

Today's Sermons
 Morning: "Take Heed"
 Evening: Question & Answer

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FOR THE RECORD


Sunday Bible Study	34
Sunday AM Worship	46
Sunday PM Worship	24
Wed. Bible Study	35
Offering	\$1528

Evidences of Abiding in Christ

"If you abide in my word, then are you truly my disciples."
John 8:31

1. NOT PRACTICING SIN	_____	1 John 3:6
2. KEEPING GOD'S COMMANDMENTS	_____	1 John 3:24
3. BEARING FRUIT	_____	John 15:5
4. LOVING EACH OTHER	_____	1 John 2:10; 4:13
5. WALKING AS CHRIST WALKED	_____	1 John 2:6
6. CONTINUING IN CHRIST'S WORD	_____	John 8:31
7. FAITHFULNESS TO GOD'S TRUTH	_____	1 John 2:24 2 John 9

*To abide with Christ in Heaven,
 One must first abide in Him here!*




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Minister:
Tim Canup
tim@wjchurchofchrist.org

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!**

Undenominational Christianity

Dub McClish

Thoughtful Bible students realize that denominational "churchianity" bears no resemblance to New Testament Christianity. The latter is not only fundamentally undenominational; it is anti-denominational. Men have so long lived with abnormal denominationalism that they almost universally accept it as normal (i.e., Scriptural, for those to whom such things matter.) By definition, a denomination is a religious body having peculiarities that distinguish it from the church revealed in the Bible. A denomination cannot exist without believing, doing, or preaching things not found in God's Word. While all denominations teach and/or practice some things the Bible teaches, the things they teach that are not in the Bible are what make them denominations, of which the Bible knows nothing whatsoever.

Consider some distinctions between denominational and Scriptural concepts of the church:

- Denominations glory in their many churches/bodies. Jesus built one church (Mat. 16:18), which is His "one body" (Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4).
- Denominations laud their diversity of doctrines,

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practices, and faiths. The Bible demands adherence to the singular “doctrine of Christ” (1 John 9–10; cf. Acts 2:42), and insists that there is only one faith (Eph. 4:5; Jude 3) to which all must adhere (1 Cor. 1:10).

- Denominations were founded by human beings. Biblical Christianity was founded by Jesus Christ upon the fact that He is the Son of God (Mat. 16:16–18; 1 Cor. 3:11).

- Denominations are subject to human authorities (headquarters, president, board, conference, pope, etc.). Jesus is the sole head of His church (Eph. 1:22–23; Col. 1:18), and He governs it from Heaven through His New Testament (Heb. 1:1–2; 8:6–13; 9:15–17). Each congregation is autonomous under its own elders/bishops/pastors (Acts 20:28).

- Denominations admit that sinners can be saved apart from them. The Bible teaches that when one is saved, the Lord adds him to His church, and that one must be in it in order to go to Heaven (Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 15:24; Eph. 5:23–27).

- Denominations worship according to human doctrines and preferences, rendering their worship vain (Mat. 15:9). Jesus’ church worships only as He authorizes (John 4:23–24; Col. 3:17).

- Denominationalism rests upon the word and will of men, not upon the Word and will of the Son of God.

Who Believes in God?

T. Pierce Brown (deceased)

There is a very interesting statement made in 1 Peter 1:21 about which I never remember hearing anyone comment. It says, “Who through Him are believers in God, that raised Him from the dead, and gave Him glory; so that your faith and hope might be in God.” Have you ever considered the implications of that statement? It is only through Jesus that you can have the proper understanding of God and thus have the proper faith in Him. If you do not believe in the God that Jesus revealed, you do not believe in God in the Bible sense.

It is amazing to discover the number of persons who claim to believe in God, but they have very little concept of the God that Jesus revealed. There are those who believe in a god who overlooks sin. He would not allow anyone to be lost eternally. Many believe in a god who either has not given a revelation of his will, or he made it too difficult to understand. Others think he does not really mean what he says. For example, when he says, “Baptism doth also now save you” (1 Peter 3:21), he really means that baptism has nothing to do with salvation.

The God Jesus revealed is a God of grace. He graciously provided the way to be saved for every sinner who is willing to forsake his sin. The God that Jesus revealed is One who loves mankind enough and hates sin enough that He allowed Jesus to die to solve that problem. The God that Jesus revealed is a God so just that He cannot lie, and thus, He must allow the unrepentant, disobedient sinner to choose his own destiny and be separated from Him forever.

Of course, it would take many books to begin to do justice to the nature of God, but the purpose of this article is simply to emphasize that probably no one has ever had a proper concept or belief in God except as revealed in Christ. My judgment is that this includes even Moses, Job and Abraham. What the Holy Spirit revealed to them about God was true, but it was not as complete as that which “in these last days was spoken to us in His Son” (Hebrews 1:1-2). As Jesus put it in John 1:18, “No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.” If your belief in God is such that you are willing to take Christ as your full authority in all things, repent of every sin, be immersed in water for the remission of your sins and then so live that the life of Christ may be manifest in your mortal flesh, you have the kind of belief in God that will save you.

“And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him. And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (Matthew 9:9-13).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Aug 4 – Men’s Business Meeting & Ladies’ Class
- Aug 11 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship
- Aug 25 – Song Service
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell