

About the Church of Christ

The church of Christ meeting in Nesbit, Ms., extends to you and yours a warm and friendly invitation to come and visit with us at any and every opportunity you have. There are many misconceptions concerning the churches of Christ and perhaps you have questions concerning who we are and what we are about. We will attempt to answer some of these with this brief synopsis. If you have further questions or would like to communicate with us, please feel free to contact us. We welcome your comment or question and we assure you we will handle your correspondence with respect.

PURPOSE OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST

The churches of Christ have been commissioned by the Lord to take the gospel to the entire world. Shortly before His ascension, Jesus charged the apostles: *"...All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."* -- (Mat 28:18-20). Following the baptism of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2) - the apostles carried the gospel as they had been charged. As they went, they taught and baptized as the Lord commissioned them to do. Those who were baptized were added to the church of Christ which was paid for by the blood of the Lord (Acts 2:47; 20:28). The apostles taught those baptized to go into all the world, carrying the gospel as they went. So it has been since then, the churches of Christ continue to this day carrying the pure and simple gospel to the entire world.

PLEA OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST

The plea which we make is that people take the Bible, and the Bible only, as their absolute standard in religious matters. Paul wrote to the Colossians: *"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). Doing what we do in the name of the Lord is the same as saying doing it by the authority of the Lord. From where do we get authority from the Lord? We get that authority from His word. Paul also wrote: *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."* -- (2 Tim 3:16-17). The word of God is "God-breathed" and is our standard of authority. If the Bible does not authorize something, we have no right to do it in religion. We should be able to find authority for everything we do in religious matters. Our plea is that people return to the Bible as their guide and standard. If all people did this then all would be united on truth. There would be only one church as there was in the first century. The plea of the churches of Christ is to go back before denominationalism was introduced and be members of the church Jesus purchased at the cross of Calvary.

PEOPLE OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST

The churches of Christ are composed of those who have been called out of the world by the gospel and who have been baptized into Christ, being added to the church by the Lord. The Bible assures us whosoever calls upon the Lord will be saved: *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord*

shall be saved." -- (Rom 10:13). The question is, "How do we call upon His name?" Jesus Himself said it involved more than a mere calling with words: *"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."* - (Mat 7:21). Doing the will of God involves being called by that will or gospel: *"Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."* -- (2 Thes 2:14). The purpose of the calling is explained by the apostle Peter: *"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy."* -- (1 Pet 2:9-10). The people of the churches of Christ are God's people who are to show forth praises to Him. They are added to the church today by Him as they were in the first century: *"Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."* -- (Acts 2:47). Thus, the people of the churches of Christ do not "join the church," but rather, they are added by the Lord. They are added when they are baptized, as on the Day of Pentecost: *"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."* -- (Acts 2:41). Those added in verse 41 are included with those added to the church in verse 47. These are those who have had their sins washed away in baptism. Paul was told by Ananias: *"And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."* -- (Acts 22:16). Notice that Paul called on the name of the Lord by obeying what he was instructed by the Lord to do. That is exactly what Jesus meant in Matthew 7:21 when He said those who obeyed the will of God would be saved.

PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST

If you have any questions, comments or disagreements, please contact us so we can have communication with you. We close as Paul did his letter to the Romans: *"Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you."* -- (Rom 16:16).