



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

Volume 8, Number 1
January & February, 2012

Theme: *Undenominational Christianity*

God's Church—Then and Now

“Organized religion” has departed from God’s pure plan for His church. One must admit this when comparing religion today with the original Church established 2,000 years ago described in the *Book of Acts* (fifth book in the New Testament).



First, we notice is that **Christ’s original church was non-denominational and undenominational.** It was *non-denominational* because it was not part of any denomination -- modern denominations did not exist at that time. It was *undenominational* because it was dedicated to undoing (tearing down) the walls that separate believers into various kinds of sects. It was neither Catholic nor Protestant. “All the believers were together,” and “All the believers were one in heart and mind” (Acts 2:44; 4:32).

Second, **the original church was composed of those who obeyed the Lord’s commands for salvation.** The Apostle Peter told the people: “Repent and be baptized, every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins” (Acts 2:38). About 3,000 people accepted his message and were baptized that day. The Lord added them together as His church. Day by day those who obeyed these commands were added to the Lord’s church. They did not “join” a church, but the Lord “added” them to His church the moment they were saved (Acts 2:47). Today some teach one is forgiven of sins without obeying these commands, and that after a person is saved he can “join” the church of his choice.

Continued Inside ...

God's Plan for His Church

Before the creation of the world God chose a people for Himself. This would be His spiritual body, the church. The Scripture says, "For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight". Paul, an inspired writer of the Scriptures, spoke of God's "eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Ephesians 1:4; 3:11).

The prophet Daniel predicted that God would set up His kingdom that "will never be destroyed" in the days of the Roman Empire (Daniel 2:44). Isaiah stated that the word of the Lord would go forth from Jerusalem and all nations would flow into the kingdom of God. "The Lord's temple will be established as chief among the mountains . . . and all nations will stream to it" (Isaiah 2:2-3).

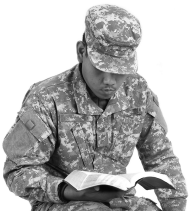
God made many prophecies in the Old Testament concerning the coming of Christ. He was to be born in the family of David (2 Samuel 7:12-16, Psalm 89:3-4). He was to be born of a virgin in Bethlehem (Isaiah 7:14, Micah 5:2). Jesus fulfilled all of these and many other prophecies. As we look back on these prophecies we see God's plan to send Jesus into the world as a sacrifice for sin, and to purchase the Church. Scripture says He "bought the church with His own blood" (Acts 20:28).

God's plan for His church has been since the very beginning of time!

— **Dennis Rosenbaum**, Minister

Mid-Hudson Church of Christ, 112 Montgomery Street, Poughkeepsie, New York

God's Church—Then and Now (Continued from front cover)



Third, **members of Christ's original church truly loved one another.** They were not just "numbers" on a church roll, not just "dollars" in the offering plate. Early Christians knew one another, enjoyed each other's fellowship and truly cared about one another's needs. They "broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts" (Acts 2:46). It is common today for people to be involved with church ceremonies

and traditions without ever really getting to know one another as persons, to have no spiritual family relationships with others in the same parish or congregation.

If you know "something is missing" in your spiritual life, investigate *undenominational Christianity*. There is beauty in simplicity. God's way is the best plan!

— **David Tarbet**, Evangelism Minister

Church of Christ, 129 Litchfield Rd., New Milford, Connecticut

"Seed" of the Kingdom

One of the amazing wonders of nature is the little miracle called "seed". Who would guess that a tiny object, not much bigger than the head of a pin, could accomplish anything? Yet, when it is planted in the earth it contains the very essence of life within and before long it germinates and produces a plant like that from which it was taken. When that new plant breaks through the soil it ultimately creates more seed to begin the cycle all over again. God does amazing things!



God provides another kind of seed even more powerful and important because it is a seed that produces something that will last forever. It is the seed of God's word that grows in the human heart. You see, our Heavenly Father does not want any of us to be lost. That is the reason He sent His Son Jesus into the world to show us a way out of our sinful lives and to show us the way to our home in heaven. Jesus told a wonderful story about how the seed of God's word can change our hearts and minds if we will let it in. He said:

A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop — a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. He who has ears, let him hear" (Matthew 13:3-9).

