



Oologah  
**Observer**

“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**

## Trusting in Uncertain Education

Chuck Northrop

Educating our youth in the principles of Christianity is a vital need. In this time of open rebellion against God, we need to fortify our youth with the Word of God so they with “the shield of faith . . . shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked” (Ephesians 6:16). For this reason, many parents have sent their precious children to “Christian Colleges.” However, rather than being fortified, many have returned home being corrupted by evolutionary and denominational thinking.

In this world of complexity, the roles of parents, the church, and educational institutions have been confused. It is not the churches’ responsibility to educate anyone in a secular field of study. It is the parents’ responsibility to see to the education of their children. Colleges have been entrusted by parents to help in this responsibility and have served a vital role in helping parents educate their children. In defense of the colleges, it is not their responsibility to finish what parents have started nor is it their responsibility to do what parents have failed to do. Nonetheless, some “Christian Colleges” have assumed responsibilities which do not belong to them. It is not the responsibility of colleges to educate gospel preachers. By inspiration of God, the apostle Paul gave that responsibility to the church. In 2 Timothy 2:2, he wrote, “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”

Though the church of our Lord does not officially have a clergy/laity system, many congregations certainly lean that direction. In these congregations, the preacher is a hireling — a pastor. Because of such a view, those congregations seek preachers with secular degrees who could not quote enough Bible to prove baptism is for the remission of sins. The words of Hosea the prophet ought to ring

loud and clear in these times of ignorance: “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hosea 4:6). Brethren, a congregation who seeks only preachers with degrees would not want men like Peter, James, and John to be their preacher. Though they were not educated by the world’s standards, they knew Jesus, and they knew the Lord’s will for mankind. Such congregations are more concerned with the excellency of speech than the testimony of God (1 Corinthians 2:1,4).

From the establishment of the church, “preacher-itis” has been a problem. Paul writing to the church at Corinth reminded them, “that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ” (1 Corinthians 1:12). Of late this has expanded into “college-itis.” In defense of a position, sometimes you hear someone say such and such college teaches... Or sometimes someone may ask, “which college teaches...?” Sadly, in some circles such and such college gives credence to certain doctrinal positions, and when a college is not named when asked “which college,” it breeds dis-credibility. Brethren, we do not need a college to establish doctrinal positions. The Bible is our **only** source of religious authority (Colossians 3:17). Our Alma Mater may be important to us, but let’s keep it in the proper perspective.

Brethren, if we are trusting in “Christian Colleges” to do the work of the home, the work of the church, or establish doctrinal positions or practices, then we are trusting in uncertain education.

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## Are the Jews Still the Chosen People of God?

Roger D. Campbell

Have you ever given serious thought to this question? You may have done more than consider it. It may be the case that you have even discussed it with others. If you have heard others talk about it, then most likely you have observed three answers. Some vehemently deny that the Jews are still God’s special people. Others just as strongly affirm that they are. And, there are those folks that admit they do not know the correct answer (and may not really care). How does the Bible answer this inquiry?

The Israelites were the descendants of Abraham through his son Isaac and Isaac’s son Jacob. Jacob’s other name was “Israel” (Genesis 32:28), so all of his offspring were known as “Israelites” or “the children of Israel.” They later were identified also as “Jews.”

It is a fact that in the Old Testament era, the children of Israel were the chosen, special people of God. The Lord instructed Moses to tell the Israelites, “...if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people, for all the earth is Mine” (Exodus 19:5). Moses later reminded them, “For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth” (Deuteronomy 7:6).

What was the significance of the Israelites or Jews being God’s “chosen” people? Jesus was the Messiah, the “Seed” about whom Jehovah had spoken to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, promising that through their “Seed” all nations would be blessed (Galatians 3:16). The Christ came from the Jewish nation, making Him a Jew “according to the flesh” (Romans 9:5). When Jesus told a Samaritan woman that “salvation is of the Jews” (John 4:22), He did not mean that the Jews are the source of salvation. Only “the God of our salvation” (Psalm 69:18) can provide redemption. By God’s eternal plan, His Son would come to shed His blood, as a lamb without blemish or spot (1 Peter 1:18,19). When He became flesh (John 1:14) in order to be the Savior of the world (1 John 4:14), He was a Jew. That was the thrust of God calling the Israelites His “chosen” people. They were blessed to be the ones through whom the one-and-only Redeemer came.

