

Volume 1, Issue 9

February 24th, 2002

Why Am I a Member of the church of Christ?

Kevin Cauley

I n deed! Why are you a member of any church of which you call yourself a member? We read in the scriptures, "Try your own selves, whether ye are in the faith; prove your own selves" (2 Corinthians 13:5a). God does not want me to just take for granted that I am saved. He wants me to examine my life each and every day to make sure that I am doing what He wants me to do. He said to the Corinthians, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (1 Corinthians 10:12).

To whom will you give account in the day of judgment? Each soul will be held accountable to God through the gospel of Jesus Christ (Romans 2:16; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9). The gospel is the only standard of judgment. It makes a whole lot of sense to do what the gospel teaches in matters regarding the church. This is the basic answer to the question in the title of this article. I am a member of the church of Christ because the church of Christ does what the gospel of Christ says "do." This is the ONLY reason that ANYONE should be a member of ANY church.



What is it that the church of Christ does that the gospel says the church should do? First and foremost, the church of Christ HONORS the name of Christ. Many churches today claim to honor Christ, but the name they show on their sign honors man. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 1:10-13 that ANY name that honors ANYONE other than the one who was crucified for your salvation is a name that is NOT worth keeping! Yet how many churches do we see today who are named after Paul, Peter, John or some great man? How many

(Continued on page 2)

Kevin's Korner

Last Saturday we REALLY got some work done in the lower building. Several members showed up and some kids too and we cleaned the building and picked up trash around the perimeter. We had a great time and things look much better. For those who came we say, "Thank you!" For those who missed out, "You missed out!" We even played a little basketball.



Tuesday night a few of us drove over to Stark City, MO for a gospel meeting. We were treated to some good preaching and fellowship. We saw the Hendrix family and got "caught up" with what was going on with them. A.J.'s address is published in the announcement section of the bulletin. It would really be good for us to send cards to this family as A.J.'s wife is in ill health.



Our youth rally is rapidly approaching. We had a call this week from a congregation that is thinking about bringing 8-10 kids. We sent out invitations to over 60 congregations. If we only have 10 congregations come, that will be 80-100 kids right there! This is exciting! What do we need to do? First, everyone please keep this good work in your prayers. Second, it is time to start working to make this happen! Brent has requested that we start bringing hotdogs to the building in preparation for this event. Third, talk to Brent to see how you can help. He has many things to do in this regard and I KNOW he wants everyone to participate. Let's get to work!

Mary Lynn and I would like to invite everyone to our house on Sunday, April 7th between 2:00 and 5:00 PM for an "open house." We are certainly thankful to the congregation for supporting

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 1)

churches today do we see named after some city or place mentioned in the New Testament? How many churches do we see named after some religious rite or function? Is this right, when an apostle clearly said to do otherwise? "Try your own selves whether ye be in the faith." I am a member of the church of Christ because the church of Christ honors the name which is above all names (Philippians 2:9)!

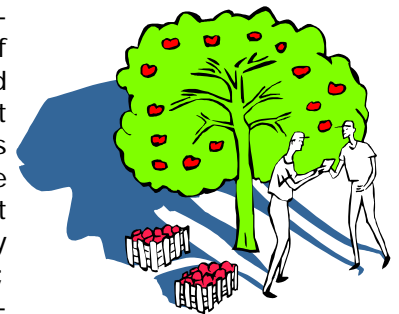
Second, the church of Christ seeks to make Christ the standard of authority for all matters of life. Perhaps you have heard someone say, (1) "That's the way we have always done it" or "that is what my mother and father taught me" or "my preacher says" or "our creed says" or "my opinion is," etc. When is the last time you heard (2) "The Bible says;" "The scriptures teach;" "The New Testament authorizes;" "Thus saith the Lord!" There is a vast difference between the thinking in the statements in section (1) above and the statements in section (2). The statements in section (1) are subjective, relative, changing, mutable, and not dependable for eternal salvation. The statements in section (2) are permanent, unchanging, objective, eternal and will go on forever. Of which type of statement is the will of Jesus for His church? It is of the second type! "Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8)! I am a member of the church of Christ because the church of Christ believes in ONE standard for THE ONE faith (Ephesians 4:5; Jude 3).

Third, the church of Christ honors THE plan that Christ gave for salvation. By looking at the process of salvation as given by Jesus in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, one comes to the undeniable conclusion that there are five things that must occur before one can claim salvation. **First**, a person must **hear** the gospel of Jesus Christ. We learn of this requirement in Matthew 28:19 in the command to "teach all nations." If there is teaching, there must be hearing as well. We also read of this in Mark 16:15, Luke 24:47, and John 20:30,31. **Second**, a person must **believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. We learn of this requirement in Mark 16:16 and John 20:30,31. **Third**, a person must **repent** of sins before coming to Christ. We learn of this requirement in Luke 24:47. **Fourth**, a person must **confess** that Jesus is the Son of God. We learn of this requirement in Matthew 10:32, 33. **Fifth** a person must be born of the water and of the Spirit by being **baptized** into the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We learn of this requirement in John 3:5; Matthew

28:19; Mark 16:16. This is Christ's plan! Search the scriptures; "Try your own selves whether ye be in the faith. Prove yourselves." I am a member of the church of Christ because it honors the plan that CHRIST gave for salvation!

Some other wonderful things we could discuss in this respect are: I am a member of the church of Christ because it was founded on the day that Christ's church was founded—Pentecost in Acts 2. I am a member of the church of Christ because it is organized the way Christ's church was organized; because it worships the way Christ's church worshipped; because it teaches what Christ taught in regard to heaven and hell; because it teaches what Christ taught in regard to the day of judgment; because it teaches what Christ taught in regard to His own death, burial, and resurrection; because it teaches what Christ taught in regard to the inspiration of the scriptures. We could go on into the numerous things that Christ and the apostles taught regarding God's will for man. But if the church of Christ was NOT teaching the truth regarding these many things, I would NOT be a member of it. The only reason to be a member of any church is because that church teaches and practices WHAT CHRIST TAUGHT! "Try your own selves whether ye be in the faith. Prove yourselves!"

