



An undenominational publication
devoted to the teachings of Jesus and His
apostles and dedicated to those who seek
the truth.

Volume 10, Number 4
July/August 2014

CHURCH OF THE BIBLE

A professor once told me, “You are too literal in your use of the Bible.” He explained that all the other Ministers and Priests he had dealings with never used the Bible for information about God as much as I did. They talked about feelings, quoted various religious authorities or honored their own church teachings. Rarely did they refer to the Bible to discover what God is like, what His commands or expectations are. I said, “There is no other better source of information about God than the Bible.” To that he just shook his head.



Two paths have been taken by people who have sought to know about God and their relationship with Him. I will call the first path “Follow the Crowd.” Little effort is required to travel this path. There is something to please everyone in this path. They desire mercy with no responsibility for repentance. Unfortunately, the “Follow the Crowd” path fails to find God or to obey Him.

The second path is called “Search the Scriptures.” The *Book of Acts* speaks of a group visited by Paul when he taught the gospel: “When Paul and Silas arrived (in Berea), they went into the synagogue of the Jews. Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so. Therefore many of them believed” (Acts 17:10-12).

The church of the Bible reads and studies God’s word. There is no better information about our relationship with Him. As you travel your spiritual path, look for the church that teaches what the Bible teaches, nothing more or less.

— Bruce Pierce
Seabrook, New Hampshire

Neither Catholic Nor Protestant



Heirloom seeds have become all the rage among gardeners. What are heirloom seeds? They are seeds from plants that are passed from generation to generation. They are valued because of what they produce. Heirloom seeds are not genetically modified in any way; they're as close to the original as possible.

Over the years, people and companies have modified or hybridized seeds to increase production, make them taste different or allow them to grow in different climates. In the 1970's scientists began modifying the genetic structure of plants with DNA from other plants in order to make plants more resistant to disease or insects or to increase the production or modify the flavor of foods. The same thing has happened to the simple message of the Gospel over the centuries.

For example, the very structure of Christendom has been modified within the Catholic Church by people who have been placed in positions of power. Rules and guidelines have been put into place that have the appearance of Godliness on the surface but, actually, undermine the very heart of faith. Modifications were made to allow for existing cultural rituals to be included in worship. At councils and conferences men discussed, decided, and legislated the future direction of the Church.

In the 16th century, Martin Luther began having difficulties with the Catholic Church selling indulgences, and the "fullness of power" belonging to the Pope. Because of these issues, Martin Luther developed his 95 Theses which began the Protestant Reformation. Several other leaders, including Zwingli and Calvin, continued the protest to reform the Church. But the Church didn't need reforming. It needed restoration. Jesus said, "Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks." (John 4:23) The whole idea of *undenominational* Christianity is to return to the "heirloom seeds" that were sown in the first century. Not a reformation, not a hybridization, but a *restoration* to the original definition of the body of Christ. No extra human rules or regulations; only what we find in the Bible.

— Philip Stratton
Augusta, Maine

THE BIBLE CHURCH LASTS FOREVER

Religious denominations come and go. New ones start up every year, those in membership decline decide to merge with others in order to survive, some lose their original purpose and mission and become extinct. However, the church you read about in the Bible lasts forever.

Jesus said: "Upon this rock I will build My church and the gates of Hades will not overcome it" (Matthew 16:18). The prophet Daniel promised that God's established kingdom (the church) would "never be destroyed." It would "endure forever" (Daniel 2:44). In the New Testament we are told that we are "receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken" (Hebrews 12:28).

Powerful forces have assaulted the church Jesus built. Some have tried to destroy the faith of young people in the name of scientific theories which contradict the Bible. Some have persecuted believers — even to the point of death. Hypocritical church leaders have caused sincere believers to reject organized religion.

But the church one reads about in the Bible goes on. Its message is as relevant today as it ever was. Its call to repentance and commitment to God's Son, Jesus Christ, is being accepted by thousands and thousands of sinners the world over. Its proclamation of life after death continues to instill hope in receptive hearts. It can enrich your life.

— David Tarbet
New Milford, Connecticut



**WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT
THE CHURCH YOU READ OF
IN YOUR BIBLE?**

Request a free booklet

"GUIDE TO FIND THE TRUE CHURCH"

E-mail: christfortoday@gmail.org

THE RIGHT FOUNDATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE!



Laying a good foundation is crucial to the construction of any building. In His Sermon on the Mount Jesus indicated that “building on the sand” would not be a wise choice, whereas “building on a rock” would provide stability and longevity.

“Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rains came down, the streams rose and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash” (Matthew 7:24-27).

In Matthew 16:18 Jesus said to Simon Peter: “I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.” The rock that Jesus made reference to was not Peter (*petros*, a stone) but bedrock (*petra*, a foundation stone) which Peter had correctly identified by these words: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Long before Jesus walked the earth the prophet Isaiah said: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation” (Isaiah 28:16). The apostle Peter quotes this text from Isaiah making clear that the stone was Christ (1 Peter 2:6). The foundation of the church is Jesus Christ. He is referred to in both the Old and New Testaments as the “chief cornerstone” (Psalm 118:22; Matthew 21:42; Ephesians 2:20). The apostle Paul wrote: “For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 3:11). Paul had personally laid the foundation to God’s building by “preaching Christ and Him crucified” (1 Corinthians 1:22-23).

