



Contact Us:

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Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study 9:45 AM
Worship..... 10:40 AM
Care, Inc. Service..... 2:30 PM
Worship..... 6:00 PM

Tuesday:

Redstone Class..... 9:30 AM

Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class On Break
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Billy Chism

Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Jim Moore

Don Smith..... James Thomas

Preacher:

Ryan Smithey.....

Works We Support:

Cherokee Home for Children
Gospel Broadcast Network
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)
House to House, Heart to Heart
Mission Printing
Rohan Jones, Africa
The Truth in Love
World Bible School

WHY I AM A (Grateful) MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Author Anonymous; Edited)

"Why are you a member of the church of Christ?" is a question oft asked by those around us. Peter urges us to "be ready always to give answer to every man that asketh you a reason concerning the hope that is in you..." (I Pet. 3:15). My reasons for being a member of the church of Christ are numerous. Here I share some of them.

1. I choose to be a member of the church of Christ because she seeks to follow God's Word in every aspect of her existence. Does anyone doubt that the church revealed in the New Testament is the ideal for which we should strive? We call this "restoring the church to her original state and purity."
2. Because the church of Christ is anti-denominational, I am part of her. Christ built but one church; i.e., his church (Matt. 16:18). Scripture tells us there is "one body," which is His church (Eph. 4:4; 1:22-23). Paul made it clear that the practice of fracturing into parties with loyalties to men and wearing man-made names is contrary to God's will (I Cor. 1:10-14). She has no earthly head, no pope, no president, no archbishop, and no earthly headquarters. The kingdom (church) of Christ (Matt. 16:18-19) is not of this world (John 18:36). It is unique in this respect. It is a heavenly kingdom. Her head, Jesus, resides there at God's right hand (Acts 2:32-33).
3. I am a member of the church of Christ because each congregation is independent and free standing under Christ, as the one and only the head of His church (Eph. 1:22-23). Each chooses her own local leadership (elders) who supervise her activities according to the Scripture. No one outside of the congregation has any say in its business or conduct. This we call local autonomy. Those elders have authority only over the congregation of which they are part (Acts 20:28; I Pet. 5:2). By this she avoids many pitfalls that trouble other religious bodies.
4. I choose to be a member of the church of Christ because she takes seriously the commission to preach the Gospel to lost humanity and win them for Christ (Mark 16:15-16). She actively conducts mission efforts around the world and is willing to make sacrifices to help save souls through the Gospel of Christ.

(Continued on page 2)

Let us know if you want to study
the Bible to know more about
Christ and His Church.



*But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious,
longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.*

Psalms 86:15

5. I serve in the church of Christ because she properly understands that saving faith is obedient faith (Gal. 5:6) and teaches that God's saving grace is conditional. Grace is God's part in our salvation; faith and obedience are our responsibility (Rom. 1:5). I stand with the church of Christ because she teaches men and women that they must obey Christ if they hope to be saved (Heb. 5:9). She reminds them it is not enough to talk about religion, we must do the will of the Father in Heaven (Matt. 7:21).
6. I am part of the church of Christ because she teaches sinners to believe in Jesus the Son of God (John 3:16), who by his sacrificial death on the cross now extends saving grace to all who are submissive to him (Eph. 2:8-9). She teaches sinners to be born again of water and Spirit (John 3:5), by being baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:26-27) specifically **for** the forgiveness of their sins, exactly and exclusively as sacred Scriptures teach (Acts 2:38; 22:16).
7. I am thankful to be a part of Christ's church, among those who speak as the oracles of God—those who give God glory through Jesus Christ, wearing Christ's name without shame (I Pet. 4:11, 16; Acts 11:26; 26:28; Col. 3:17; II Tim. 1:13; Titus 2:1; Isa. 8:20). Christ is not a polygamist—He has only one bride, and he is not ashamed to wear her Bridegroom's name (Rom. 7:4; Eph. 5:23ff; Rev. 22:17).
8. I am a member of this church because her worship is thoroughly biblical. She offers her worship to God in spirit and truth, according to the New Testament pattern (John 4:23-24; Col. 3:17). She sings her hymns of praise as the first Christians did (Eph. 5:19). She lifts up her prayers to God, and brings Him her offerings (Eph. 5:20; I Cor. 16:1-2). Each Lord's day she remembers the Lord's death in communion (Matt. 26:26-28; Acts 20:7). She hears preaching from God's Word (Acts 2:42). She neither adds to nor takes away from the worship set forth in the New Testament of Christ (II Tim. 1:13; Prov. 30:6).
9. The church of Christ serves as God's hands to minister to the poor, the suffering and those who are dying. She "remembers the poor" (Gal. 2:10). She "remembers the fatherless and widows in their affliction" (James 1:27). She does good to all men, especially those of the household of faith (Gal. 6:10).
10. I love the church of Christ because she is God's voice, calling men to his truth, righteousness and godly conduct in the world (2 Thess. 2:14; Tit. 2:12). She is dedicated to her mission of preaching the Gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15). Her faithful members, with their blameless and harmless lives, are like lights in the world, holding forth the word of life (Phil. 2:15-16).
11. I am a member of the church of Christ because her destiny is to spend eternity with her Lord in Heaven (Acts 2:47; Eph. 5:23). When Christ returns in glory and power, he will raise deceased members from their graves and instantly change her living members, making them all suitable for eternal life. They will be caught up to glory and ever be with the Lord (I Thess. 4:16-17). In I Corinthians 15:24, Paul says when He returns, Christ will "deliver up the kingdom (i.e., his church) to God even the Father..."
12. **Because I want to be with God's people in eternity, I choose to be with them now**, worshiping and serving Him in His spiritual family, "the church of the living God" (I Tim. 3:15; Heb. 10:25).

