

# “Blest Be the Tie”

(Adapted from the Afton church of Christ)

“Truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son, Jesus Christ” (1 John 1:3).

A song which talks about the love and fellowship that we have with one another in the Father and in His Son Jesus Christ is “Blest Be The Tie.” The text was written by an English Baptist preacher, John Fawcett (1740-1817). It is believed to have been produced in 1772 after he had accepted an invitation to move from the small Baptist church at Wainsgate, England, to sever as minister for a larger church in London but decided that he could not bear to leave after all. It was first printed with the title “Brotherly Love” in Fawcett’s 1782 “Hymns Adapted to the Circumstances of Public Worship and Private Devotion.”

The tune was composed by a Swiss musician, Johann Hans Georg Nageli (1773-1836). The arrangement was made by the American musician Lowell Mason (1792-1872). It first appeared in 1845 in the songbook entitled *The Psalter*.

This much used hymn speaks about several aspects of our relationship in Christ. Stanza 1 says that we have fellowship with kindred minds. “Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.” Just as threads are knit together to make a cloth, so the hearts of Christians are to be knit together by the tie which binds (Colossians 2:2). That tie which binds is Christian love (1 John 4:17-21). Furthermore, this Christian love is the basis for “the fellowship of kindred minds” which “is like to that above” (1 John 1:7). Our fellowship together is based on our first having fellowship with God and with Christ as we walk in the light of the revealed word left to us by the inspired apostle.

Stanza 2 says that our aims are one: “Before our Father’s throne we pour our ardent prayers; Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.” As Christians who have the fellowship of kindred minds, we can come together before the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:14-16). And as we come before the throne, we can pour our ardent prayers, including those for one another (James 5:13-16). As we come together in prayer before the throne of grace, we are (or should be) reminded of the oneness that God wants us (Galatians 3:28). Those who have fellowship with Christ are all one in Christ, and this oneness should be manifested in our attitude toward one another.

Stanza 3 says that we bear our mutual burdens: “We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear; And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.” The word share suggests a joint-participation in some activity based upon a mutual relationship, as described by Paul (Philippians 2:1-4). One way that we share is by bearing one another’s burdens (Galatians 6:2). Another way that we share is by the sympathizing tear (Romans 12:15). Our oneness in Christ demands that we develop the kind of attitude toward each other that we will bear one another’s burdens and sympathize with one another’s woes.

Stanza 4 says that even when we part, we can still be joined in heart: “When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain; But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.” One of the blessings of our sharing together is the time that we can spend together in worship; but the reality is that as much as we enjoy this time together, the hour must come when we have to part (Genesis 31:49). That parting brings an inward pain, especially with the knowledge that circumstances may arise where we will never see one another again on this earth (Acts 20:36-38). Even though we cannot be assured of seeing one another in this life, we maintain the hope of seeing one another again in heaven where we can join with the saints of all ages (Matthew 8:11). As we bear one another’s burdens, we become even more closely knit together in mind and soul, regardless of any present or future separations, and can look forward to being joined together forever, singing praises to the Lamb eternally.

Stanza 5 says that we can be revived and encouraged by this hope: “This glorious hope revives our courage by the way; While each in expectation lives, and longs to see the day.” This glorious hope is eternal life in heaven (1 Peter 1:3-5). Such a hope serves to revive our courage as we continue our journey throughout life (Habakkuk 3:2). Because we have such a hope, we live in expectation and long to see the day when the Lord returns to take us to His new heaven and new earth (2 Peter 3:10-13).

Stanza 6 says that we have an eternal tie that will bind us together in heaven: “From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin, we shall be free; And perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.” When the Lord does return and take us to our eternal home, we shall be free from all sorrow, toil, pain, and sin (Revelation 21:4). There, the saints will reign forever with Christ in perfect love and friendship (Revelation 22:1-5). Because of this relationship that we have to one another in Christ now, the redeemed of all ages will be joined together forever, singing praises to the Lamb in eternity (Revelation 7:14-17).

One of the greatest blessings that Christians have on earth is the fellowship and association of God’s people to give us encouragement as we try to live here in preparation for heaven. And this song so beautifully pictures the blessings of this relationship based on brotherly love as it says, “Blest be the tie that binds.”

Kyle Moses  
Mathis, TX

## BELVEDERE BEACON

“Ye are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14)

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535 Clearwater Road, Belvedere, SC 29841-2574

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### Doctrine and Unity

Romans 16:17 speaks concerning doctrine and unity: “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them that are causing the divisions and occasions of stumbling, contrary to the doctrine which ye learned: and turn away from them.” This passage states it plainly: where doctrines that are contrary to **the** doctrine are taught and received, not unity, but “divisions and occasions of stumbling” result.

Some say, “It is not doctrine that unites us, it is love.” Scriptural unity surely involves love between the parties concerned, but it requires far more. God loved the world immensely when He gave Christ for sinful men (John 3:16), but there was hardly any unity there. In light of Romans 16:17, there can be no Heaven-ordained unity in a climate of doctrinal diversity. This passage alone is sufficient to expose the insidious “unity in diversity” doctrine.... Unity on any basis that ignores or forfeits doctrinal Truth is not Scriptural unity.

In the face of contrary, destructive doctrines, many yet cry for patience and tolerance toward their purveyors. Just how long can false teachers be allowed to ravish the bride of Christ? For example, how long must we wait to apply Paul’s order to men who openly propagate divisive and contrary doctrines on marriage, divorce, and remarriage? These doctrines are leading thousands of saints to live in fornication. Already many congregations have been influenced by such teachers, becoming open havens for the unscripturally divorced and remarried. The fall-out of this tragedy is already awful, but it will be many times worse in the next generation, as these men in adulterous marriages are appointed as elders and deacons.

