



### Today's Sermons

Morning: The Cause We Plead – Part 1  
Afternoon: The Cause We Plead –Part 2

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**FOR THE RECORD**

Sunday Bible Study	31
Sunday AM Worship	36
Sunday PM Worship	21
Wed. Bible Study	26
Offering	\$1591



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**West Jefferson Church of Christ**  
130 Robert Street  
West Jefferson NC 28694  
Phone: (336) 846-5615 | Email: [info@wjchurchofchrist.org](mailto:info@wjchurchofchrist.org)  
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Minister:

**Tim Canup**  
[tim@wjchurchofchrist.org](mailto:tim@wjchurchofchrist.org)

**Times of Services:**

Sunday

Bible Study:... 10:00am  
AM Worship:...11:00am  
PM Worship:...6:00pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday

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

Radio Program

Sunday:.....7:30am  
"Back to the Bible"  
AM 580 WSKK  
93.5 FM

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

**THE CHURCH OF CHRIST AND "OTHER DENOMINATIONS"**

Roger Campbell

Have you ever been asked, "What is the difference between the church of Christ and other denominations?" Many of us have. Or, maybe someone has asked you, "Is it true that the church of Christ does not have music like all the other denominations do?" Perhaps someone has inquired, "Why doesn't the church of Christ celebrate Easter like most other denominations do?"

I always appreciate the opportunity to answer questions that are presented by people that have a genuine desire to learn the truth about the Lord's church or any other Bible topic. That being said, did you notice that each of the three questions stated above involves a misconception? That false idea is revealed in the word "other." When people talk about "the church of Christ and *other* denominations," what are they doing? They are speaking of the church as if it were a denomination. They are lumping the Lord's church right in with man-made organizations.

