



Contact Us:

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Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study9:45 AM
Worship10:40 AM
Care, Inc. Service 2:30 PM
Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class.10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Billy Chism

Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Don Smith

James Thomas

Preacher:

Johnny McCaghren

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

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

Churches of Christ Did Not Begin During The American Restoration Movement

To the surprise of some, **churches of Christ are not the result of a so-called "American Restoration Movement" in the 19th century**, which is associated with famous names such as Alexander Campbell, Barton W. Stone, David Lipscomb, Elias Smith, and Walter Scott.

Take, for example, a book I have in my possession from 1645 by Daniel Featley, called the *Dippers Dipt*. Featley was an official of the Church of England and one of the translators of the King James Version. In this book he chronicles an exchange he had with some early Christians. **In a derogatory fashion, Featley calls them "Anabaptists" – a name which they despised. Why? Because they only wanted to be called "Christians."**

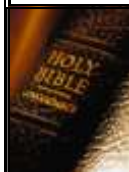
Since this book is in Early Modern English and was written to be antagonistic of anyone who questioned the teachings of the Church of England, it is sometimes difficult to paint an accurate picture of this strange "Anabaptist" religious group. But here are a few discernable traits I can make out of these people:

- These early Christians preferred to use the simple identity of "church of Christ." Nowhere in the book do they describe themselves with any other name.
- They vehemently rebuked the idea of "infant baptism," which was practiced by the Church of England. Instead, they argue that children are innocent and therefore do not need baptism.
- They argued that any male Christians could preach and administer baptism and the Lord's Supper. Why? Because they understood that all Christians are now priests (1 Pet. 2:9). This was in contrast to the Church of England, which had a long (and extra-biblical) process of ordination for church officials.
- They denied that the Church of England was a legitimate church, and argued that the Lord's church was the only one true church.
- They denied the concept of "original sin," and argued that mankind has the ability to choose whether to pursue or reject God. Thus, they were not Calvinists.
- They understood that repentance preceded baptism (which meant a child should not be baptized), and that baptism was the point at which a person is saved.
- They baptized by full immersion in water, as Featley argued that sprinkling was a valid means of baptism.

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"And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for **He taught them as one having authority,** and not as the scribes."

Matthew 7:28-29



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- They rejected the authority of the Pope, the authority of the Nicene Creed, and the teachings of Luther.
- They held that the church and the Kingdom are the same thing.

This book is only one example we could cite. I say all of this to say this: **The idea of restoring simple New Testament Christianity is not a recent invention.** Going back to the Bible is not a novel idea that originated only in the midst of the Second Great Awakening.

In fact, 21st century churches of Christ are part of the same restoration movement as the 1st century churches of Asia Minor (which we read about in Revelation 2-3).

Jesus told His church in Ephesus to “*repent, and do the works you did at first*” (Rev. 2:5). He told His church in Pergamum, “*Therefore repent*” (Rev. 2:16). He told His church in Sardis to “*remember...what you have received and heard. Keep it, and repent*” (Rev. 3:3). He told His church in Laodicea to “*be zealous and repent*” (Rev. 3:19). **These early churches had deviated from the Word of God, and thus Jesus commanded them to restore themselves to the pattern of sound teaching they had originally been taught** (cf. 2 Tim. 1:13).

Today is no different. We have just as much responsibility to follow the New Testament of Jesus Christ.

Sometimes 1st century churches got it wrong. Sometimes we get it wrong today. We can only try our best.

But understand that every church – whether it be the churches of Christ in the 21st century or churches of Christ in the 1st century – is on a **trajectory**; each congregation is either moving closer or further away from Jesus Christ and His Last Will and Testament. **Some churches have done a better job than others in restoring the simple Christianity of the Bible.**

But to be the church of Jesus Christ, we must always begin with this premise: The Last Will & Testament of Jesus Christ is our exclusive pattern of faith.

Ben Giselbach (plainsimplefaith.com)

Christians Are the Spiritual Israel of God

Some people are surprised that the Old Testament is so much larger in size than the New. In my Portuguese Bible it takes up 764 pages out of a total of 994. That’s 76% of the whole Bible. Several explanations as to why may be adequate, but here is one thought, how the Lord was building up to, and preparing for, the time when Christ would come and fulfill his eternal plan.