The church of the Bible is not built upon the teachings of any human being, past or present, living or dead. It is built upon the Lord Jesus Christ, and Him alone.

— David Rivorie
S. Burlington, Vermont

GOD'S LOVING FAMILY

At least once a week someone tells me that the church is full of sinners, hypocrites, do-gooders or individuals who think they are better than everyone else. The truth is that the church is full of flawed sinful people that try not to sin and sometimes fail miserably. Are we trying to be something that we are not? No, we are trying to be someone that we are not. We are called to be like Jesus. I John 2:6 tells us, "Whoever claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus did." Are we do-gooders? I certainly hope so! The



Apostle Paul reminds us, "Let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers" (Galatians 6:10). Do we think we are better than everyone else? Absolutely not! We believe that Jesus is better than everyone else. By no means are we perfect. We are trying with all of our being to be the kind of obedient children of which our heavenly Father can be proud. As the church, we are the family of God. There are over thirty passages in the New Testament that tell us how we need to behave toward one another. Let me share just five of them: "Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves" (Romans 12:10). "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love" (Ephesians 4:2). "Serve one another humbly in love" (Galatians 5:13). "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you" (Ephesians 4:3). "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself" (Philippians 2:3).

The Church of the Bible is God's Loving Family! Christ's love can be seen in a brother reading scripture to someone transitioning from this life, in a young mother reaching out to a single teen mom, in a loving arm of comfort, in a bag of groceries taken to a needy family, in cleaning the house of a shut-in, and in visiting a lonely person. We teach people patiently about Jesus and provide hope of eternal life, take in children whom no one wants, accept young pregnant girls who have nowhere to go and provide a place to stay for people that are stranded. We do it all, not for our own glory, but that people might see our good deeds and glorify our Father who is in Heaven (Matthew 5:16). We are God's Loving Family!

— Kerry Morris
Albany, New York

IS THE CHURCH IMPORTANT?

What Does the Bible Say?



Open your own Bible
Read 10 Bible verses
Discover the answer
for yourself

1. Read **Matthew 16:18**. Jesus promised to _____ His church. How important is it for Jesus to keep His promises?
2. Read **Ephesians 1:22**. God appointed Jesus to be the _____ of His church. Is the church important to God?
3. Read **Ephesians 1:22-23**. The church is called Christ's _____. How do you know that Jesus cannot be separated from His church? What happens when you separate a head from a body?
4. Read **Ephesians 5:25**. What did Jesus do for His church? What does this tell us about the importance of the church?
5. Read **Ephesians 2:16**. What important thing does God intend to accomplish in the "one body" (the church)?
6. Read **Ephesians 2:19-20**. What is the church of the Bible built upon?
7. Read **Acts 14:27**. How do you know the church is not a brick-and-mortar building?
8. Read **Acts 20:28**. What important thing did Jesus do for His church?
9. Read **Colossians 1:25**. How important was the church to the Apostle Paul?
10. Read **1 Corinthians 12:13**. How does one enter the Lord's church?



You Are Invited To Attend the
Undenominational
CHURCHES OF CHRIST
This Sunday

<p>NEW MILFORD, CONNECTICUT</p> <p>CHURCH OF CHRIST</p> <p>129 Litchfield Rd (2 miles North of Hospital)</p> <p>Tel: 860-355-0489 Tim Tarbet Minister</p> <p>10 AM Bible Class 11 AM Worship 6:30 PM Worship</p>	<p>COVENTRY, RHODE ISLAND</p> <p>CHURCH OF CHRIST</p> <p>2435 Nooseneck Hill Rd, Building C Unit 3</p> <p>Tel: 401-397-9700 Gary Babcock Minister</p> <p>9:30 AM Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship</p>	<p>S. BURLINGTON, VERMONT</p> <p>CHURCH OF CHRIST</p> <p>330 Dorset St.</p> <p>Tel: 802-683-4970</p> <p>David Rivorie Minister</p> <p>10 AM Bible Class 11 AM Worship</p>	<p>CASTLETON, VERMONT</p> <p>CHURCH OF CHRIST</p> <p>37 Castleton Meadows</p> <p>Tel: 802-683-4970</p> <p>Kirk Israel Minister</p> <p>10 AM Bible Class 11 AM Worship</p>
--	---	---	---

Find the **CHURCH OF CHRIST** in Your Community

<http://www.churchzip.org>

Request Up To 2 Free Copies!
THE BIBLE CHURCH
What You Need To Know

- A Guide To Find the True Church
- Let Me Tell You About Jesus and His Church
- Churches of Christ — Who Are These People?

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Send requests to:
Christ for Today

P.O. Box 755
New Milford, CT 06776
Call 860-355-0489

E-mail: christfortoday@gmail.com



CHRIST FOR TODAY

David Tarbet, Editor
New Milford Church of Christ
129 Litchfield Road (Route 202)
(2 miles North of New Milford Hospital)
P.O. Box 755
New Milford, Connecticut 06776

CHECK OUT THESE WEBSITES

<http://christfortoday.org>
<http://nmchurchofchrist.org>

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Dallas, Texas
Permit 2829