



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

John Barnum

Preacher:

Johnny McCaghren

Works We Support:

Cherokee Home for Children
Gospel Broadcast Network
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)
Mission Printing
Rohan Jones, Africa
World Bible School

The Unity Christ Demands #3

Just Christians

The unity Christ demands requires that we be neither *Catholic*, *Protestant* nor *Jew*. It is hard for many to comprehend this because they believe everyone has to be one or the other. Yet New Testament Christians are none of these. We are just Christians. We are not any "kind" of Christians. We're just Christians. The Bible knows nothing of Methodist Christians, Baptist Christians, Lutheran Christians, Catholic Christians, etc. etc. etc.

Let me illustrate it this way, if I invented the very first automobile and drove it to town, people are certainly going to ask (since they've never seen one), "what is it?" My answer, "it's a car." Their reply is not going to be, "what kind of car?" It would be foolish for them to ask that question since it's the only one that exists. There are no "kinds" of cars, it's just a car. In the years following, other men make cars (somewhat similar to the original) and kept doing so until there were dozens and dozens and dozens of cars. But none of them were identical to the first car. If they were, they would be the same as the original car. But they weren't genuine. To the very last one, they added to the features of my car; and, took away from the features of my car. They added what they wanted and they took away what they did not want. They each gave a different name to their own invention such as Roller, Zoomer, Milton, Keeper, etc. etc. They all are fakes, impostors, counterfeits, cheap imitations, as far as the original car is concerned. Few want the original car any more. They like all the inventions and innovations offered by the sparkling and dazzling appearance of these "Johnny come lately" cars because they cater to men. Fortunately, in the world of cars it doesn't make any difference as to which one you drive, BUT in the world of the original church of Christ (Rom. 16:16), the "bride of Christ" (Rev. 21:2,9), the body of the redeemed (Eph. 1:7; 5:23), it makes all the difference between heaven and hell. Man has no choice as to which church he may be a member of. The choice has already been made by the Lord himself. It's His way or no way. We must humbly submit our will to the will of the Lord in heaven. Jesus said, "*And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say*" (Luke 6:46)? The Christ is the judge of all the earth, not us (2 Cor. 5:10). So, what "church" are you a member of—the original or a cheap imitation? The world of denominations do not make up the church of Christ we read about in the New Testament. They are all divided, the very opposite of what the Lord prayed for (John 17:20-21).

Jesus died and purchased his church with his own blood. It was established on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2. No one asked what "kind" of church it was. It was simply THE church—the only one that existed. On the other hand...

Denominations were established by men, not Christ. They have their origin all over the world, not in Jerusalem where the Lord's church began (Luke 24:49; Isa. 2:3). They began hundreds of years after the apostles, not in 33 A.D as we read in Acts chapter two. Denominational doctrines are of men, not the apostles and prophets of the New Testament (Eph. 2:20). Jesus said to the scribes and Pharisees, "*This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men*" (Matt. 15:8-9). Every single denomination

(Continued on page 2)

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

(Continued from page 1)

(without exception) began at the *wrong place* (all over the world), at the *wrong time* (centuries after the New Testament), by the *wrong man (men)* (not the apostles and prophets of the first century) and teach the *wrong doctrines* (not the doctrines of the New Testament).

Denominations are plants which the heavenly Father did not plant. Jesus said they will be rooted up and cast into the eternal lake of fire. "...Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up" (Matt. 15:13). "And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone" (Rev. 19:20). "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Rev 20:15).

Unity At Any Price?

God does not approve of all unity nor does He condemn all division. There are times we must not be united. Many passages tell us so. When there are those who are in error and will not repent, fellowship can not and must not exist between us. "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you" (2 Cor. 6:17). The teaching of church discipline shows that fellowship (unity) cannot be continued with those who teach and/or practice error and will not repent (1 Cor. 5). The faithful must withdraw themselves from those who do not love and practice the truth (1 Tim. 6:5). Those who teach contrary to sound doctrine are to be marked and avoided (Rom. 16:17-18; Titus 1:9). We are to "...have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them" (Eph. 5:11).