Television	God's Plan for Redeeming Man	Bible Study Schedule
<p>The Truth In Love (Robert Dodson) Sunday @ 7:00 am on KTAB</p> <p>In Search of the Lord's Way Sunday @ 7:30 am on KTAB</p> <p>Gospel Broadcasting Network Online: 24/7 @ gbntv.org and on Roku TV: Sunday @ 6:30 am on Dish: 267, DirectTV: 376</p> <p>Radio</p> <p>Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3</p>	<p>Hear Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).</p> <p>Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)</p> <p>Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)</p> <p>Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)</p> <p>Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being baptized for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)</p> <p>Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)</p>	<p>Week 52 1 Kings 16-21 & Acts 14-15</p> <p>Study sheets are available at the back of the auditorium.</p> <p>Also anyone interested can join us at 5 PM each Sunday in the fellowship hall to discuss the questions and answers.</p> <p><i>"...desire the sincere milk of the work, that ye may grow thereby;" (1 Pet. 2:2)</i></p>



Visitation Meeting

Remember our visitation meeting each Sunday night following the evening worship to sign cards and discuss the work going on. Please join us each time.

Last week **31 contacts** were made.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ The **Ladies class** will be on break until January 9th.
- ◆ **Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Party** at the building. Starting at 6 PM till whenever. Bring games, food, etc. and come enjoy a good time together as we welcome the new year.

Notes & Thank You Cards

- ◆ A number of cards are on the bulletin board that have been received this week and last week.
- ◆ Thank you so much for your generous support for my mission trip to Jamaica. I am very excited about the opportunities that this trip will bring to spread the gospel as well as strengthen my own faith, and am very appreciative of all your help. *In Christian Love, Abby Hall* (the church here helped fund Abby's trip this coming March).

This article was written at Thanksgiving, but is just as fitting now as it is easy to forget the giving of thanks and concentrate on the desire to have more. As another year closes, we have much to be thankful for! ~Ryan

What DO You Have? By Neal Pollard

Most of us could have a little more financial security. Most of us are not driving the car of our dreams, living in the house of our dreams, or going on the vacation of our dreams. We have relationship problems, work-related problems, health problems, and miscellaneous problems. We've been hurt, disappointed, betrayed, and mistreated. We stress, worry, and fret about our country, children, parents, job, past, present, and future. It's not heaven here, so there is plenty that is lacking if we're looking.

But, what do you have? People can complain under the most ideal circumstances. It takes no talent or self-discipline. James reminds us where every good and perfect gift originates (1:17). Jesus says our gifts can be "running over" (Lk. 6:38), and how often they are!

Do you have breath today? Do you have eyes to see God's beauty? Do you have the blessing of hearing, able to detect laughter and chatter? Do you have warmth from the cold, food for the stomach, refreshing water or even coffee or tea? Do you have family around or near, if only in your heart? Do you have friends you can count on when you need them? Do you have those to love and

those who love you? Do you have sunlight and stars? Do you have a great many conveniences that billions around the world would deem luxuries (like this computer)? Do you have a stove, refrigerator, microwave, toaster, blender, table, chairs, bed, couch, and running water? Do you have the wherewithal to take a hot shower? Do you have a toothbrush? Do you have transportation to get where you need (or want) to be, right at your disposal? Do you have music appreciation? Do you have pleasant memories? Do you have a bed upon which to lie each night? Do you have public services--police, fire and rescue, hospitals and doctors? Do you have freedom of choice and freedom from persecution? Do you have a church home? Do you have a God of infinite power and care, a Spirit who guided men to reveal God's perfect and complete written will, and a Savior who loved you enough to give up His life for you? If you do, and many of you do, you have a head-start on counting your blessings. If you concentrate, you can easily quadruple the list above in nearly no time at all. Perhaps we all need to practice more grateful thinking and remember what all we do have!

