



Jeff Sweeten

*Thus Saith the Lord*  
is presented by the

## **Park Heights Church of Christ**

1300 E. Boynton St.  
Hamilton  
254-386-3953

### **Schedule of Services**

#### **SUNDAY**

9:30 a.m. Bible Class  
10:25 a.m. Morning Worship  
1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship

#### **WEDNESDAY**

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

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# *Thus Saith the Lord* **DO YOU BELIEVE JESUS?**

By Jeff Sweeten

*“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.” JOHN 17:20-21*

Many a religious person has asserted that he or she believes what Jesus said. However, to hear them say so and then compare that claim to their religious practice reveals such incredible inconsistency that it begs the question: do you really believe Jesus? Or, is it the case that you believe Jesus was just delusional when He prayed for unity?

Jesus did not pray for the impossible! In fact, if all individuals claiming to believe Jesus were to discard every religious name not found in the Bible and trash every religious creed that adds to or takes away from the Bible, all persons claiming to believe Jesus would be unified; pure and simple. It is only through these unauthorized human creeds, which give glory to unscripturally named organizations, that divisions can exist; remove them and unity is the end result. Why cannot all who claim to believe Jesus wear the name Christian, the only proper name in the New Testament that identifies those who believe Him (Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16)? Why cannot all those who believe in Jesus' words follow only what Jesus and His inspired apostles said (2 Timothy 3:15-17), and not humanly devised creeds and statements of faith? My friends, these unscriptural names and creeds are the source of all that divides those who claim to believe Jesus (cf. Matthew 15:8-9).

What is truly sad is that we live in a nation filled with the eternally lost, imbibing everything from macro-evolution to aliens, spiritually blind and groping in a damnable darkness for something consistent and relevant, a light by which to guide their life (Matthew 5:14-16) and give them hope (Romans 8:24). In the meantime, religious people who claim to believe in Jesus are divided by names and creeds. And the real tragedy of all this is that religious people who claim to believe Jesus are undermining the very purpose of Jesus' prayer for unity: the salvation of the world! Friends, Jesus prayed for unity so “that the world may believe” that God the Father sent Him, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Little wonder religious people struggle to convert the unbeliever when they claim to believe Jesus and simultaneously trumpet such a cacophony of chaos! And, so, the hope of Heaven for the lost is lost; suppressed, stifled and sullied by rank religious division and perpetuated by the very pious people who insist on maintaining their divisive names and creeds, all the while claiming they believe Jesus. Really!