

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Rom. 16:16)

Introduction:

1. Welcome to the assembly of the church of Christ. This morning we would like to discuss who we are and why we do the things we do. This is a way of informing our visitors and reminding our members.
2. Let us this morning consider the name of the church, the authority of the church, the membership of the church, and the worship of the church.

Discussion:

I. The Name of the Church of Christ.

- A. The name "church of Christ" is not denominational, that is, not chosen by men to differentiate from other groups with varying beliefs, but is relational. The church of Christ is the church that belongs to Christ, the church that is Christ's.
- B. In Matt. 16:18, 19 Jesus said He would build His church (singular, not one of many) upon the confession of the fact that He was the Christ, the Son of the living God. The church of Christ is dedicated to being that church.
- C. The name is also biblical (Rom. 16:16).

II. The Authority of the Church of Christ.

- A. The authority of the church of Christ, the church that is Christ's, is Christ.
 1. The church is called the kingdom of Christ (Col. 1:13) and the body of Christ (Col. 1:18, 24). And the head of the church (the body) is Christ (Eph. 4:15).
 2. Thus the authority of the church is the word of Christ which is only found in the Bible.
- B. Consider the following biblical teaching on the inspiration of the Bible.
 1. In 2 Pet. 1:20, 21 we learn that scripture is not of individual interpretation, but is given by the Holy Spirit working through men.
 2. In John 14:26 and John 16:13 Jesus said He would send the Holy Spirit to His disciples to help them remember all that He had taught them and even some things He had not been able to teach them.
 3. In Eph. 3:1-7 the apostle Paul explained how inspiration worked.
 4. In 2 Pet. 1:12-15 we understand why the apostles wrote scripture.
- C. When we put it all together we understand that the only authority in Christianity is Christ. His words have been given to us by way of His disciples who were inspired by the Holy Spirit. We have this inspired word in the Bible (Consider John 17:20 and Matt. 28:18-20).

III. The Membership of the Church of Christ.

- A. How does one become a member of the church of Christ? According to the word of God as found in the Bible (Acts 2:37-47).
- B. If those who are being saved are the ones added to the church by God, then this begs the question of how is one saved?
 1. In John 8:24 we learn that we must believe that Jesus is the Christ.
 2. In Luke 13:3, 5 we learn that we must repent, change our thinking.
 3. In Matt. we learn we must confess (in word and life) Jesus as our Lord.
 4. In Mark 16:16 we learn that we must believe and obey (baptism).
- C. It is all found in Romans 10.
 1. Verse 17 our faith comes by hearing the word of God.
 2. Verses 9, 10 belief and confession necessary for salvation.
 3. Verse 3 we must change our mind about who determines the means of salvation.

4. Verse 16 we must obey in order to be saved.

IV. The Worship of the Church of Christ.

- A. The Lord's Supper (Luke 22:19; Acts 20:7).
- B. Prayer (talking with God).
- C. Singing (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).
- D. Giving (1 Cor. 16:1, 2).
- E. Preaching (God talking with us = Matt. 22:31).

Conclusion:

1. God desires that all men be saved (1 Tim. 2:4). The church of Christ is comprised of those who are being saved (Acts 2:47) by submitting to the word of God and continuing to be faithful to that word (Rev. 2:10).
2. Would you like to be a part of the church that is Christ's?
3. Invitation.