

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Michael Pickford

Paul said in Romans 16:16, "Greet one another with a holy kiss, the churches of Christ greet you."

And why would he call the church by any other name?

It was Christ who promised to build the church (Matt 16:16-18).

It was Christ who built the church (Acts 2:47).

It was Christ who purchased the church with His own blood (Acts 20:28).

It is Christ who is the head of the church (Ephesians 5:23).

It is Christ who is the Savior of the church (Ephesians 5:23).

It is Christ to whom the church is to be subject (Ephesians 5:24).

It is Christ's church. It is the church of Christ.

Different churches have different names on their signs, anything but "church of Christ." The Bible said of Christ, there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12). Christ is God (John 1:1, 14); hence "church of God" means "church of Christ" (1 Corinthians 1:2).

The Bible calls the Lord's church the church of Christ. What is the church you attend called? 

Welcome to our services and thank you for visiting. If you have any questions about our beliefs or practices, please don't hesitate to ask.

God has not only commanded us to worship Him, but has also told us how, in His word. **The elements of our services, as prescribed by God's word, are as follows:**

- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD'S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7



COME WORSHIP WITH US!

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...9:00
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....10:00
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP.....6:00
WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES....7:00

EVERYONE WELCOME!

- www.defendthegospel.com
- Weekly Article: Rutherford Reader
- 60 Second daily Radio Spot, "Moment of Truth." WGNS 100.5 FM, 101.9 FM, 1450 AM
- 3rd Sunday Singing Practice: 5 pm
- 4th Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- Children's Class, 2nd & 4th Sundays, 5:30 pm
- 5th Sunday Men's Training Class, 3:30 pm, Prayer Service, 6 pm



SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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"They...searched the scriptures daily..." –Acts 17:11

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MEN'S BUSINESS MEETINGS

Michael Pickford

Consider some important thoughts regarding the Men's business meetings.

Authority. Even in New Testament times there were local churches that did not have elders. Paul and Barnabas were appointing elders in every church, but it stands to reason that those churches existed before the elders were appointed. The qualifications for the eldership are musts, not suggestions (1 Timothy 3:2). Unfortunately, there are many local churches that do not have a sufficient number of men who meet the qualifications; hence, no elders. Inasmuch as God desires there to be no confusion in any of the churches, but that all things be done decently and in order (1 Corinthians 14:33, 40), coupled with the fact that the local church has a work to fulfill, there must be leaders. The leaders cannot be the women since the women are not to have authority over the men (1 Timothy 2:11-12). These facts lead us to the necessary conclusion that in the absence of elders, the men of the congregation must take the leading role. The men's business meeting is an authorized expedient for the men to discuss and make decisions regarding the work of the local church.

Agenda. The agenda of the men's business meeting must be to do the work of the local church in a scriptural way. While many of us have lamented the fact that the meetings are often consumed with particulars regarding the upkeep of the building, these are important things to discuss. I would not say they are not of a spiritual nature since the building should basically be regarded as part of the Lord's treasury. The building is used for the worship of the church, as well as aiding in carrying out the mission of the church. However, there are other important matters to discuss. Men should pray about the upcoming meeting, and contemplate ideas which the church might implement in building up the saints and taking the Gospel to the lost.

Attitude. Just about any emotion you can think of has been exhibited in men's business meetings: Love, kindness, anger, hatred, etc. Some business meetings begin with prayer, followed by a reading of specific passages; such as Ephesians 4:32 which says "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you." Attend the meetings with your Bible in your hand, but have it in your heart too. 

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GOD'S CALLING

Michael Pickford

People often claim they were called by some tragic or life changing experience(s). What does the Bible say?

Paul wrote in 2 Thessalonians 2:14, "to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ." Sinners are called by the Gospel of Christ, not by some strange, mystical experience. One's faith comes by hearing the Gospel. "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Rom. 10:17)

John 6:44 is often misused. "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent Me draws him..." "There it is," someone will exclaim. "This verse says that God draws men and He drew me by a car accident." This passage does say that God draws men, but it nowhere says that He does so with tragic experiences. In fact, the passage tells us how God draws men. Look further, "It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God,' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me." (John 6:45). God draws men by His teaching.

Men are drawn to God when they hear and learn from Him. Since God "has in these last days spoken to us by His Son," (Heb. 1:2), it follows that God draws men with the Gospel of His Son - Jesus Christ.

This is why Paul said that the Gospel of Christ is God's Power to save all men (Rom. 1:16, 17). This is why Jesus wanted the Gospel preached to every creature (Mk. 16:15). This is why Paul wrote that Christians were called by the Gospel (2 Thess. 2:14).

Hearing the Gospel produces faith and faith produces obedience. God calls men by the Gospel and man calls on God by obeying the Gospel. Notice how Paul called on God, "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord." (Acts 22:16). Have you called on the name of the Lord by arising and being baptized and washing away your sins?

Tragic, life changing experiences can give one **incentive** to **answer** God's call. But this is not the call! God's calling comes through the Gospel of Jesus Christ His Son. 🔍

I PUT MY FOOT IN MY MOUTH!

"It is better to remain silent and be thought a fool, than to open your mouth and remove all doubt." While the source of this exact quotation is in doubt, the source of its wisdom is clear. It's from God's word! "Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; When he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive" (Proverbs 17:28). Heed this wisdom and you'll never put your foot in your mouth again!



SERMON NOTES

Search the scriptures daily to see if these things are so.

STUDY DAILY!
Acts 17:11

Death

Introduction:

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Kenny Todd
- Bible Reading by.....Tony Jenkins
Reading: James 4:13-17
- Song Leader.....Robert Johnson
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Kenny Todd
Serve.....Chris Meade
Serve.....Frank Anderson

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Ben Reagh
- Lord's Table.....Kenny Todd

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- Invitation.....Ben Green

Home Bible Studies Available Upon Request!

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

There is only one true saving plan of Salvation outlined in Scripture. No substitutes will do. Have you really been saved? Get out your Bible and study the plan below.

- Hear The Gospel: Romans 10:17
- Believe: Mark 16:16; John 8:24
- Repent of Sin: Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30
- Confess Faith: Romans 10:9, 10
- Be Baptized: Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21
- Remain Faithful: Rev. 2:10

Obey Today!