In both Testaments, God created a people for himself. In the Old Testament, it was Israel, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Each of Jacob’s sons became a tribe in Israel. In the New Testament, God’s people is the church, and they are variously described as the body of Christ, the family of faith, the temple of the Holy Spirit. No more is there a physical connection to define God’s holy ones. We are born into God’s family because we respond to his message and obey his commandments (John 3:3,5).

In his first letter, Peter took descriptions of the people of Israel and applied them to Christians. In that pivotal moment when Israel was gathered before Mount Sinai to receive the law, the Lord defined who they were, as he spoke to Moses.

“And now, if you will diligently listen to me and keep my covenant, then you will be my special possession out of all the nations, for all the earth is mine, and you will be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” These are the words that you will speak to the Israelites” (Exodus 19:5-6).

All this and more, says Peter, now applies to God’s spiritual house, which has Christ as the priceless cornerstone.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may proclaim the virtues of the one who called you out

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Television

The Truth In Love (Robert Dodson)

Sunday @ 7:00am on KTAB

In Search of the Lord’s Way (Phil Sanders)

Sunday @ 7:30am on KTAB

Life In The Light (Chris McCurley)

Sunday @ 10:30am on KTAB

Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)

Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

Internet

TheGospelRadioNetwork.org

Gospel Broadcasting Network (Gbnv.org)

God’s Plan for Redeeming Man

Hear Learn the saving message of Christ’s sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).

Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)

Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)

Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)

Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being **baptized** for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)

Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)

Bible Reading Schedule

Jan. 22	Exodus 14-16; Luke 20-22
Jan. 23	Exo. 17-19; Lk. 23-24; Jn. 1
Jan. 24	Exodus 20-22; John 2-4
Jan. 25	Exodus 23-25; John 5-7
Jan. 26	Exodus 26-28; John 8-10
Jan. 27	Exodus 29-31; John 11-13
Jan. 28	Exodus 32-34; John 14-16
Jan. 29	Exodus 35-37; John 17-19

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”



Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Each Sunday night immediately before the evening worship. Last week **41 contacts** were made.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ March 26-29—Spring Gospel Meeting with Russell Bell.

Other Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ **Jan. 28—Mighty Men’s Mentoring Conference @ Kingfisher, OK.** For more information go to kingfishercoc.org.
- ◆ Feb. 3-4—4th Annual Make Me A Servant Workshop at Mt. Vernon, “*Rekindling the Fire.*”
- ◆ March 5-8—Gospel Meeting at Rising Star w/ Mike Bonner.
- ◆ March 12-15—Gospel Meeting at Lake Shore Drive (Waco) w/ Jeff Jenkins.
- ◆ March 12-19—Young Men’s Development Conference at Bryan/College Station.
- ◆ March 26-29—75th Homecoming Lectures at Dripping Springs.
- ◆ April 2-5—Gospel Meeting at Hamilton w/ Denny Wilson.
- ◆ April 9-12—Gospel Meeting at 9th & Main (San Angelo) w/ Jason Rollo.
- ◆ April 16-19—Gospel Meeting at Bangs w/ Ronnie Hayes.
- ◆ April 30-May 3—Gospel Meeting at Gordon w/ Jessie Dickison.

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of darkness into his marvelous light. You once were not a people, but now you are God’s people. You were shown no mercy, but now you have received mercy” (1 Peter 2:9-10).