*Continued Inside*

# PLAN of SALVATION

"Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name." Acts 22:16

Hear

The Gospel

Believe

In Christ

Repent

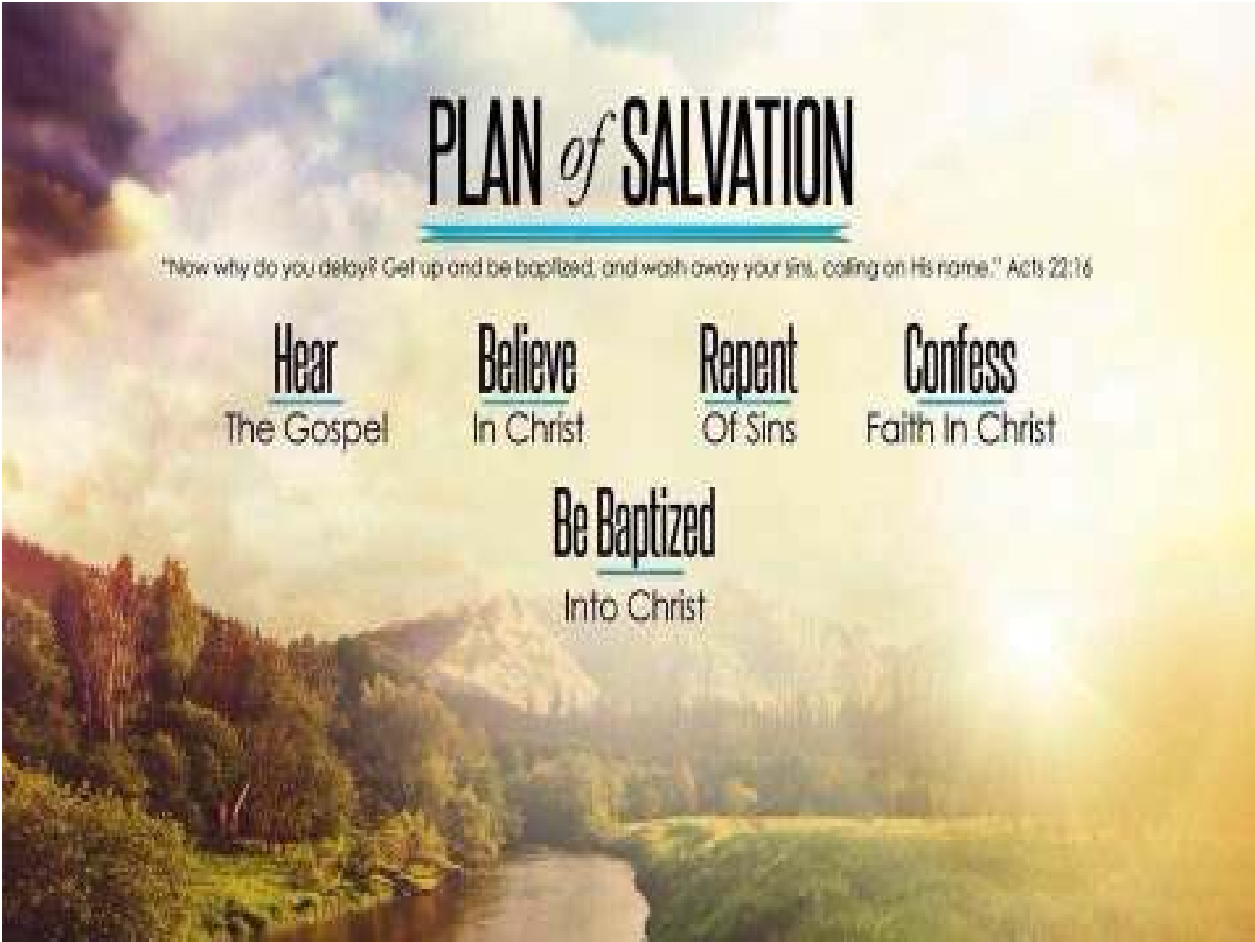
Of Sins

Confess

Faith In Christ

Be Baptized

Into Christ



We are not surprised to hear denominational people speak of the church as if it were a denomination. It is disappointing, though, sometimes frustrating to no end, to hear members of the church speak of "the church of Christ and *other* denominations." Brethren, leave off the word "other" and the statements are fine. Leave off the word "other" and it makes a clear distinction between the Lord's body and those institutions that men began.

Biblically speaking, the church that Jesus built is not a denomination (Matthew 16:18). Why, no, it is not *part* of the whole family of God: the church of Christ IS the family of God (1 Timothy 3:15). The church is not *part* of the saved, it IS the saved (Ephesians 5:23). The church which Jesus bought with His own blood (Acts 20:28) is not a denomination, it is not a part of a denomination, it is not made up of denominations, and it has no fellowship with denominations.

When people make false statements or imply false things about the church, I try to pick my spots in showing them that their terminology or reasoning is not accurate. But, when *we* speak, brethren, let us make certain that *we* speak correctly. Please, it is not "the church of Christ and *other* denominations." Leave off the word "other" and you will have it right: "the church of Christ and denominations."

.....

“Any organization larger than the local church or smaller than the local church is an unscriptural organization through which to do the work of the church. Indeed, there are methods of doing what is commanded, but they must be the church's methods, and within the scope of the thing commanded. The church has no right to do anything, as a church, that God has not commanded the church to do. Nor does a Christian have the right to do through another organization that which God has commanded the church, as such, to do. Organizations are not methods. The missionary society is not a method; it is an institution.”

Foy E. Wallace, Jr; The Certified Gospel, 1937, page 134.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mar 12 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Class
- Mar 12 – Time Change – Spring Forward 1 Hour
- Mar 12 – Preach-n-Eat & 1:30 Worship
- Mar 26 – Song Service
- May 21-25 – Our Gospel Meeting with John Daniels
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell

## Individual or Church?

Jimmy R. Mickells

I was recently given a bulletin with an article in it that asked this question: "...where does the Bible make a distinction between the individual member and the church in the work of the Lord?" May we notice together that the word of God answers this question very clearly? The reason that some contend that there is no distinction between the two, an individual and the church, is that they want to practice something for which the church has no authority. There are differences between what a church is authorized by God to do and what an individual can do.

In 1 Timothy 5:16, Paul made this statement, "If any believing man or woman has widows, let them relieve them, and do not let the church be burdened, that it may relieve those who are really widows." This passage very clearly makes a distinction between what the individual is to do, the believing man or woman that has widows, versus the responsibility that the church has, let not the church be burdened. The church was to help those who were "really widows." Notice the stipulation that the apostle gave before she was to be taken into the number. "Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number, and not unless she has been the wife of one man, well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work" (1 Timothy 5:9,10). This is the answer to the question above.

As an individual, I can give money to the Red Cross, support the American Cancer Society, help Alive Hospice, contribute to a political party or candidate, etc. As long as what I'm doing is not evil, I can spend my money (given to me by God) in whatever way I deem best. This is not true with the church. It can only act as authorized by God. He gave her a work to do. Can the church contribute to the Red Cross, American Cancer Society, etc.? Absolutely not! Why? It has no authority at all to use the funds collected on the first day of the week, by free will offering, to be used for something other than what we read about in the Bible.

Many churches of Christ today are using the Lord's money to provide things for members (and non-members) that the individual should be supplying. It is not the work of the church to provide entertainment, gyms, camps, social meals, etc. As a parent, I'm to provide these things for my children. I have responsibilities that I must fulfill and I cannot and should not expect the church to do what the Lord requires me to do. Is there a difference between what an individual can do and what the Lord's church can do? Paul says there is! Will you accept the answer that is given? We must never be guilty of involving the church in some work that God has not authorized it to do. Remember the words of John, "Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds" (2 John 9-11).