

August 29, 2021

Viewpoint from the **Valley Grove Church Of Christ**

What Is The Church Of Christ?

By Steven F. Deaton

Most of the world thinks of the church of Christ as a denomination among the denominations of the Protestant movement. The churches of Christ are often viewed as backward sectarians, mainly because they do not use a mechanical instrument in worship. These are misconceptions.

It is true that some who use the name “church of Christ” are denominational in their mind-set and practices. They view themselves as just another denomination; they are sectarian. Within the past decade some of these churches have even begun to “experiment” with mechanical instruments in worship. Though all of this is true, these churches do not represent the church of Christ of the Bible.

The church of Christ in the New Testament is not a denomination, a part of the body of Christ, it is the body of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23). This body is made up of all who have been baptized for the remission of sins (1 Cor. 12:13; Acts 2:38). When people are saved in the waters of baptism, the Lord adds them to the church, the body (Acts 2:47; Col. 1:18). Simply put, the church of Christ is made up of Christians throughout the world.

The church of Christ does not accept the doctrines and commandments of men (cf. Matt. 15:7-9). It will not accept man-made names for the church, such as Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist or Presbyterian. It will use Bible terms such as church of Christ to refer to the group or Christian for an individual (Rom. 16:16; Acts 11:26). The church will not use mechanical instruments in worship, because the gospel says to sing, speaking to and teaching one another (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).

If you are not a member of the church of Christ, we especially urge you to study these matters (Acts 17:11). If you find these things to be so, then accept them and ask the preacher where you go why he does not teach the truth. If you have questions, feel free to contact us.

Visitors — We pray that you benefit spiritually from our worship together and hope to see you again.

Four Traits That Make A Difference

By Kyle Campbell

Whenever a newcomer is making a choice of where to worship in a community, there are many factors to be considered. However, if I am the one making the choice, I am going to be looking at four traits:

Wholeheartedness

I want to worship with a congregation who is serving God with a whole heart. No half-hearted, going-through-the-routine, no-fire-in-the-bones work for me! I want to be with people who are really committed to the Lord. *“I will praise thee with my whole heart: before the gods will I sing praise unto thee”* (Psalms 138:1). I want doers and not hearers only (James 1:22).

Singlemindedness

I want to know that the people with whom I worship have one place on their mind — going to heaven. Churches of our day focus on everything from politics to recreation to food. This is the social gospel not the gospel of Christ. I want to attend where people have their eyes set on the Bible. I want to hear sermons filled with Bible references and be a part of Bible classes that actually study the scriptures (Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Peter 2:2).

Excellence

I want to serve God along with people who have a mind set on excellence. Everything we do *“in the name of the Lord”* (Colossians 3:17) reflects upon that name in one way or another. We either praise or insult the Lord by the things we do. The Lord deserves our very best efforts. Whether it is singing, praying, teaching, or encouraging we should always think in terms of doing our best for the Lord (Luke 9:62).

Initiative

I suppose there will always be people who have the attitude, “Here am I, send somebody else” (cf. Isaiah 6:8). If I have my choice, I want to be with people who are willing to accept personal responsibility and show initiative (Acts 8:4). There is something good about a person who recognizes a duty and then faithfully goes about discharging rather than wait on someone else.

Inasmuch as we will grow in these areas, we will become an attractive alternative to the social gospel. These are traits that will please God. They will help us grow spiritually and numerically. Let your mind meditate on them!

Give Me The Truth!

By Kyle Campbell

If you are my friend, if you are concerned about my soul, give me the truth. Do not flatter me. Do not praise my virtues while remaining silent about my vices. Do not fear the truth will offend me. Do not treasure our friendship, our friendly relations, above my salvation. Do not think that by ignoring my sins, you can help me. Do not think that being blind to my sins will prove you charitable. However I may react to it, whatever may be my attitude toward you after you have done it, give me the truth!

For the truth, and only the truth, can make me free from the shackles of sin, strengthen me in the pathway of righteousness and lead me to the joys of heaven. If I am wavering, weak, lukewarm, indifferent, neglectful; if I have been overtaken in a trespass; if I have been drawn into the pleasures of the world; if I have left my first love; if I have been led astray by error, or, if I have done none of the these things, but simply need to grow in knowledge and then be edified, give me the truth!

For the truth, and only the truth, can make me free from the shackles of sin, strengthen me in the pathway of righteousness and lead me to the joys of heaven.

The word “*truth*” occurs 118 times in the King James Version of the New Testament. The basic definition of “*truth*” is “true and genuine reality.” The basis of truth in the scriptures is divine reality. It has also been translated, “the reality lying at the basis of an appearance; the manifested, veritable essence of a matter.” Objectively and in universal application, it pertains to what is true in any matter under consideration. In reference to religion, the word denotes what is true in things pertaining to God and the duties of man.

This, of course, is the meaning with which we must concern ourselves. The apostle John was very interested in the term “*truth*,” having used it 27 times in his gospel. He stated that “*truth*” came by Jesus Christ (1:17), the one who “*doeth truth*” comes to the light (3:21), God must be worshipped “*in truth*” (4:24), the truth will “*set us free*” (8:32), and that we are sanctified “*through thy truth: thy word is truth*” (17:17).

Truth is so valuable that it must be sought and never ignored. “*Buy the truth, and sell it not . . .*” the Proverb writer declares (23:23). Christians must always “*speak the truth in love*” (Ephesians 4:15), but may we forever remember that the truth can never be forsaken for anything or anyone. So when someone wants the truth, give it to them. When I need the truth, give it to me. Without it, I am lost.

10 Rules For Happy Living

1. Give something away (no strings attached).
2. Do a kindness (and forget it).
3. Spend a few minutes with the aged (their experience is priceless guidance).
4. Look intently into the face of a baby (and marvel).
5. Laugh often (it's life's lubricant).
6. Give thanks (a thousand time a day is not enough).
7. Pray (or you will lose the way).
8. Work (with vim and vigor).
9. Plan as though you'll live forever (because you will).
10. Live as though you'll die tomorrow (because you will die on some tomorrow).

“It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the Providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and to humbly implore His protection and favor.” *George Washington 1789*

Keep The Faith

August Birthdays:
The 7th Betty Hinds
The 17th Annette Kellett
The 21st R. T. Pike

Postage
Stamp

Valley Grove Church Of Christ
2110 East Stateline Road
P. O. Box 461
Southaven, MS 38671

This Bulletin is a weekly publication of the
Valley Grove Church Of Christ, Southaven, MS

Sunday
Bible Study . . . 9:30 A.M.
Worship 10:30 A.M.
Worship 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday
Bible Study . . . 7:00 P.M.

Phone: 662-342-1132
www.valleygrovechurchofchrist.com