

Invitation

Welcome everyone. We pray you will be strengthened by your visit with the Brighton Church of Christ. You are not just our guest, but you are welcome and wanted right here. Join our family of imperfect people perfected in by the blood of Jesus. Restrooms are located across the foyer near the front of the auditorium on the upper floor. If you need assistance in any way, ask any member for help.

Mission

The Brighton Church of Christ is a spiritual family with a focus on going to heaven. We are determined to honor God, to strictly follow the teachings of the New Testament, and effectively make that teaching available to the city of Brighton and the surrounding areas.

Leadership

Elders

Ron Jensen	303-655-8498
Ivan Stewart	720-270-1057
Mark Thacker	303-655-1982

Deacons

Kevin Dunham	303-807-5974
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Minister

Sam Dilbeck	903-229-8415
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Contacts

Church Phone: 303.659.1420
Email: info@brightonchurchofchrist.org
Website: brightonchurchofchrist.org
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Sunday Schedule Morning

Welcome	Ron Jensen
Song Leader	Ron Jensen
Opening Prayer.....	Les Tucker
Lord's Supper Leader.....	KD Derbigny
Assistant.....	Kayden Derbigny
Assistant	Coby Mendoza
Assistant.....	Chris Welsby
Assistant.....	Dale Bishop
Scripture Reading.....	Sam Dunham

Luke 16:27-31

Lesson.....	Sam Dilbeck
Closing Prayer & Dismissal.....	Alan Samuelson

Sunday Evening

Song Leader.....	Ron Jensen
Opening Prayer.....	Ernest Kite
Lord's Supper Leader.....	KD Derbigny
Assistant.....	Kayden Derbigny
Lesson.....	Sam Dilbeck
Closing Prayer.....	Marc Moran

Wednesday Evening Schedule

Class.....	Sam Dilbeck
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Service Times

Sundays:

Morning classes 9:30 am

Worship 10:30 am

Evening worship 6:00 pm

Wednesdays: Ladies Class 10:00 am

Evening Bible Study 6:30 pm



August 22, 2021

The Pauline Corpus Sam Dilbeck

What happened to Paul's letter to Rome after he sent it? How was it preserved? When did all of Paul's letters come together as a unit that we call the Pauline corpus, or body of Paul's work?

For centuries people have been asking these questions, but there is little evidence. The earliest surviving copy of Paul's letters (P46) dates to about 200 ad, though that date is debated among scholars. It contains Paul's letters to the churches and Philemon but does not include the Pastoral epistles (Titus and 1 & 2 Timothy).

Earlier documents attest to the Pauline corpus but are not manuscripts of the New Testament. For example, 1 Clement (written about 90 ad) refers to 1 Corinthians and quotes other passages from Paul. Marcion, an early church heretic, lists Paul's letters around 140 ad, but does not include the Pastorals. Polycarp (d. 156 ad) wrote a letter to the church in Philippi offering to share the letters that Smyrna had collected. The Muratorian fragment (200 ad) contains a list of NT books, including all thirteen letters (though in a different order). These early witnesses show Paul's letters were shared among churches by the middle of the second century.

Peter also refers to Paul's writings (2 Pet 3:15-16). Many scholars believe 2 Peter is pseudonymous (not written by Peter), and date it in the early second century, but that narrative is denied by those who believe in inspiration. Given Peter wrote 2 Peter as is purported, it is a very early witness to Paul's writings. Tradition says that Peter died in Rome by 68 ad, which fits with his location when writing his letters (1 Pet 5:13 if "Babylon" refers to Rome). Therefore, Peter recognized the authority of Paul's writings by 68.

When was the Pauline corpus collected and published? Many theories speculate how this happened. One theory says Paul's letters fell into obscurity until the book of Acts was written (ca. 80 ad). Then interest renewed in Paul and a collector(s) sought to bring his letters together. Another theory says the letters were collected early in different regions—Asia, Achaia, Italy, etc. Then in time, the churches in these regions shared their collection with each other. Another theory supposes a close associate of Paul—Luke, Timothy, Onesimus—began traveling and assembling the corpus shortly after Paul's death. These theories interpret the same data differently trying to account for different ordering, lists, and readings. However, there is a lot of speculation in each of them.

If we are speculating, let's consider another idea beginning with Paul. New Testament textual scholar, David Trobisch, examined private letter collections from 300 bc to 400 ad and concluded many of the collections began with the sender, not the recipient. Writers often kept copies of their letters, either for personal reference or with the intent to publish. Two contemporaries of Paul, Seneca and Cicero, both kept copies of their extensive epistolary corpus and published them. It is possible that Paul kept copies of his letters. Perhaps his personal collection of his letters are the "books" he desired Timothy to bring him (2 Tim 4:13).

Paul believed his writings were authoritative (1 Cor 14:37) and may have had intended to publish them in his lifetime. He kept the ones he thought were pertinent (we do not have all his letters 1 Cor 5:9; 2 Cor 7:8; Col 4:16) and shared them with those in his circle. Peter and Clement, who were in Rome with Paul near the end, would have seen his collection which was already being copied and published before his death. This allowed them to refer to Paul's letters in their own writings.

It cannot be proven the Pauline corpus was initiated with Paul. However, this scenario fits the biblical narrative, traditional history, and evidentiary data, while respecting the inspiration of the scriptures.

Announcements

Prayers

Elmo Wilson had a massive stroke Tuesday night. He is in Good Samaritan Hospital in Lafayette doing his best to recover. Ruth and other family is there with him. Prayers for the whole family as they wait through his recovery process.

Monday **Hannah Warner** was diagnosed with mono and an enlarged liver. She has been recovering at home.

Continued Prayers

Penny Anderson, Tim Parker's daughter- seizures

Eleanor Jatko- recovery from a stroke

Bill Woloridge, the Austin's friend—cancer

Jane Hanavan-heart issues

Dawn Lell-health problems

KD's supervisor's wife, LaRae Siefert-chemo nerve damage

Sherry Derbigny's Aunt Jackie- breast cancer

Sam Sims- health problems

Pray for our Brighton family as we try to share the Gospel .

Paula Nikolai—heart issues

News and Notes

Calendar for 2021

On the bulletin board in the foyer is a calendar of activities for the rest of the year. It is such a blessing to be able to plan activities again! Please look to see what is coming up.



GOSPEL MEETING

Keep October 3rd through 6th open for a Gospel Meeting. Allen Webster will be our speaker.

Linda Shoen's Memorial Service

Saturday, September 4th at 4:00 p.m. there will be a memorial service for Linda Shoen, here at the building. **Side dishes are needed.** Ham will be provided. Please sign up on the Sides List located on the table in the foyer if you're able to help.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

August 23	Ivan & Margie Stewart	Anniversary
August 25	Hogan Dewell	Birthday
August 28	Johanna Bohannon	Birthday
August 28	Ivan Stewart	Birthday