

WILSONVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Fairview Park Church of Christ
18820 Fairview Park
Little Rock, AR 72222

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To the saints of Christ's church that meets at Fairview Park with the elders and deacons. We send you greetings and joy for our common precious faith and hope in the Lord.

Our Sunday morning class will finish the letters to the seven churches of the Revelation, today. It is so easy to gloss over these letters as essentially a continuation of the introduction by Christ through John in the first chapter. What a mistake. Understanding the letter is written with frequent symbolism, and understanding that the number seven is used frequently in this way, we should understand the seven churches as representative of all the congregations of the Lord. Therefore, each exhibits the good and bad of every group of Christians. This by extension applies to us today, else why bother keeping this letter for the generations? While we don't have Nicolaitan teachings, and Jewish persecution from the synagogues of Satan aren't much of an issue here, the principles of every issue, good or bad, needs to be understood so as to be applied to us. Are we more like Ephesus, Sardis, Philadelphia? I also am stressing that while some of the seven churches have serious problems, Christ had not yet left them. That is a note of encouragement. Too often Christians are willing to abandon each other when differences arise, without a proper amount of working on the problem with long suffering and love. Certainly, there may come a time when you are "casting your pearls before swine," but consider Judah during the time of their latter years. God, time and again, sent prophets to them pleading with them to return to him, correcting their mistakes in a penitent and contrite heart. In the New Testament, consider Corinth. Anyway, as I wax on, I am most impressed with these seven letters and the wealth of information about the early church and how it applies to us today.

In the Wednesday Bible class, we are looking at some Messianic psalms. I have arrived at an understanding that these psalms should be viewed as Messianic prophecy from verse one to verse last. For years I have read these as David speaking of himself...until he wasn't. The psalm never flowed in continuity. If David was a prophet, and he was, then why could he not prophecy for the entire psalm? I contend if one views the Messianic psalms in this way, the reader will get more out of them and they will make a lot more sense in addition to it being the correct way to study them. Having said that, I will also say that you will truly need to *study* these psalms to mine their treasure.

We had another family from an institutional church looking for a new home. After the end of services, both adults conveyed happiness at their experience with us. The man also noted that he was greatly encouraged by the "talk" and that there was a lot of "the Word" in the "talk." While I am still amazed at how much many institutional members have adopted denominational language, I understood what he had to say and was encouraged at his statement. Hopefully, we will see them again. The group from which he came is rather progressive, even for institutionals, so I suppose he hasn't heard a lot of scripture and its application to our lives in awhile.

My sister and my brother-in-law were also in attendance from out of state. He has fallen away and has little if any interest in the church. Yet, he stated positive things about what he had heard. Hopefully, it was not my delivery style where he was giving a "toastmasters" critique.

Seed is always being planted. Soil is continually tilled, weeded and watered. We, in Wilsonville, may never see the plant take root, or reach maturity. That joy may be for others somewhere else. Nevertheless, the Lord's work is being done and we trust God to provide the increase. To him be all praise.

As always, I thank you for your continued support for me and my work. Your support is always viewed in humble appreciation. I continue praying to God for His blessings on your members and the work in Little Rock. May you continue being a blessing in good works for the kingdom of our Lord and Savior, the Christ.

In Christ,

Kevin R. Fermenick,
a gospel preacher