Compromise among children of God is widespread today. So little concern is shown for the Lord's Way. Lectureships and seminars are many which promote everything from instrumental music to holy roller pep-rallies. Like Elymas the sorcerer, they stand against the faithful proclamation of God's Word and do not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord (Acts 13:8-10). They are full of all subtilty and all mischief. They are children of the devil and enemies of all righteousness. Their eyes are full of adultery and they cannot cease from sin. They beguile un-

stable souls and their heart they have exercised with covetous practices. They are as cursed children and have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness (2 Pet, 2:14-15).

By inspiration, Jude wrote, "...These speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves. Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core. These are spots in your feasts of charity when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever" (Jude 10-13).

I love peace. I hate controversy. I deplore wrangling and contention. I would love to get along with everyone. However, I love the Way of the Lord more. I love it more than my own personal feelings. You must also. The Bible warns of those who depart from the faith and exhorts us to hold steadfast and not follow them. "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils" (1 Tim. 4:1). "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58).

As much as we might love peace and hate controversy, we must understand there can be no peace until there is purity first — purity of doctrine — soundness in the faith. "But the wisdom that is from above is **first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy**" (James 3:17). Bible unity, which is God-approved unity, will not be achieved until those who truly desire it submit themselves to a "thus saith the Lord." They must love book, chapter and verse teaching and preaching. They must do all in the name of the Lord. Paul wrote, "And whatsoever ye **do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him**" (Col. 3:17).

Garland M. Robinson (Seek The Old Paths, Nov. 2019)

Television

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

Sunday @ 7:30am on KTAB

Life In The Light (Chris McCurley)

Sunday @ 10:00am 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

video.wvbs.org/access/interactive-bible-reading-plan/

Feb. 16	Acts 17—19; Psalm 47
Feb. 17	Acts 20—22; Psalm 48 (video)
Feb. 18	Acts 23—25; Psalm 49
Feb. 19	Acts 26—28; Psalm 50
Feb. 20	Romans 1—3; Ps. 51 (video)
Feb. 21	Romans 4—6; Psalm 52
Feb. 22	Romans 7—9; Psalm 53
Feb. 23	Romans 10—12; Psalm 54

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

(2 Timothy 2:15)



Sympathy:

- ◆ **David Neal Simpson**, 61, passed away Tuesday. He was Barbara and Gene's nephew and Mike's cousin. A memorial service was held yesterday in Abilene.

Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Last week **48** contacts were made.

Announcements

- ◆ **Ladies Day at Cherokee Home for Children** Saturday. See flyer on bulletin board.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ March 15-18—Spring Gospel Meeting w/ Richard Massey: *"The Kingdom of Christ"*

Other Upcoming Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ April 5-8—Gospel Meeting @ Hamilton w/ Kerry Clark
- ◆ June 21-25—Junior Camp
- ◆ July 12-17—Senior Camp

“Who Hath Been His Counselor?”

That is a Bible question. It is recorded in Romans 11:34. It is found in a context in which Paul has declared that both Jews and Gentiles can have access to God's salvation if they come to Him and stay with Him by faith (Rom. 11:20, 32). Is God's plan wise? *"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out"* (11:33). Another question: *"For who hath known the mind of the Lord"* (11:34)? The answer, of course, is that no one knows the Lord's mind unless He reveals what He is thinking.

So, back to our question: "Who hath been his counselor?" Many humans think highly of their brain power, but not one of them is infinite in understanding like Jehovah is (Ps. 147:5). A bunch of folks hold themselves in high regard, so surely the Lord would feel privileged to hear their ideas on a variety of matters. Not so, my friend, not so. As humans, we need to learn to "know our place." Our place is not on God's level. There are some realities that I need to face and accept.

