

Today's Sermons

Morning: God: The Rock of Our Salvation
Evening: Song Service

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FOR THE RECORD	
Sunday Bible Study	42
Sunday AM Worship	48
Sunday PM Worship	33
Wed. Bible Study	30
Offering	\$1741

The Church - Part 2

The CHURCH is people, not a building or a place.

WORSHIP

- PRAYER
 - Ephesians 1:22-23
 - Acts 12:15
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:17
 - 1 Timothy 2:1
 - Romans 8:26
- SINGING
 - Ephesians 5:19
 - Colossians 3:16
 - 1 Corinthians 1:21
- PREACHING - TEACHING
 - Acts 20:7
 - Galatians 1:6-8
 - 1 Corinthians 1:21
- LORD'S SUPPER
 - (Every Lord's Day)
 - Acts 20:7
 - Luke 22:19-20
 - 1 Corinthians 11:24-25
- GIVING
 - 1 Corinthians 16:1-2



*"Upon this rock
I will build
my church"*
Matthew 16:18

WORK OF THE CHURCH

- EVANGELISM
 - Matthew 28:19-20
 - Mark 16:15-16
 - Ephesians 3:10-11
- BENEVOLENCE
 - Galatians 6:10
 - James 1:27
- EDIFICATION
 - Ephesians 4:12, 16, 29
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:11
 - 1 Corinthians 1:21

**"The churches of
Christ Salute you"**
Romans 16:16



A Weekly Publication of the
West Jefferson Church of Christ
130 Robert Street
West Jefferson NC 28694
Phone: (336) 846-5615 | Email: info@wjchurchofchrist.org
Volume XI February 25, 2018 Number 08

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Times of Services:
Sunday
Bible Study:... 10:00am
AM Worship:...11:00am
PM Worship:...6:00pm
2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

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!**

WHOSE CHURCH IS IT, ANYWAY?
Tom Wacaster

It has been a few years since I passed that little church building, but the sign certainly caught my attention. It read: "Evangelical Spirit Filled Orthodox Catholic Church of St. Thomas the Apostle." It was likely a spin off from the Catholic Church that had been influenced by the Charismatic Movement of the 60's and early 70's. Eleven words without a single reference to God or Christ. One can only wonder what they believed, and since my schedule would not allow it, I did not take the time to inquire. Were I a "non-Christian," I might read the title on that church sign and wonder, "Whose church is it, anyway?"

While that particular title may be a little out of the norm so far as the number of words used to identify the "church" that meets in that place, there are many "names" and "designations" being used to "denominate" the large number of small, independent, and novel churches cropping up all across our land. We now have the "Cowboy Church," the "Community GLBT Church" (in case you did not get the GLBT, it stands for "Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual, and Transgender"), and the "Liberated Theological Free Thinkers" church (which, by the way, is an amalgamation of atheists who have banded together to form a church for

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non-believers...really!). I have seen the “Harvest Church,” the “Palm Tree Church,” the “Fruit of the Spirit Church,” the “Little Country Church,” and the “Holy Spirit Filled Church” (all here in East Texas).

In the past twenty years or so, there has been a virtual “explosion” of independent churches cropping up, and with them an attempt to come up with a unique name for a banner of identification. The most recent count of denominations in America has exceeded the imagination, not to mention the strange doctrines being taught and the so-called “worship” that takes place on any given Sunday. In fact, our society has become so inundated with these new churches that one wonders if the Lord has a church at all.

The Bible tells me that Jesus clearly promised, “Upon this rock I will build my church” (Matt 16:18b). I am interested right here in three simple, but important words. The “I” suggests the builder. Any religious institution designed, organized, and built by someone other than Jesus is bogus and exists without divine authority. The word “church” translates the Greek word *ekklesia*, and means the “called out.” Those who make up the church are no more and no less than the saved and redeemed. One is added to that church upon obedience (Acts 2:41,47). The most impressive word among the three is the word “my.” The church belongs to Jesus. He planned it, purchased it with His blood (Acts 20:28), and will save it in that final day (Eph. 5:23). If it is the case that it is HIS church, would it not be proper to say it is “Christ’s church”? Who would suggest otherwise?

By the same token, it is proper to speak of those congregations that are made up of the saved as “the churches of Christ” (Rom. 16:16). Where, then, is the authority [either by example, inference, or command] for any designation, the likes of which we see on church buildings in our city, not to mention across this land and throughout the world?

Dear reader, will you take just a moment, pick up your Bible, and search its pages? Is there just ONE reference in the Holy Book that contains the name of that religious organization to which you have entrusted your eternal soul? Why not pick up your Yellow Pages, turn to the section on “churches,” and put a scripture by every name that you can find in the New Testament. You may find yourself asking the same question I have asked: “Whose church is it, anyway?”

FACTS YOU MUST FACE

Jim R. Lewis

Life Is Short: “Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not” (Job 14:1,2). “Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away” (James 4:14).

Death Is Certain: “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment” (Hebrews 9:27). The strength of man’s mind and the wealth of the world have been spent from earliest times to find a way to escape the fate of death. Still, “All die.”

Eternity Is Permanent: “And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal” (Matthew 25:46). “Everlasting” and “eternal” are the same in meaning. Hell will last as long as heaven.

Judgment Is Sure: “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works” (Revelation 20:12). “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad” (2 Corinthians 5:10).

There Is Only One Way to Be Saved: Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). This salvation is available to all alike only through obedience to the gospel of Christ.

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*"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help
in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Feb 25 – Song Service
- March 4 – Men’s Business Meeting & Ladies’ Class
- March 11 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 pm Worship
- April 15-19 – Annual Spring Gospel Meeting w/ Chuck Stewart
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell