pastors, or bishops) are often mentioned in the N.T. (cp. Acts 11:30; 14:23; 15:23; 20:17). Their duties are discussed. (Acts 20:28-31; 1 Pet. 5:1-9) These scriptures set forth the fact that elders function in the **local** church. For them to guide and oversee there must be someone or something or both for them to oversee. This oversight, then demands a local church, which demands members, which demands membership.

Christians are to be, not only a part of, but to some extent, amenable to a local church. This is seen in the responsibility of local church discipline. The Lord expects of us purity of life and teaching. (Gal. 1: 6-9; 5:19-23) He also demands that the congregation exercise corrective discipline in cases of impurity. (2 Thes. 3:6,14; Rom. 16:17,18; 1 Cor. 5) Local church discipline demands a local church and a local church demands membership.

The example of the early disciples indicates that Christians are to be members of local congregations. When Paul went to Jerusalem, he "assayed to join himself to the disciples" and eventually "was with them." (Acts 9: 26-28) In Antioch he and Barnabas "assembled themselves with" the church over a period of one year. (Acts 11:25,26) They were "in the church that was at Antioch." (Acts 13:1) In fact, when Paul and others found no local church in existence, upon the conversion of souls, they **established** one. (See also Acts 18:27; Rom. 16:1f)

Are you a faithful, active member? Roger M. Hendricks Sinton, TX.

## **Acts 20:7 (NIV)**

"On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight."