

THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness," 2 Timothy 3:16

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How The Church of Christ Is Different

Everything about the church of Christ is very simple. It is not the purpose of the church to please vanity or pride with a display of vain things. It is not the purpose of the church to entertain people, or to amuse them when they attend our services. The church of Christ is a simple New Testament body, leading men and women to an understanding of the plain gospel of Christ. It leads men and women to Christ, and to God. It always welcomes those who from the depths of earnest and sincere hearts will reach out to God in simple worship and obedient living and consecrated service in those things that are right and true. (2 Cor. 11:3; Tit. 2:11-12).

The arrangement of the church of Christ is very unique. There is no humanly-made creed in the church. Its only rule of faith and practice is the Word of God, and those who believe the Bible all accept our rule of faith and practice. (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

There are no ready-made prayers to read or to have read to you. From the depths of earnest hearts and sincere souls people in the church of the Lord express to God their earnest longings for His blessings and for His sustenance in every need. (1 Tim. 2:8).

There is no ready-made music in the church of Christ. Everyone makes his

own melody in his heart by singing spiritual songs from the heart in praise to the God of heaven. (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16-17).

The church of Christ is not a denomination, nor is it any part of one. It simply represents that of which all denominations claim to be a part—the church of the Lord, which He purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:28), and which is built upon the truth of His Sonship. (Matt. 16:18). It is the church of which Christ is the head, and of which He is the Saviour. (Col. 1:18; Eph. 5:23-25).

It is the church that believers in Christ find unity, and it is there that they offer up protests against the divisions and sectarianism denominationalism reflects. (1 Cor. 1:10-13).

If men today will proclaim the simple message which was declared by the New Testament church, if they will worship God in the simple sincere way in which that church worshipped, if they will have the exact organization by which the New Testament church did its work, and if they will serve with the holy, earnest consecration that characterized its members, and if they will present to lost and dying men the same gospel plan of salvation, the same results attained by the

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Editorial . . .

"Blessed Is The Man . . ."

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful." (Psalms 1:1). Although this passage was obviously written during the Mosaic dispensation, the principle contained in it is still true today.

Many people are not happy although happiness has been provided for man. King Solomon sought happiness in worldly wisdom, earthly wealth and sensual pleasures, but he said: ". . . for all is vanity and vexation of spirit." (Eccl. 2:17). After experiencing many things in his search for peace and happiness, he said: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." (Eccl. 12:13). Many fail to reach this conclusion until it is too late. Solomon tells us **why** we should fear God and keep his commandments. He says: "**For** God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." (Eccl. 12:14). This should convince all of us of the fact that it is certainly worthwhile to "fear God, and keep his commandments."

Happiness is not promised to those who heed ungodly counsel. If we heed ungodly advice, we will become ungodly. Ungodliness does not produce happiness. It results in sorrow and ruin. The wicked should be rebuked and their counsel disregarded. It certainly does matter who you listen to and follow. Jesus said: "If the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch." (Matt. 15:14).

Happiness is not promised to those who stand together and cooperate with sinners. Solomon said: "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men." (Prov. 4:14). When we stand in the way of sinners, they will entice us to sin. The apostle Paul said: "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners." (1 Cor. 15:33). One cannot take fire into his bosom and not be burned. Our intimate associates will influence us for either good or evil.

Happiness is not promised to those who "sitteth in the seat of the scornful." Those who mock and ridicule the things of God will not be happy. While Jesus was in the palace of the high priest, the apostle Peter "sat with the servants, and warmed himself at the fire" When one of the maids of the high priest saw Peter warming himself she told him that he also was with Jesus of Nazareth, but Peter denied knowing Jesus. In fact he denied three times that he knew Jesus. (See Mark 14:53-72). Peter was in the wrong crowd. He was warming himself at the fire of the enemies of Jesus. He was influenced by them. He was sitting among the scornful. He was in the wrong place.

Since sin is progressive, consider the fact that one who heeds ungodly counsel may stand together and cooperate with sinners and may finally mock and scorn the things of God. This person will have no genuine peace and happiness.

Happiness is promised to those who fear and obey God. Remember the words of Solomon when he said: "Fear God and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." (Eccl. 12:13). In Matthew 7:21 Jesus said: "Not every one

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"BLESSED IS THE MAN . . ."

who sayeth unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven; but he that **doeth the will of my Father** which is in heaven." He further said: "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and enter in through the gates into the city." (Rev. 22:14). Please read the entire sermon on the mount as recorded in Matthew 5, 6 and 7 and you will see that happiness is promised only to those who respect and obey God's word. Nine times in the first few verses of Matthew 5, Jesus stated that certain ones would be "blessed" or "happy".

Are you truly happy? Do you really have peace with God and hope of eternal life? "And being made perfect, he (Jesus) became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him." (Heb. 5:9).

(CRS)

I CALL MYSELF A CHRISTIAN

Well, no, I don't always get to Bible study. I would have to get up at least an hour earlier, and since I have to get up early during the week, I like to stay in bed on Sunday mornings. We don't go much on Sunday nights. After a motor trip, we don't get back in time. Wednesday night? I'm either too tired or have some other activity planned.

Do I visit the sick? Well, no. I have just too much to do. I am not good when it comes to visiting the sick anyway. And besides, it always makes me feel depressed. I guess I wasn't 'cut out' for that sort of work, and besides I have my house to keep. If I have any free time, I like to call a friend and go shopping, read a magazine, or take a nap, No, I

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ACTS 2:38: IS HERESY

Jesse L. Sewell, who was born in Overton County, Tenn., in 1818, grew up in a Baptist community and became a Baptist preacher of some note in his native county. In the course of time, he learned the truth from reading the New Testament and, beginning to preach it, caused considerable confusion in the Baptist Church. A Baptist preacher by the name of Jenkins Tompkins began to discuss Jesse Sewell's departure from Baptist doctrine, and this resulted in a discussion of the errors taught by the Baptists.

Finally, the association brought charges of heresy against Sewell. He was convicted and excluded from Baptist Church. The clerk asked how to make the record of the charges in the minutes of the association. The moderator told him to write "for teaching heresy." To this, Sewell replied that that would be recording a falsehood and that they could not make a true record in any other way than by stating that he was excluded for preaching faith, repentance and baptism, for the remission of sins, as taught in Acts 2:38. After some discussion, it was finally agreed that the record should be made as Bro. Sewell suggested; hence, he was excluded from the Baptist Church for preaching Acts 2:38. Their minutes so record it.

—H. Leo Boles in
THE CHRISTIAN JOURNAL

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I CALL MYSELF A CHRISTIAN

don't read the Bible much. Don't seem to get much out of it.

As for giving, well, that's hard to do. I have to give the children money for the movies, and we have so many things, those cuts of meat we like are so high—and, well, it takes a lot of money to live these days. But, of course, we put in some, and a few times when I didn't have any change, I put in a dollar bill.

—Selected via
"THE SCROLL"

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HOW THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS DIFFERENT

church of the Bible will be attained by righteous men today.

We will have exactly the same church, the same hope for heaven, souls will be saved, God will be glorified, the name of Christ will be glorified, the name of Christ will be exalted in the hearts of men and the power of Christ and the unity of His disciples will be realized.

If you want to make "your calling and election sure," if you want exactly what

God wants you to be, you will appreciate the church of Christ and the stand it is taking. You will enjoy knowing more and more about the church, and one of the greatest thrills of your life will be realized when you find out really what it is, and for what it stands.

Whether you realize it or not, you will find at the church of Christ (unless there has been a departure from the truth by some—CRS) exactly what every sincere and earnest soul is looking for. Won't you come to the church of Christ without further delay?

—Taken from THE SENTINEL,
March, 1957

Sentence Sermons

Some "Christians" are like wheelbarrows—no good unless they are pushed.

Life is a grindstone, and whether it polishes you up or grinds you down depends on the stuff of which you are made.

The most destructive acid in the world is found in a sour disposition.

Your day goes the way the corners of your mouth turn.

In order to properly train children, it is necessary for both parents and children to spend some time together!

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