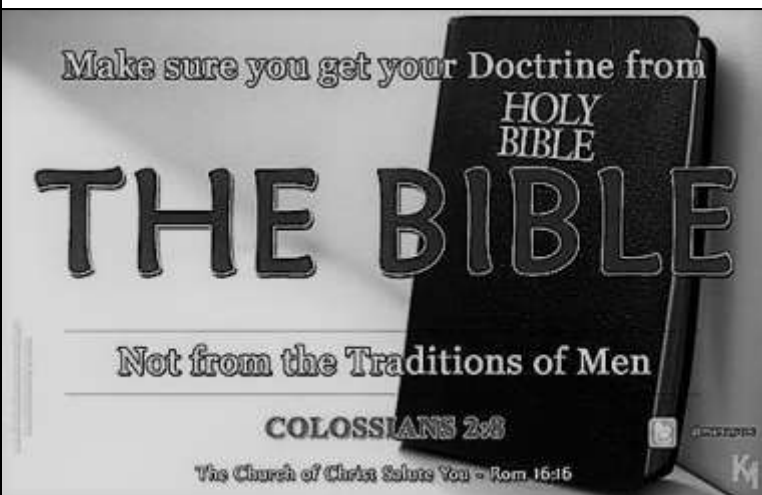
So now as God’s people we have an identity and a purpose. Paul calls us the “*Israel of God*” who are “*all who will be have in accordance with this rule*” (Galatians 6:16). The rule he cites is probably that of following an unadulterated gospel, of depending on the sacrifice of Christ for our life – the whole point of his letter to the Galatians. It is the rule of living in God’s grace. It is seeking the good of all, especially of “*those who belong to the family of faith*” (Galatians 6:10).

Who we are defines what we do. We are not end-point recipients of God’s grace, but the conduits of his salvation. We have a keen sense of who is in Christ and who is outside, and we know what it takes to move from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light. We who were not a people now belong to this people of God, and just as God desires that all be saved, we also desire and work for the inclusion of every soul in this safe place of grace and glory (Hebrews 2:10).

Peter’s description of our identity does not give us cause for pride. On the contrary, it gives us reason for thanksgiving. We are who we are, we are where we are, because of God’s mercy. And it motivates us to extend that mercy to those who have yet to experience it. Those who aren’t so motivated might ask themselves if they do not feel a deep sense of gratitude. In God’s kingdom, there can be no sense of entitlement.

There can only be joy at being chosen and wonder at being given such a precious gift to share.

J. Randal Matheny (forthright.net)



Celebrate

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

January Birthdays: Rachel Smith (15), Tom Wilcox (17), Anita Boyd (19), Jaceten Evetts (20), **Mattison Churchwell (25)**, Karen Bland (29), Judie Turner (29).

January Anniversaries: None.

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Jan. 8, 2017	Jan. 15, 2017
Bible Class	42	45
AM Worship	62	63
PM Worship	40	45
Wednesday PM	50	46
Contribution	\$2,268	\$1,633

Privileged To Serve

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

This Week: 1/22/17		Next Week: 1/29/17		January 2017 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: McCaghren Family Clean Building: McCaghren Family February 2017 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Allen & Linda Griffith Clean Building: Joe Dennis Family
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
Greeters	Allen & Linda Griffith	Maninger Family		
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	Randy Huckaby		
Communion	John Barnum*, Allen Bland Ryan Rudloff, Rafe Smith	Ken Maninger*, Chase Churchwell Joe Dennis, Caleb Dennis		
Closing Prayer	Allen Griffith	Gene Bannister		
Attendance Cards	Aaron Smith	Ian Barnum		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox		
Opening Prayer	Ken Maninger	James Fuller		
Scripture Reading	Tom Wilcox	John Barnum		
Communion	John Barnum	Ken Maninger		
Closing Prayer	Randy Huckaby	Allen Griffith		
Wednesday Devotionals:	January 25 Don Smith	February 1 Prayer Night	February 8 Joe Dennis	February 15 Rafe Smith

