



“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...” Matthew 28:20

Church of Christ • 13800 S. 4080 Road • P.O. Box 527 • Oologah, Oklahoma 74053

The Lord's Glorious Church

Chuck Northrop

The Lord's glorious church is the church you read about in the Bible (Ephesians 5:27). All other churches are manmade and are not God ordained. They are in competition with and in opposition to the Lord's glorious church. To accept the manmade doctrines of manmade churches is to reject the God-given doctrines of the Lord's glorious church (Mark 7:9). For the purpose of evaluation and comparison, please consider some characteristics of the Lord's glorious church.

The Lord's glorious church was prophesied of old. In Isaiah 2:2-3, Isaiah made five prophecies of the Messianic kingdom which is the church (Colossians 1:13). First, the church was to be established in the last days which it was (Acts 2:16-17). Second, Isaiah called it “the Lord's house” as does Paul in Ephesians 2:19 and 1 Timothy 3:15. Third, it was prophesied it would be exalted, and it is by all who love the church (Ephesians 5:27). Also she will be exalted at the end of time when she shall be delivered up unto God (1 Corinthians 15:24). Fourth, “all nations shall flow unto it” which took place beginning in Acts 2:39 and continues to take place with the fulfillment of the “great commission” of the Lord (Matthew 28:19). And finally, it was prophesied to come “out of Zion” which it did when the apostles stood proclaiming Jesus as Lord and Christ (Acts 1:8; 2:14,36,47).

The Lord's glorious church has specific names given to her in the Bible. These names indicate the nature or character of the church. Consider these five names: First, she is called the church of Christ (Romans 16:16) because she belongs to Christ for He promised to build her (Matthew 16:18) and He purchased her with His own blood (Act 20:28). Second, she is called the body of Christ (Colossians 1:18) because she is the one body (Ephesians 4:4) over which Christ is head (Ephesians 1:22-23), and Christians are individual members of her body (1 Corinthians 12:12-13). Third, she is called the kingdom of Christ (Colossians 1:13) because Christ is her King (Revelation 17:14), Christians are her citizens (Ephesians 2:19), and the New Testament her law (Galatians 6:2). Fourth, she is called the temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:16-17) which is not made with hands (Acts 17:24) but with “lively stones” which offer “spiritual sacrifices” (1 Peter 2:5). Finally, she is a divine institution because she was divinely purposed in eternity (Ephesians 3:11), she is divinely guided (James 1:25), she was divinely purchased (Acts 20:28), and those who are members of her were divinely added (Acts 2:47). She is not a denomination because she wears no denominational name; she has no denominational creed; she has no denominational organization; she offers no denominational worship, and she has no denominational alliances. Please keep in mind, however, that just as there are wolves in sheep's clothing, there are churches with the right name on their signs but not conducting themselves according to the standard of God's Word.

The Lord's glorious church practices and lives by Bible principles and/or fundamentals. First, she has the right message — the gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16; 2 Timothy 4:2; 1 Peter 5:11) as opposed to the fanciful fables of ear tickling teachers (2 Timothy 4:3,4). Second, she wears the right name — the name of Christ — collectively, the church of Christ and individually, Christians (Romans 16:16; Act 11:26) rather than the name of a man or of some doctrine. Third, instead of taking from or adding to God's word, the Lord's glorious church teaches the right entrance into her precious fold — faith, repentance, confession, and baptism. Fourth, rather than trying to compete with the entertainment industry, she offers the right worship — prayer, singing, the Lord's supper, the collection, and preaching (Acts 2:42). And last, she has the right mission of evangelism, edification, and benevolence as opposed to the mission of a country club or benevolence society.

Because the Lord's glorious church was established by the Lord at the right time and in the right place, she will receive the right reward. And because the Lord's glorious church wears the right names given to her by the Lord, she will receive the right crown. Also, because the Lord's glorious church follows the right principles and fundamentals found within the sacred pages, she will receive the right inheritance. That is the church I want to be a member of! What about you?

“Junk Science” . . . “Junk Religion”

Jack H. Williams

The other night I saw a television show on the subject of “junk science.” The show examined several popular “scientific” concepts and revealed they were actually flawed. I’ll admit I was surprised to hear that vitamin C cannot be shown to help prevent or cure colds. I was even a bit more surprised (or maybe disappointed) to find that spinach is not so high in iron that it helps make you stronger (like Popeye!). Several other things were examined and it soon became apparent that many who call themselves scientists don’t actually take a scientific approach to their claims — the scientific method of forming a hypothesis then testing it in a controlled environment before making claims. As I thought on this idea of “junk science,” though it became clear that there is a much larger and much more dangerous area in which the same failure to examine assertions is found. We can call this “junk religion.” What I mean is that many religious doctrines that are near and dear to them, perhaps they have been honored in one’s family for generations, but they have no Biblical foundation at all. Some are relatively harmless — for example we sometimes hear that the Bible says “cleanliness is next to godliness” or that Adam and Eve ate an “apple” from the tree of knowledge. The Bible never makes either claim. But there are other widely held beliefs that have tragic consequences — consequences that effect one’s eternal destiny. For example:

“*Man is saved by faith only.*” Are you aware the Bible nowhere makes such a statement? In fact it explicitly denies such by telling us justification is “not by faith only” (James 2:24).