These doctrines have become the source of much division, even abroad. If now is not the time for faithful brethren to stand up and say, “We have taken note of these false teachers and we must turn away from them” (Rom. 16:18), when will the time be? How many more churches and families must be divided and how many more souls lost before we draw the line and say, “This far and no further”? (The same goes for the proponents of other heresies among us, such as the reaffirmation and reconfirmation of elders.)

As sad and difficult as the task is, can we any longer resist the instruction of the Holy Spirit? ...[We should] not knowingly endorse, work with, encourage, or use [false teachers] or their materials in a way that implies fellowship or agreement. If brethren would thus act as one, the influence of such men could be nullified almost overnight.

Dub McClish,  
Denton, TX

#### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

##### SUNDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 10.00 am.  
Morning Worship 11.00 am.  
Evening Worship 6.00 p.m.

##### WEDNESDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 7.00 p.m.

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## KEN'S KORNER

### THE WRONG RUNWAY

Early last Sunday morning, first reports began to come in of a plane crash at the Bluegrass Airport in Lexington, Kentucky. At the time of writing there is only one survivor from the 50 on board, the co-pilot, who was in control of the aircraft at take-off. He is in critical condition at a Lexington hospital. As the day continued, first reports began to come across the radio and television that there was a possibility that the plane, bound for Atlanta had somehow taken off from the wrong runway. This has now been confirmed from reports put out by the NTSB as they continue to examine the cause of the crash. The plane had gotten on to a runway that was for small aircraft and was only 3,500 feet in length whereas the ComAir jet needed a minimum of 5,000 feet to fully get off the ground. The main runway is 7,000 feet more than adequate for the jet. Evidently, the taxiing route for the jets had been changed a week earlier following the repaving of the main runway. At this time it is unclear if the crew of ComAir flight 5191 had been to the airport since then as ComAir only flies this route on Sundays. Whatever happened, a mistake was made and it proved deadly for those aboard the early morning flight.

This tragedy can teach us, if we will, some important lessons. Jesus said, "*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*" (John 14:6). Jesus is **THE** way, if we miss that way, we are on the wrong "runway." Jesus also said, "*Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: [14] Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*" (Matthew 7:13-14). The "way" of Jesus is a "narrow way" and "*few there be that find it.*" Thus it truly makes a difference as to which "way" we are in and to insure that we are indeed on the "right runway."

Many are traveling on the "wrong runway" of life yet they are not, even though they may have convinced themselves that they are in the "narrow way." Even some members of the Lord's church may consider themselves to be on the "right runway" but they do not "*walk in the light, as he is in the light*" (I John 1:7)., by their words and by the things that they do, and do not do, they show that they are not walking along the "narrow way." The Bible makes it clear that man may think he is on the "right runway" when he is not, "*There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death*" (Proverbs 16:25). Jeremiah the prophet wrote, "*O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.*" (Jeremiah 10:23). Paul wrote to the church at Corinth, "*Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?*" (II Corinthians 13:5). Whether anyone in the plane that crashed in Kentucky ever knew they were on the wrong runway, we will never know. What we do know was that if they did, they found out too late. Don't wait until the last minute, make sure you are on the "right runway" of life, only to find out, too late that you are not and it is too late to make correction before eternity begins.

*Ken Chambley*

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

**October 1 through 5 will be the dates of our Gospel Meeting. We will be using preachers from the general area. The theme will be "Our Perfect God".**

### NEWS AND NOTES

Let us continue to keep in our prayers Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett, Kathy Treadway's mother, Lanny Niver's father, Tim Arnold's father. Susan Arnold and baby Aaron are doing well. However, the doctor does not want them out until next week. Aiden Arnold was not out Wednesday as he was sick. Steven Wilson was also sick Wednesday evening and not able to be out. Keep Ted Rush, preacher at Mauldin, SC in your prayers as he continues his recovery. Helen Culpepper was unable to be out Sunday.

**LISTEN TO THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST RADIO PROGRAM**  
**1050 AM -- WFAM**  
**Sundays 8.00 a.m. to 8.30 a.m**

### A Traveler's Guide to Heaven

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Arrangements for accommodation must be made in advance (John 14:2).

**PASSPORTS:** Persons seeking entry will not be permitted past the gates without having proper credentials and having their names registered with the ruling authority (Revelation 21:27).

**DEPARTURE TIME:** The exact date of departure has not been announced. Travelers are advised to be prepared to leave at short notice (1 Corinthians 15:52).

**TICKETS:** Your ticket was purchased by a Friend named Jesus. It should be claimed and its promises kept firmly in hand (John 5:24; Hebrews 5:8-9).

**LUGGAGE:** No luggage whatsoever can be taken (1 Timothy 6:7).



**IMMIGRATION:** All passengers are classified as immigrants, since they are taking up permanent residence in a new country. The quota is unlimited (Hebrews 11:16).

**VACCINATION/INOCULATIONS:** Injections are not needed, as there are no illnesses or diseases there (Revelation 21:4).

**CURRENCY:** Supplies of "treasures" may be forwarded to await passenger's arrival. Make deposits as large as possible (Matthew 6:20).

**CLOTHING:** A complete and appropriate new wardrobe is provided for each traveler (Isaiah 61:10).

**RESERVATIONS:** Booking is now open. Since departure time is unknown, you should apply at once. If you wait, it may be too late (2 Corinthians 6:2).

*To learn more, please consult real traveler's guide – the Bible.*

*Via the Harrisburg church of Christ  
Harrisburg, IL*