God has provided the wonderful seed of His word to change your life. The seed of God's kingdom (the church) is the word of God (Luke 8:11). All it needs is your good, receptive heart and a willingness to learn His will for your life.

—**Randy Gardner**, Minister
Upper Valley Church of Christ, Route 4 West, Quechee, Vermont

Free Booklet: "A Guide To Find the True Church"
Contact 'Christ for Today', P.O. Box 755, New Milford, Connecticut 06776.
Or Call: 860-355-0489, Or e-mail: christfortoday@yahoo.com



"Christ for Today" Is Now On-line!
<http://www.christfortoday.com>
Tell Others!

Just a Christian

Isaiah wrote about a new name: "... I will give them an *everlasting name* that will never be cut off" (Isaiah 56:5). "The nations shall see your righteousness and all kings your glory, you will be called by a *new name* that the mouth of the Lord will bestow" (Isaiah 62:2).

One of the most wonderful moments in my life was when a lovely Christian woman fell in love with me and was willing to wear my name. She has been faithful to that commitment for 55 years. (She even said she would go another 55 years with me if I was willing!) As unworthy as I am, don't you think that Jesus Christ deserves the same commitment? From His parables and throughout the rest of the New Testament, the Church is referred to as His Bride (See 2 Corinthians 11:2, Ephesians 5:22-32, Revelation 2:13).

It would be unthinkable for my wife to want to wear the name of any other man while being married to me! How do you think Jesus Christ feels?

Yes! We can be just *Christians*! "The disciples were called *Christians* first at Antioch" (Acts 11:26). "Then Agrippa said to Paul, 'Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a *Christian*?' " (Acts 26:28). "If you suffer as a *Christian*, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name" (1 Peter 4:16).

In a world of over six billion people, only ten percent profess any kind of Christian affiliation. This includes all Catholics, Protestants and Independents -- with over 400 sectarian parties, most of which wear some other name. The price that has been paid for a divided Christendom is an unbelieving world. Paul condemned division in writing to the Church in Corinth: "One of you says, 'I follow Paul,' another, 'I follow Apollos,' another, 'I follow Cephas,' still another, 'I follow Christ.' Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized into the name of Paul?" (1 Corinthians 1:12-13). When a religious doctrine is filtered through the minds of men, whether a great reformer, council, pope, evangelist, another book, or even an angel from heaven, and if we wear the name of that man or religious day or doctrine, we take honor and glory away from Christ who bought His Church (His Bride) with His own blood.

Give honor to Christ. Be just a *Christian*!

*The
Church is
referred
to as
Christ's
Bride*

— Gary MacDonald
Church of Christ, 140 Main Street, Houlton, Maine

Jesus Prayer for Unity

“I pray also for those who will believe in Me through **their message**, that all of them **may be one**, Father, just as You are in Me and I am in You. May they also be in Us **so that the world may believe that You have sent Me**. I have given them the glory that You gave Me, **that they may be one as We are one**. I in them and You in Me. May they be brought to **complete unity to let the world know that You sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me.**”

John 17:20-23

The message we hear is important! What the apostles taught will produce religious unity.

Jesus prayed for “oneness” (unity), not for many kinds of churches.

Harmony in teaching and practice will bring skeptics to faith.



Jesus wants us to be “one” as He is “one” with His Father. That is, one in teaching, in purpose, in mission.

“Complete unity” is God’s desire today.

Many have become skeptics and doubters as a result of religious division!

Visit These Udenominational Services This Sunday!



CONNECTICUT

NEW MILFORD CHURCH OF CHRIST

129 Litchfield Road, New Milford, CT 06776

Telephone: 860-355-0489

Tim Tarbet, Pulpit Minister;

David Tarbet, Evangelism Minister

10 AM Bible Classes; 11 AM & 6:30 PM Worship

WEB: www.nmchurchofchrist.org

WHITNEY AVE. CHURCH OF CHRIST

2141 Whitney Avenue, North Haven, CT 06473

Telephone: 203-248-7431

Thomas E. Holmes, Minister

10 AM Bible Classes; 11 AM Worship

SOUTHWEST CHURCH OF CHRIST

67 Prospect Ave., Suite 202, Hartford, CT 06106

Telephone: 860-953-7779

Melvin Jones, Minister

9 AM Bible Classes; 10 AM Worship

GREATER TORRINGTON CHURCH OF CHRIST

99 Winsted Road, Torrington, CT 06790

Telephone: 845-235-2152

Don Roarabaugh, Minister

10:00 AM Bible Classes; 11:00 AM Worship

WEB: www.torringtonchurch.org

MAINE

AUGUSTA CHURCH OF CHRIST

91 Eastern Avenue, Augusta, ME 04330

Tel: 207-215-1417

Danny Campbell, Minister

9:30 AM Worship, 10:45 AM Bible Study;