God does not need me. In describing the God of heaven to the Athenians who did not know Him, Paul said, *"Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things"* (Acts 17:25). Nope, God does not need me. I am the one who needs Him!

God does need my input. Presidents and prime ministers have hand-selected advisors. In some cases, some of them wield such influence over the national leader that it may be said of them, "The President will not make a move until He has consulted with so and so." In stark contrast to that, God does not seek or need the advice, suggestions, or "two cents" of any human being, including me. God got along extremely well before any of us came along, and don't you know He will continue to manage things just fine long after you and I leave this world?! It is the height of arrogance to think that my thoughts somehow could be helpful to the Lord. It is blasphemous to think that God somehow would be better off if He would consult me on any particular matter.

God does not need my permission. He does not need my "okay" in order to declare that something is right, required, wrong, or acceptable. If He says that a lying tongue is an abomination, then that is just what it is (Prov. 6:16-17). If He says that the purpose of water baptism is to wash away sins, then that is just what it is (Acts 22:16). If He says that receiving or not receiving physical circumcision has nothing to do with a person's salvation, then that is the way it is (Gal. 5:6). If He says that He will judge the world on the day which He has appointed, then that is exactly what will transpire (Acts 17:31). No, God does not need my permission to speak, act, command, or forbid.

God's thinking is way above ours (Isa. 55:8-9). He does not need human counselors; never has, never will. It is not my business to try and run God's affairs. Rather, I ought to be concerned about finding God's answer to this question: "What shall I do, Lord?" (Acts 22:10).

Roger D. Campbell (Seek The Old Paths, Nov. 2019)

Celebrate

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

February Birthdays: Cindy McCaghren (2), Johnny McCaghren (2), Peggy Chism (3), Carol Wilcox (5), Sue McAnear (6), Tammie Ross (7), Lunday Maninger (8), **Patti Bannister (14), Aaron Smith (21).**

February Anniversaries: Billy & Peggy Chism (26).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Feb. 2, 2020	Feb. 9, 2020
Bible Class	39	35
AM Worship	48	46
PM Worship	32	29
Wednesday PM	18	29
Contribution	\$2,354	\$1,890

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 2/16/20	Next Week: 2/23/20		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	February 2020 Make Announcements: Gene Bannister Prepare Communion: Maninger Family Clean Building: Randy & Laura Huckaby March 2020 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: Barnum Family Clean Building: Barnum Family	
Greeters	John & Tina Barnum	Tom & Carol Wilcox		
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	Rafe Smith		
Communion	John Barnum*, Chase Churchwell Tom Wilcox, Ryan Rudloff	Kevin Ross*, Vernon Zier Coyce Reed, Caleb Dennis		
Closing Prayer	Ken Maninger	Allen Griffith		
Attendance Cards	Ian Barnum	Aaron Smith		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Joe Dennis	Song Leader: Ken Maninger		
Opening Prayer	James Fuller	Gene Bannister		
Scripture Reading	Allen Griffith	Tom Wilcox		
Communion	John Barnum	Kevin Ross		
Closing Prayer	Don Smith	Mike Bannister		
Wednesday Devotionals:	February 19 Rafe Smith	February 26 Don Smith	March 4 Prayer Night	March 11 Joe Dennis