Celebrate

"Rejoice with those who rejoice..." (Romans 12:15)

December Birthdays: James Womack (04), Freda Cox (05), Estelle Guthrie (07), Laverne Thomas (13), Veneta Nolen (17), Kaci Churchwell (18), Priscilla Smithey (18), Linda Griffith (20), Mia Stroope (22), Joyce Hill (24).

December Anniversaries: Linda & Allen Griffith (20), Ginger & Howard King (24), Jo & Ken Maninger (25).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



Records

	Dec. 9, 2012	Dec. 16, 2012
Bible Class	46	52
AM Worship	65	70
PM Worship	43	54
Wednesday PM	45	36
Contribution	\$1890	\$1822

Privileged To Serve

"...be ready to every good work" (Titus 3:1)

	This Week: 12/23/12	Next Week: 12/30/12	December 2012	
Sunday AM:	Lead Singing: James Fuller	Lead Singing: Tom Wilcox	Make Announcements: Garrett Barnum	
Greeters	Charles & Bennie White	The Joe Dennis Family	Prepare Communion: Don & Darlene Smith	
Opening Prayer	Ken Maninger	Hank Wheeler	Clean Building: Cindy Fuller	
Communion	Joe Dennis*, John Barnum Allen Griffith, Hank Wheeler	Allen Griffith*, Gene Bannister Don Smith, Garrett Barnum	Keep Grounds: James Fuller	
Closing Prayer	Don Smith	Jim Moore	January 2013	
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez	Seth Smithey/Caleb Dennis	Make Announcements: John Barnum	
Sunday PM:			Prepare Communion: Tom & Carol Wilcox	
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	Billy Chism	Clean Building: The Smithey Family	
Scripture Reading	Jim Moore <i>Jude 1-4</i>	Joe Dennis	Keep Grounds: Charles White	
Communion	Joe Dennis	Allen Griffith		
Closing Prayer	Billy Chism	James Thomas		
Wednesday Devotionals:	December 26 Garrett Barnum	January 2 Joe Dennis	January 9 James Fuller	January 16 Jim Moore

Search the Scriptures

Be like the Bereans who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)

Studies for the week of December 23, 2012	Sunday Class <i>Philippians (Intro)</i> Wednesday Class <i>Redemption Through The Bible</i>
<p>The Choice Is Yours (Acts 13) As we saw last week, the gospel is for all...our studies this week, particularly a sermon Paul makes in Antioch, remind us again that what we do with it is up to us.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Faithfulness of God A number of times Paul reminds the people that God had fulfilled His promises (13: 23, 27, 32ff). We must always remember that God will be true to His word and promises even today. The Blessings of the Gospel The gospel is a proclamation of: salvation (13:26), glad tidings (13:32), forgiveness of sins (13:38), and justification (13:39). As a messenger of God, he had something to offer that they should desire as we should as well today. The Choice to be Made But in the end, whether they enjoyed the blessings of the gospel is up to them (13:30-41). Our reading this week was full of examples of people being free to choose to do as they wished and reaping the consequences or benefits from it: Solomon (1 Kings 10:23, 11:1-4); Jeroboam (1 Kings 11:38, 13:33-34); Herod (Acts 12) vs Manaen (13:1). Even when the gospel was proclaimed, some desired more (13:42-44), some rejected it and worked against it (counting themselves unworthy of eternal life (45-47, 50-51)), and some listened and obeyed (48-49, 52). 	<p>Is There Not A Cause? (Part 2) David stood before his brethren, as God and His army was being mocked, and asked this searching question (1 Samuel 17:29). David was ready to stand up and defend the honor of his God and God's people, even against Goliath. Because of David's courage, Goliath was conquered, and the armies of God triumphed...never underestimate the power of one voice!</p> <p><i>This is a question we should ask today when God, His truth, His church, and His people are attacked. Is there not a cause:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> When our world is shaken by tragedy? Many rally behind "their cause," is ours God? Shall we not point people to Him that has the answers and is the answer? When God and His nature is attacked? Are we to defend His honor and point people to the truth? Do we sit idly by and allow Him to be defied and mocked? When sin runs rampant in our society? Shall we not speak out concerning God's standard and by that standard condemn the sin? Shall we not warn lost souls? When the Bible and Bible Authority are rejected? Will we speak out concerning His Word? Will we hold to it and defend it as the inspired, inerrant, immutable word of God? Will we proclaim it to others? When the church and the religious world is splintered by denominationalism and false doctrine? Will we proclaim the distinctiveness of the Lord's church? Will we contend for the faith and point people back New Testament church that rightly belongs to Christ?