



**Today's Sermons**

Morning: Worship – Introduction – Part 2

Evening: Worship – Bible Study

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	34
Sunday AM Worship	57
Sunday PM Worship	24
Wed. Bible Study	31
Offering	\$1440

## Different people become One

The seven "ones" in Eph.4:1-4 are essential to truly be united

**Jews  
And their  
Various  
denominations**

**Gentiles  
And their  
Various  
denominations**

# Ephesians 2:14



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**Times of Services:**  
Sunday  
 Bible Study:... 10:00am  
 AM Worship:...11:00am  
 PM Worship:...6:00pm

Wednesday  
 Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program  
 Sunday:.....7:30am  
 "Back to the Bible"  
 AM 580 WSKS  
 93.5 FM

**We Extend A  
 Warm &  
 Cordial  
 Welcome  
 To All Our  
 Visitors!**

## What is the Church of Christ?

Tim Canup

If you wanted to know about plumbing, you would not go see a dentist. So, allow me to tell you about the church of which I am a member.

The church of Christ is not a denomination. Dan Winkler wrote: "Our currency system is divided into various denominations – \$1 bill, the \$5 bill; \$10; \$20 & so on... Our political system is also denominated – the Republican party, the Democratic party, the independent party, etc. We can see from these illustrations that the word denomination signifies a division or segment; thus, in a religious sense, a sect or a party. **A denomination is larger than any local church, but smaller than the redeemed as a whole.** Yet the New Testament speaks only of local congregations (I Cor 1:2) or the church embracing all of the saved (Eph 1:22-23). Hence, the New Testament church cannot be fitted into any denominational mold." The church of Christ is not non-denominational; it is pre-denominational.

*Continued Inside*

The church of Christ did not have its origin with some man, as is the case with all the denominations. Jesus Christ Himself is the only head of the church and He is the founder of it. You can read of the establishment of His church on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2 with the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by the apostles. It is important to note that not one single denomination can be found in existence in the New Testament and in fact, there is absolutely NO historical record of one before the 15<sup>th</sup> century! The Lutherans did not begin until 1520 in Germany; the Episcopalians was started by Henry the VIII in England in 1534; the Presbyterians originated with John Calvin in Switzerland in 1536; the Baptists started in 1607 in Holland by John Smythe; the Methodists started in England by John Wesley in 1739.

The church of Christ is the church that belongs to Christ. It does not have headquarters anywhere here on this earth. Since Jesus is the only head of His church and He is in heaven, headquarters for His church is in heaven. He has left a guide book for His church to follow the New Testament. If any church is to be His church, they must follow His Word exactly. If we depart from it either adding to or subtracting from it, then we are no longer His church. For example, if a group left off Jesus' command to partake of the Lord's Supper every first day of the week (Acts 20:7), or were to add to such the mechanical instrument of music when He has commanded singing (Eph. 5:19 not play an instrument), they would cease to be His church. What if a group changed the order of Jesus' commands, such as placing baptism after salvation rather than before where Jesus put it (Mark 16:16), they would cease to be His church.

In Revelation 2-3, Jesus addressed 7 congregations of His church and in 5 of them He drew their attention to some problem for which He demanded they repent or He would remove their candlestick. Removing the candlestick refers to the fact that He would remove their identity as His church. When any group departs from the pattern of the New Testament, they cannot be the church of Christ.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Aug 9 – Preach & Eat
- Aug 9 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Class
- Aug 21 – Family Game Night beginning about 6:00 pm
- Sept 6 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Class
- Sept 20-25 – Tent Meeting w/ Melvin Sapp @ Greenfields
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell

## Close To, Round About, Or Nearby

—Author Unknown

One Sunday a minister was giving a sermon on baptism and in the course of his sermon he was illustrating his belief that baptism should take place by sprinkling and not by immersion. He pointed out some instances in the Bible. He said that when John the Baptist baptized Jesus in the River Jordan, it didn't mean in – it meant close to, round about, or nearby. And again, when it says in the Bible that Phillip baptized the eunuch in the river, it didn't mean in – it meant close to, round about, or nearby.

After the service a man came up to the minister and told him it was a great sermon, one of the best he had ever heard, and that it had cleared up a great many mysteries he had encountered in the Bible. "For instance," he said, "the story about Jonah getting swallowed by the whale has always bothered me. Now I know that Jonah wasn't really in the whale, but close to, round about, or nearby – swimming in the water. Then there is the story about the three young Hebrew boys who were thrown into the fiery furnace but were not burned. Now I see that they were not really in the fire, just close to, round about, or nearby – just keeping warm. But the hardest of all stories for me to believe has always been the story of Daniel getting thrown into the lion's den. But, now I see that he wasn't really in the lion's den, but close to, round about, or nearby – like at the zoo."

"The revealing of these mysteries has been a real comfort to me. Now I am gratified to know that I won't be in Hell, but just close to, round about, or nearby. And, next Sunday I won't have to be in worship, just close to, round about, or nearby."

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*"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah" (Psalm 46:1-3).*