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 February 16, 2020

Sunday Class **1 Corinthians 9:23**
 Wed. Class **Exodus 11:4**

<p style="text-align: center;">Why Did My Savior Come to Earth? "He Who Came Down from Heaven" (John 3:13)</p> <p>The scene is a private conversation between two men: Jesus and Nicodemus, a Pharisee and a member of the Sanhedrin. This verse records the first time our Lord gave any hint as to the answer to the question, "Why did my Savior come to earth?" Only three of the many points that could be discussed will be dealt with in this lesson.</p> <p>I. His "Origin"</p> <p>A. The fact that the word "origin" is in quotation marks is not an accident; the fact is that "He who came down from heaven" had no origin.</p> <p>B. Every attempt that is used to explain eternity seems to fall woefully short.</p> <p>C. John affirms, and the Bible repeatedly teaches, that the One having that conversation with Nicodemus was, and is, Deity.</p> <p>D. There is a very intriguing passage found in Hebrews 10.</p> <p>E. In the inspired words of the apostle Paul found in Philippians 2:6, He is described as both "being in the form of God" and being "equal with God".</p> <p>II. His Nature.</p> <p>A. Jesus often referred to Himself in the third person: "the Son of God" (5X) and "the Son of Man" (over 80X).</p> <p>B. Philippians 2 affirms that the Messiah came "in the likeness of men" (v. 7) and was "found in appearance as a man" (v. 8).</p> <p>C. He is not just one of us (man); He is also the Son of God.</p> <p>III. His Mission.</p> <p>To turn this into a study of our Lord's mission while on earth would be a worthy, but extremely lengthy, effort. Accordingly, our discussion will be limited to four points that present themselves in different forms in the text of John 3.</p> <p>A. One part of His mission was the fulfillment of OT Scriptures.</p> <p>B. Another part of His mission was to reveal heavenly truths.</p> <p>C. The conversation with Nicodemus demonstrates that another part of the mission of Jesus had to do with the eternally important subject of salvation.</p> <p>D. Finally, notice that the subject of light plays a role in Jesus' discussion with Nicodemus; His mission involved bringing light into a very dark world.</p> <p>2 Corinthians 4:1-10</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">God's Righteous Judgment & Christ's Second Coming (2 Thess. 1:5-12)</p> <p>I. God's Righteous Judgment and the Second Coming of Christ (1:5-10).</p> <p>A. Paul said that the "persecutions and tribulations" that the Thessalonians were enduring (v. 4) were <i>manifest evidence of the righteousness judgment of God</i>, and that they would be <i>counted worthy of the kingdom of God</i>.</p> <p>B. God is <i>righteous</i> [just] and therefore it is correct for Him to render justice.</p> <p>1. To be <i>righteous</i> [just] is to give others what they deserve or merit.</p> <p>2. The books will be balanced one day – He will <i>repay with tribulation those who trouble[d]</i> the Thessalonians and other Christians.</p> <p>a. The tables will be turned, and He will <i>give you who are troubled rest</i> (7).</p> <p>b. All of this will come to pass <i>when the Lord Jesus is revealed</i>.</p> <p>1) First, it is <i>from heaven</i> (visibly coming down from the clouds).</p> <p>2) Second, Christ will be accompanied by <i>flaming fire</i> (v. 8).</p> <p>3) Third, He will come <i>with His mighty angels</i>.</p> <p>3. At His second coming, Jesus will be <i>taking vengeance</i> (8).</p> <p>4. What persons will He punish when He comes? <i>Those who do not know God, and ... those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ</i>.</p> <p>C. <i>Be punished</i> is from a form of the same Greek word translated "vengeance".</p> <p>1. Paul said it will be <i>destruction</i>.</p> <p>2. That destruction is described as being <i>everlasting</i>.</p> <p>3. They will be shut away <i>from the presence of the Lord</i> banished from the <i>glory of His power</i>.</p> <p>D. The events of verse 8-9 will take place <i>in that Day</i> – the day "when the Lord Jesus is revealed". "That Day" will be for two purposes.</p> <p>1. First, Christ is <i>to be glorified in His saints</i>.</p> <p>2. Second, He will <i>be admired</i> (marveled at) <i>among all those who believe</i>.</p> <p>II. Supplication (1:11-12).</p> <p>A. Paul and his coworkers prayed for the Thessalonians <i>always</i>.</p> <p>1. His prayer was that <i>our God would count you worthy of this calling</i>.</p> <p>2. Paul was also praying that God would <i>fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power</i>.</p> <p>B. When men accept the Lord and obey His teachings, His <i>name is glorified</i>, which brings glory to us, His students, as well (<i>you in Him</i>).</p> <p>C. This is possible only through <i>the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ</i>.</p>
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