

Topic:
Text:

Sermon Notes



THE MESSENGER

*"This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all." **1John 1:5***

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Issue 1



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WELCOME VISITING FRIENDS

If you are one of our visitors today, please know that we are indeed honored to have you. If you are a member of the Lord's body, thanks for choosing to worship with us today. If you are not a member of the Lord's church, we would be happy to meet with you and discuss how one becomes a member of the church which we read about in the New Testament. We aim to speak as they spoke and do as they did. We also offer a free Bible correspondence course which can be mailed to you. Or, someone would be glad to meet with you for a one-on-one Bible Study. You can indicate your desire on a visitor's card and place it in the collection tray.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday

Bible Class.....10 a.m.
Worship11 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study7:00 p.m.

Prayer Meeting
(Last Wed. each month @ 7 pm)

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

HEAR

Rom. 1;16;
10:17

BELIEVE

John 8:24

REPENT

Luke 13:3
Acts 3:19;

CONFESS

Rom 10:9-10
Matt. 10:32

BE BAPTIZED

Acts 2:38;
22:16

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

Why I Chose to Remain a Member of the Church of Christ

For the next several weeks, I will be presenting several reasons why I made the decision, thirty years ago, to remain a member of the Church of Christ. These reasons serve to fortify my faith in the doctrines that the church believes and teaches. My choices or mean nothing if they are made without any scriptural basis. Therefore, it is my prayer and hope that in sharing this information, you too can experience a strengthening of your faith in God, and a deeper appreciation for this unique institution.

What were your reasons for becoming a member? I ask because many question the validity of their faith. Some grew up in the church and felt a need to carry on the "family tradition" by becoming a member. Some became members because their spouses already were. Others, because it was the closest church to their home or perhaps was the only church in their little community.

However, if you don't have solid and scriptural reasons why you chose to be a member of the church, you will be like children "...tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting," (Eph. 4:14). Also, people have a right to question us about our faith, since it a great opportunity to share that faith with them. Peter says that we must "...always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;" (1 Pet. 3:15). With so many today being duped by false teachers, it becomes an absolute necessity to make sure that our faith and reasons are aligned with the inspired word of God. Mere sentimental attachment to the church is insufficient.

The doctrine of Christ, which is the doctrine of the Church, is what draws us to Him, and it is also what causes us to want to remain a part of His body. In light of this, the Hebrew writer says, "Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away" (Heb. 2:1). Knowing what the church believes and teaches are essential for our spiritual endurance and helps to create a balance in our commitment, which is a zeal that is coupled with knowledge (Rom. 10:1-3).

With so many religious groups in the United States alone, do you find anything distinct and unique about the church of Christ? For the next few weeks, as I share my own scripturally based reasons for choosing the Church of Christ, I hope that your faith and conviction may also be strengthened, so that you can confidently defend your decision when the time comes.

- R. Webster

Your reasons for joining the Church should be scriptural, not because of your spouse, or "family tradition."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please remember to silence your cell phones. 

Members, if you did not receive a text or email regarding the **contribution**, please let Sis. Angela Williams know.

Please confirm/correct/add your birthday on the list at the back before you leave today.

On the 1st Sunday in December, Sis. Ruthie Gamble would like to continue her mission of assisting the poor and homeless in Chicago. Here is a list of items you can donate: canned goods, toiletries, blankets. Please see her for further details.

For Prayers:

Also, Ursula Ware, Diane Kensey-Bridges, Erika Dockens, Clarence Harley, Ken Ware III, Nadia Hawks, Robert Davis, Rob Hardy's son, Robert.

Sis. Serena Webster who continues her military training in California.

For Our College Students: Paris Mickles: SIU, Darren Jackson: SIU, Bria Gamble: Illinois State

Please submit **your announcements** to Bro. Webster by Thursday evening each week.



Birthday this Week



Sis. Ruthie Gamble
Thurs., November 7th



Useful Resources

"*Preaching the gospel*" is available on both Dish Network channel 267 and *Direct TV* channel 376 on Sunday mornings at 6:30 Central Time.

Gospel Broadcasting Network is a brotherhood sponsored television station. Go to www.GBNTV.org. You can also find very useful videos on YouTube. Just type in GBNTV.

Order of Service

- Song
- Announcement
- Song
- Opening Prayer
- Song
- Scripture Reading
- Song
- Sermon
- Song
- Lord's Supper**
- Offering**
- Song
- Closing Prayer



Last Week's Record



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