HOULTON CHURCH OF CHRIST

140 Main Street, Houlton, ME 04730

Telephone: 207-694-1512

Gary McDonald, Minister

9:30 AM Bible Classes; 10:30 AM Worship

WEB: www.houltonchurchofchrist.com

NEW YORK

MID-HUDSON CHURCH OF CHRIST

112 Montgomery St, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Telephone: 845-483-7576

Dennis Rosenbaum, Minister

9:30 AM Bible Study; 10:30 AM Worship

WEB: www.poughkeepsiecoc.org

WESTCHESTER CHURCH OF CHRIST

511 North Street, White Plains, NY 10605

Telephone: 914-761-6363

Richard Boyd, Minister

10 AM Bible Classes; 11 AM & 1:30 PM Worship

WEB: www.wcocwp.org

RHODE ISLAND

KENT COUNTY CHURCH OF CHRIST

2435 Nooseneck Hill Road, Building C Unit 3

Coventry, RI 02816

Telephone: 401-397-9700

Gary Babcock, Minister

9:30 AM Bible Classes; 10:30 AM Worship

WEB: kentcountychurchofchrist.com

VERMONT

S. BURLINGTON CHURCH OF CHRIST

330 Dorset Street, S. Burlington, VT 05403

Telephone: 802-864-7939

David Rivoire, Minister

10 AM Bible Classes; 11 AM Worship



FREE BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

Contact one of the Churches of Christ above

“One Body”

If Peter or Paul, the apostles, were to visit the 21st century, what would they make of all the denominations? Would they be happy about what they found or would they be scratching their heads with concern? Does it really matter if we have more than one church? What is the church supposed to look like?

I was raised in the Roman Catholic Church and had many friends of various denominations while growing up. At age seventeen I enlisted in the Air Force and attended college at night. One of the courses I took was *American English Literature*. Some of the stories I read discussed the conflicts that arose because of differences in religion. I asked myself, “Why are there so many different churches and why can’t they just all get along with each other?”



I talked to some of my friends about it and one of them told me that I should read the Bible for answers. One day I actually picked up the Bible and began to read.

As I read the Bible I came to understand that there were no denominations in the beginning, there was just one church. In the Gospel of John Jesus prayed that His church would be one (John 17:21). In the book of Acts people repented, were baptized and were added to the church that Jesus prayed for (Acts 2:36-38).

The apostle Paul warned the elders of the church at Ephesus: “even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them” (Acts 20:28-31). My question (“Why are there so many churches?”) had been answered! It was not long after Paul gave that warning that men began to distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after themselves.

We presently have over 300 denominations teaching different doctrines. Is there any hope of Jesus’ prayer for one church? In order to build the one church that Jesus desires, we must commit ourselves to the scriptures which describe what the church is to be like. Let’s be diligent in seeking the truth and vigilant in upholding the one church as Jesus desires it to be.

— **Mike Mullen**, Minister
Church of Christ, 840 Rock Street, Fall River, Massachusetts

New Milford Church of Christ
CHRIST FOR TODAY
129 Litchfield Road (Route 202)
P.O. Box 755
New Milford, Connecticut 06776

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

**You Are Invited To
Request Any of These
ABSOLUTELY FREE**

- Bible (New Testament easy to understand)
- Booklet: *A Guide To Find the True Church*
- One-on-one Bible Study
- Subscription to “*Christ for Today*”
- Address to the nearest *undenominational* Church of Christ
- To talk with a Minister
- Booklet: *What You Need To Know About Baptism*

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip _____

Send requests/questions to:
New Milford Church of Christ, P.O. Box 755
New Milford, CT 06776
Call 860-355-0489
E-mail: christfortoday@yahoo.com