



WELCOME VISITORS! Thank you for joining us today to worship the Lord. If this is your first visit here, please honor us by filling out a visitor's card found on the back of each pew. Your prayer requests may also be made on the flip side of the card. At the close of service, please put your card in the contribution box at the front of the auditorium as you exit. Or you can hand it to any member.

During the service we will celebrate communion. (Sacraments are available on the table in the entry foyer.) This is a time that we partake of unleavened bread and juice from the fruit of the vine to remind us what Jesus has done for us. Communion is not only about Jesus' death, but his resurrection and triumph over death and sin. His resurrection is the source of our hope that God will fulfill his promise of eternal life through Jesus the Christ.

Address:	5728 White Settlement Road Westworth Village, TX 76114
Office Phone:	817-738-7536
Services:	Sunday 10:00 am
Bible Study:	Wednesday 7:00 pm
Website:	www.westworthcoc.org
Email:	Westworthchurch@sbcglobal.net
Facebook Group:	Westworth Church of Christ
Trustees:	Curtis Dunson, Randy Fetters, Brian Flaherty, Eric Kreger, Curtis Thompson
Minister: John Jewell	Email johnjewell96@att.net

- **Women's Bible Study (virtual)** —PAUSED until after the holidays
- **Wednesday Bible Study (The Chosen)** —Resumes on December 1—Menu for 12/1—Oriental foods



The Philemon Pickle in the Middle Ages

Although slavery survived the Middle Ages it was forced to change and evolve because of the influence of Christianity. It is interesting that the catalyst for change was not the institutional church, but the impact of the gospel on the lives of individuals. The legal blows dealt to slavery during the Middle Ages were championed by people with political and economic means whose hearts had been changed by the gospel.

At the start of the Middle Ages society and government still found slavery to be a useful institution. It was the destination for criminals, debtors, children whose parents sold them into slavery, and prisoners of war. The issue that started the change was the Philemon Pickle: What do Christians do with Christian slaves? This became a dilemma because Christianity now became the legally recognized religion of an empire with millions of slaves.

The advancements against slavery were slow, but each advance saved thousands from slavery. The first huge change was the end of enslaving previously free Christians. Though slavery was still the destination for criminals, and debtors, it was not the destination for the many Christians captured during wars between Christian states. During this period, Christianity successfully challenged the slave trade. First, free Christians could not be enslaved, and second, Christian slaves could not be exported to non-Christian lands. The impact of these two laws plus the rise of serfdom virtually ended the slave trade in Europe. Slaves became harder to find, and soon the slave traders moved to non-Christian countries boarding Europe.

Another tool in the hands of Christian abolitionists was the “ransoming of captives,” which was one of the Seven Acts of Mercy. It was initially the idea of buying back Christian slaves from non-Christian owners in Europe, but later included areas outside of Europe. Many, like Saint Eligius, a goldsmith, spent fortunes purchasing slaves and giving them their freedom.

Queen Bathild went from being a slave to the wife of Clovis II. She

became the mother of three, and upon the early death of her husband she became the queen regent for her son. During this time, she abolished the practice of trading Christian slaves. But her favorite thing was to use her vast wealth to buy and free slaves, especially children.

But every now and then even the popes would use slavery as a club to beat down their enemies. With the crusades and the labor shortage in Europe due to the Black Death, slavery made a resurgence. Muslims and Christians sold each other into slavery in vast numbers, and frustrated popes condemned to slavery those who opposed them. Pope Gregory XI legalized the arrest and enslavement of Florentines and the confiscation of their property throughout Europe. **The question for next week is** which group captured people for the slave trade along the coasts of Europe?

David Keller



Celebrate

November Birthdays

Melva Campbell	29 Nov	Tom Reynolds	30 Nov
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December Birthdays

Joe Campbell	Dec 1		Christy Snell	Dec 26
Bill Belich	Dec 3		Jack Lisle	Dec 29
Curtis Thompson	Dec 4		Darla Thornton	Dec 31
David Burris	Dec 24			

December Anniversaries



Bob & Betty Lane	Dec 23
Max & Nita Parker	Dec 25
Bill & Sherry Jones	Dec 31

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Date	Today— November 28
Open	Curtis Thompson
Usher	Bill Jones
Songs/Close	Eric Kreger
Communion	Max Lisle
Prayer	Tom Reynolds
Bible Story	Randy Fetters
Reading	Ben Jewell
Lesson/Sermon	John Jewell
A/V	Susan Flaherty

COMING WEEKS

Date	Dec 5	Dec 12	Dec 19
Open	Curtis Thompson	Brian Flaherty	John Jewell
Usher	Eric Kreger	Randy Fetters	Brian Flaherty
Songs/Close	Christian Lindsey	Samuel Flaherty	Christian Lindsey
Communion	Max Lisle	Mike Lisle	Johnny Box
Prayer	Curtis Dunson	Max Lisle	Curtis Thompson
Bible Story	Brian Flaherty	Curtis Dunson	David Keller
Reading	John Snell	Johnny Box	Ernie Brawley
Lesson	Trustees	John Jewell	John Jewell
A/V	Susan Flaherty	Robby Robertson	Randy Fetters

Communion Preparation December: Anita Gray