So, if we are considering the past, yes, in God’s plan the Jews were His special people before the establishment of the Lord’s church. There are several New Testament facts that we need to recognize. First, in the Christian era the chosen of God are in the Christ, which is also where all spiritual blessings are available. “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world...” (Ephesians 1:3,4; emphasis mine in all Bible quotes, rdc). In the same manner, Paul addressed the Christians in Colosse as “the elect of God” (Colossians 3:12).

Again, in the gospel age it is Christians, not Jews, who are identified as “the people of God.” Hear Peter’s inspired description of Christians: “But you are a chosen generation a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people...who once were not a people, but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy” (1 Peter 2:9,10).

Who are the children of God today? Is it those who are biologically of the Jewish race? No. “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Galatians 3:26-27). When one responds to the faith (the gospel) by believing and being baptized into the Christ, he becomes a child of God — a member of God’s family. All of God’s children are in the Christ. Or, said another way, God’s house or family is the church (1 Timothy 3:15).

What about the New Testament’s message about where saved people are located? Salvation or forgiveness is in the Christ (Ephesians 1:7). And to what does the Lord add saved people? To His church (Acts 2:47).

So, in the lingo of the new covenant, the chosen ones of God are in the Christ, God’s children are in the Christ, saved people are in the Christ, and God’s people are identified as Christians. According to the message of the gospel, a person is born into the nation or family of God through a spiritual birth (John 3:3,5). Does that mean, then, that physical Jews cannot be saved? Not at all. Any Jew after the flesh can become part of God’s family just like any non-Jew can. How? By obeying the gospel.

Observations and Concerns

November 22, 2023

Welcome Visitors! A special Greetings to our special Guests.

Praise in Psalm: “How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors” (Psalm 73:19).

Declaration of Appreciation: “Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 5:20).

Our monthly youth devo is scheduled for Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 PM at the church building. The menu will be chili dogs. The chili, hotdogs, and buns will be provided. Please bring sides and desserts.

We extend our condolences to the family of Jim Sherman who passed away. He attended here in the past.

Remember in Prayer:

- ▶ Bill Dilks is ill and running a fever today.
- ▶ Darla Smith has some upcoming appointments to determine how to move forward after a mass she had biopsied was found to be malignant.
- ▶ Marcella Dennis has been recently hospitalized with pneumonia. She is doing better now.
- ▶ Chris Nelson had hernia repair surgery last week and is doing well.
- ▶ Pat Taylor was suffering with hip problems on Sunday.
- ▶ Sammy Gray will be having medical tests in the upcoming weeks.
- ▶ Trayton Linton, great grandson of Darla Smith, was in a severe automobile accident. He is recovering at home.
- ▶ Sherry Carmona fell and suffered trauma to her face.

December Birthdays: 31 – Doyle Jackson; Anniversaries: 27 – Swearingens.

Schedule of Services	Assignments			
		Wednesday, Nov. 22	Sunday, Nov. 26 AM	Sunday, Nov. 26 PM
	Announcements	Chuck Northrop	Bill Dilks	Ross Swearingen
	Prayer	Chuck Northrop	Bill Dilks	Ross Swearingen
	Song Leader	Doyle Jackson	Ross Swearingen	Doyle Jackson
	Lord's Supper (speaker)		Chris Nelson	Chris Nelson
	Lord's Supper		Doyle Jackson	
	Lesson	Ross Swearingen	Bill Dilks	Chuck Northrop
	Prayer	Chris Nelson	Chuck Northrop	Chris Nelson
	Door Attendant	Chris Nelson	Doyle Jackson	Chris Nelson
Sundays				
Bible Classes. . . 9:30 AM				
Worship . . . . . 10:30 AM				
Worship . . . . . 5:00 PM				
Wednesdays				
Bible Classes. . 7:00 PM				
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