
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: **What are five good reasons you should come to church this week?**

REASON #1: You should come to church this week because the church of Christ was founded by Christ Himself.

Some believe a preacher named Alexander Campbell started the church of Christ, but this simply is not true. The church of Christ was in existence long before the birth of Alexander Campbell.

Matthew 16:18

18 [Jesus said] ... upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

If Jesus built His own church, then certainly it should be called the "*church of Christ.*"

Acts 4:12

12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Because Jesus is the builder of His own church and because the church is to be called by His name, this is why you can open your own Bible and read in Rom 16:16, "*the churches of Christ salute you.*"

REASON #2: You should come to church this week because Christ founded only one church.

John 10:16

16 And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.

Ephesians 4:4

4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;

Since the church is the body of Christ (Eph 1:22-23), this means there is only one church of which He is the Savior (Eph 5:23).

REASON #3: You should come to church this week because it gives a scriptural answer to the question, "What must I do to be saved?"

This is very important. No other church gives the correct answer to this question. Listen to what Jesus said:

Mark 16:16

16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

No denomination teaches that in order to be saved, people must both believe **and** be baptized. Man-made denominations teach salvation either by "*faith only*" or salvation by faith and prayer. The Lord Himself teaches baptism in water is the point in time when the blood of Christ is applied to take away sins:

Acts 2:38

38 Then Peter said to them, "**Repent**, and let every one of you **be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ **for the remission of sins**; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Baptism is the point in time when the blood of Christ is applied for the remission of sins. This is what the church of Christ teaches and this is why you should attend the church of Christ.

REASON #4: You should come to church this week because the Bible is its only guide.

Man-made denominations are guided by what is popular ... by what draws a large crowd. Many denominations say they are guided by the "Holy Spirit" ... which means they are going by their feelings of what is right and they are attributing those feelings to the Holy Spirit.

But the Holy Spirit does not guide men directly. Only the apostles and prophets were guided directly by the Holy Spirit. This is called “inspiration.”

2 Peter 1:21

21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

This refers, not to every Christian, but only to the apostles and prophets. Notice carefully:

Ephesians 3:5

5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to **His holy apostles and prophets**:

This apostles and prophets were guided into all truth (Jn 16:13). They wrote down in the scriptures the truth which was revealed to them. The scriptures and scriptures only contain ***all truth***.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,
17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The scriptures alone constitute the guide for the church of Christ. This is reason 4 of why you should attend the services of the church of Christ this week.

REASON #5: You should come to church this week because salvation is in Christ's church.

Acts 20:28

28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which **He purchased with His own blood**.

Ephesians 5:23-25

23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and **He is the Savior of the body.**

24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as **Christ** also loved the church and **gave Himself for her,**

Think about what these passages are saying. Jesus *"gave Himself for the church."* This means Jesus died for His church.

If Jesus died for the church, this means no one can be saved and go to heaven without being a member of His church.

Now ... listen to me carefully: Neither the visible nor the invisible church is composed of denominations. The Lord did not intend that men should start their own churches – each with its own doctrine and each with its own way of worship.

Judges 21:25

25 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

This is what happened in Israel and this is what is happening in America. Men are starting new denominations and calling them *"non-denominational"* and all it amounts to is *"everyone doing what is right in his own eyes."* This is sinful and unacceptable to God. Jesus built only His church.

1 John 2:3-4

3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

We are the church of Christ. We invite you to visit our services this week and listen to Brother Glen Osburn from Tuttle, OK preach the pure and simple gospel from night to night.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Well ... thanks for listening to our message this week. We invite you to visit our website www.WillOfTheLord.com. There you may download the notes and the audio file of the message you just listened to.

Call again next week when we consider a new subject on ***Bible Talk***.