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 January 15, 2017

Sunday Class **Romans 4:5ff**
 Wed. Class **After Baptism, Then What?**

<p><u>He Taught as One Having Authority (Matt. 7:28-29)</u> <i>"And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes."</i></p> <p>I. The Inherent Right of Jesus' Authority.</p> <p>A. By Virtue of Being the Creator.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All things were made <i>through</i> Him (John 1:1-3; Heb. 1:2). All things were made <i>by</i> Him and <i>for</i> Him (Col. 1:16). Jesus has authority to demand whatever He desires of His creation. <p>B. By Virtue of Being the Heir.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> As prophesied, Jesus would be given all things (Psalm 2:8). As the Son, Jesus has been appointed "<i>heir of all things</i>" (Heb. 1:2). Jesus has authority over that which has been given Him. <p>C. By Virtue of Being the Redeemer.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus has redeemed us from our sins (1 Peter 1:18-19). This He has done with His own blood (Eph. 1:7; Acts 20:28). Jesus has authority over those purchased by His blood. <p>II. The Recognition of Jesus' Authority.</p> <p>A. He Was Worshipped by Angels.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> When He came into the world (Luke 2:14; Heb. 1:6). As He sat on the throne of God (Rev. 5:11-12). Angels deemed Him worthy to receive power (authority). <p>B. He Was Recognized by Demons.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> They acknowledged He had the authority to destroy them (Mark 1:23-24). They obeyed His rebuke (Mark 1:25-26). Demons could not resist His authority. <p>C. He Was Praised by the Redeemed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Those before the throne and the Lamb (Rev. 7:9-10). Praised for having authority over the kings of the earth (Rev. 1:5). <p>III. The Extent of Jesus' Authority.</p> <p>A. He Has All Authority in Heaven and on Earth.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Announced by Him prior to His ascension (Matt. 28:18). Received when He ascended to sit at God's right hand (Eph. 1:20-22; 1 Pet. 3:22). King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 1:5; 1 Tim. 6:14-15). <p>B. He Is Head Over the Church.</p> <p>C. As the Head, He delegated authority to His apostles (Jn. 16:12-13; Mt. 28:20).</p> <p>May we all honor and accept the authority of Jesus Christ!</p>	<p><u>Trust Psalms – Psalm 16 – "God: The Supreme Good"</u> Also a Messianic Psalm, with 4 of its 11 verses quoted in the NT.</p> <p>I. In God I Trust (1-2).</p> <p>A. David begins his praise of God with a declaration of the faith that is at the core of his being – "<i>Preserve me, O God.</i>"</p> <p>B. His response to the grace of God – "<i>for in You I put my trust.</i>"</p> <p>C. David's Lord – "<i>O my soul, you have said to the LORD, 'You are my Lord.'</i>"</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The first "LORD" is יהוה [YHWH], the personal name for God. The second "Lord" is אדוני [Adonay] – Master, Ruler, or Lord. "<i>My soul says to Yehweh, 'You are my Master, my Ruler, my Lord.'</i>" <p>D. "<i>My goodness is nothing apart from You</i>" – God is David's greatest good.</p> <p>II. Saints and Other Gods (3-4).</p> <p>A. David delights not only in God, but also in those who belong to God.</p> <p>B. David could not imagine worshiping a lifeless idol of stone or wood.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> "<i>Their sorrows shall be multiplied who hasten after another god.</i>" "<i>Their drink offerings of blood I will not offer.</i>" He vows not even to "<i>take up their names on my lips.</i>" <p>III. The Lord Is My Portion (5-6).</p> <p>A. "<i>O Lord, You are the portion of my inheritance.</i>"</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> "<i>Portion</i>" – his allotment, his possession, his "<i>inheritance.</i>" "<i>Thou art what I obtain from life, O thou Eternal, thou thyself art my share.</i>" (Moffatt) <p>B. "<i>You maintain my lot.</i>"</p> <p>C. These "<i>lines have fallen to [him] in pleasant places.</i>"</p> <p>IV. I Will Bless the Lord (7-10).</p> <p>A. "<i>I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel.</i>"</p> <p>B. "<i>My heart also instructs me in the night seasons.</i>"</p> <p>C. "<i>I have set the Lord always before me...I shall not be moved.</i>"</p> <p>D. "<i>Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices.</i>"</p> <p>E. "<i>My flesh also will rest in hope.</i>"</p> <p>F. "<i>For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.</i>"</p> <p>V. Satisfaction in God (11).</p> <p>A. God is his source of satisfaction - "<i>in Your presence is fullness of joy.</i>"</p> <p>B. Therefore, he says, "<i>At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.</i>"</p>
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