“*Baptism has nothing to do with salvation.*” It is popular to say something like “Baptism is an outward sign of inward grace...” but again such is not found in the Bible. Instead we find baptism is said to be “for remission of sins” (Acts 2:38), to “be saved” (Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:32), to have our sins “washed away” (Acts 22:16), essential for one to get “into Christ” (Romans 6:3; Galatians 3:27). The Bible never affirms one is saved by anything “only.” Amongst those things that God has commanded for salvation, we find baptism.

“*One church is as good as another.*” Did you know you have over 2,000 separate choices as to the kind of church you can attend? Does God ever say to “attend the church of your choice?” No. He does tell us that Christ came to build His church (singular). He emphasizes that there is but “one body” (Ephesians 4:4), the body being the church (Ephesians 1:23). If one church is as good as another why did Christ die to purchase the one described in the New Testament (Acts 20:28)?

“*As long as a person is sincere, it doesn’t matter what he believes or does religiously.*” While millions believe such, God has said just the opposite! Paul was always sincere (Acts 23:1), but Christ made it plain he was in sin (Acts 9:4-5). As Solomon said, “There is a way that seemeth right unto man, but the end therof are the ways of death” (Proverbs 16:25).

Many other sincerely held religious beliefs could be examined, but therein is the problem. Many do not examine teachings as to whether they are true. Just as many unwittingly promote or follow “junk science” because they fail to examine, many promote and follow “junk religion” because they fail to heed God’s command to search the Scriptures and then base their beliefs on that study (Acts 17:11). As we noted, whether or not you take vitamin C or eat your spinach is not really that important. But when it comes to religion, the consequences can be eternal. Don’t fall for “junk religion.” Take the time to examine God’s Word and love Him enough to follow what HE says!

Observations and Concerns

May 24, 2023

Welcome Visitors! Your Presence is our Pleasure.

“Give unto the LORD, O ye mighty, give unto the LORD glory and strength” (Psalm 29:1).

Expression of Gratitude: We appreciate those individuals who have impacted our lives for good.

VBS: June 11–14, 2023; Theme: Peter. Please start bringing snacks and drinks for VBS and leave them in the kitchen. Due to several of our number with severe food allergies, please make sure the snacks are store-bought and do not contain nuts or peanut butter.

There will be a **farewell potluck and reception** for the Earl family after morning services on Sunday, May 28th. Please bring your favorite finger foods. Punch and cake will be provided.

Fifth Wednesday Singing is next Wednesday, May 31, 2023.

Remember in Prayer:

- ▶ *Dicie Jackson* has an appointment with an oncologist on Tuesday, May 30th to hopefully find out more information about her situation.
- ▶ *Nelda Hudson* is still struggling with heart issues and recently had a procedure to help doctors find some answers for her.
- ▶ *Sherry Carmona* is scheduled to have knee replacement surgery on June 15th.
- ▶ *Bill Dilks* has appointments with his doctors May 31st to determine further treatments.
- ▶ *Bobbie Mooney*, friend of the Nelsons, has cancer in her liver, lungs, and bones.
- ▶ *Jacob Webster*, grandson of the Hudsons, is recovering from a dog attack.
- ▶ *Gary and Margie McNatt*, friends of the Carmonas, are having a hard time. Gary has been hospitalized with double pneumonia, abscesses, and a hole in his lung. Meanwhile, Margie’s mother passed away. The McNatts are Ed and Sherry’s daughter Amanda’s in-laws.
- ▶ *Alexis*, daughter of Stephanie Huekleby, is having difficulties. See Stephanie for details.

June Birthdays: 13 – *Rebekah Praschnik*; Anniversary: 26 – *Bill & Lynn Dilks*.

Schedule of Services	Assignments		
		Wednesday, May 24	Sunday, May 28 AM
			Sunday, May 28 PM
	Announcements	Chris Nelson	Chuck Northrop
	Song Leader	Doyle Jackson	Ross Swearingen
	Prayer	Paul Praschnik	Bill Dilks
	Lord’s Supper (speaker)		Chris Nelson
	Lord’s Supper		Ross Swearingen
	Lesson	Ross Swearingen	Russ Earl
	Prayer / Door Attendant	Russ Earl	Paul Praschnik
			Bill Dilks / Russ Earl