If we teach what Christ and His apostles taught, then we WILL get what they got. A seed will produce after its own kind. An Apple seed cannot bring forth a Peach tree. A Wheat seed cannot bring forth a Pecan tree. A Grape seed cannot bring forth a Watermelon. Now, "The seed is the word of God" (Luke 8:11b). When THAT seed is planted, what will come of it? Why should we NOT get the same thing that they got instead of a multitude of different beliefs and practices? They got Christians (Acts 11:26); they got the ONE church; they got the ONE faith; they got the ONE Lord; they got the ONE baptism; they got the ONE Father; they got the ONE Spirit; they got the ONE Hope (Ephesians 4:4-6). And when the church teaches and practices what Christ and the apostles taught and practiced, you can only get ONE THING—GOD'S CHURCH—CHRIST'S CHURCH—THE CHURCH OF CHRIST! That is why I am a member of the church of Christ.



us and providing us such a wonderful place to live. We want to express our gratitude and appreciation to you at this time. We do not request anything of you but your presence (not presents, but presence). Please come and visit with us and see our house.

We have another great opportunity to serve our community next week. Next week is the fifth Sunday of the month—the day that we are privileged and honored to go to the nursing home and sing for the wonderful people who are there. God expects us to take care of both orphans and widows (James 1:27). There are many ways that we can do this. These older people are the ones who helped us start our lives. Let's show our appreciation for them by coming out to sing. I am never disappointed by going and visiting with these folks and I promise you that you will not be disappointed either.

If 99.9% is good enough, then

- \$761,900 will be spent in the next 12 months on tapes and compact disks that won't play.
- \$9,690 will be spent each day and into the future on unsafe sporting equipment.
- 1,314 phone calls will be misplaced by telecommunications services every minute.
- 103,260 income tax returns will be processed incorrectly this year.
- 107 incorrect medical procedures will be performed today.
- 114,500 mismatched pairs of shoes will be shipped this year.
- 12 babies will be given to the wrong parents every day.
- 14,208 defective personal computers will be shipped this year.

- 18,322 pieces of mail will be mishandled in the next hour.
- 2 million documents will be lost by the IRS this year.
- 2,488,200 books will be shipped in the next 12 months with the wrong cover.
- 20,000 incorrect drug prescriptions will be written in the next 12 months.
- 22,000 checks will be deducted from the wrong bank accounts in the next 60 minutes.
- 268,500 defective tires will be shipped this year. 291 pacemaker operations will be performed incorrectly this year.
- 3,056 copies of tomorrow's Wall Street Journal will be missing one of three sections.
- 5,517,200 cases of soft drinks will be shipped flat this year.
- 55 malfunctioning automatic teller machines will be installed in the next year.
- 811,000 faulty rolls of 35mm film will be loaded this year.
- 880,000 credit cards will be produced with incorrect magnetic strips.

What about our spiritual life? Should we not strive for perfection? Should we be satisfied with 99.9%? Yes, I know that we all sin and come short of God's glory (Rom. 3:23), but should we be satisfied with that? Of course not! Jesus said, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Mt. 5:48).

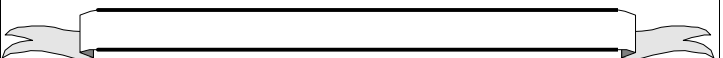
Think About It!
Have a Great Day!
Tom Moore
Malvern, AR



Our Record

Week of 3/17

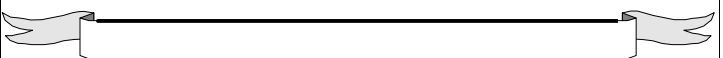
Sunday Class.....	72
Sunday A.M.....	80
Sunday P.M.....	70
Wednesday.....	63
Contribution.....	\$1707.56



Sunday's Sermons

For February 24th

Morning.....	The Christian Woman
Scripture	1 Corinthians 11:2,3
Evening.....	The Christian Man
Scripture	1 Corinthians 11:2,3



“One In A Million”

Foy G. Forehand

When I was a boy my mother taught me a little poem. I did not understand the poem's emphasis for many years. Then one day its meaning came through. As a sidelight, this is the reason for teaching children to memorize God's word as early as possible. True, they can't understand what it means, but some day the light will dawn. Now, back to Momma's poem. The lyrics of the poem were:

*'You're one in a million,' she whispered low,
As she pressed her ruby lips to mine.
And I dreamed of a house, a bungalow,
In a land of perpetual summertime.
Next evening as I passed by her garden gate,
Two forms merged low in the fading light,
And the same sweet words of the night before
came forth,
And I knew she had told me right.*

The difference between “You're just one in a million” and “You are the only one in a million” is a great monumental! The religious scene in America today rejects the possibility that there might be such a thing as **the church of Christ**. Why? The evil, socialistic doctrine of “Pluralism” is a major contributing factor. Also, over the years, when sectarian, denominational leaders have been called to justify their positions in open public debate, the Biblical proof that all denominationalism is a sinful insult against God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, the word of God and the beautiful bride of Christ, **the church of Christ**, rather than being honest, repenting and obeying the Gospel to be saved and become a part of the Lord's church, these leaders opted to take the position that “It doesn't matter what you believe as long as you are sincere;” and its corollaries, that “One church is just as good as another,” and “We are all going to the same place, just by different roads.” Thus, every member of any denomination must believe that his group is just one in a million and is no better than any other; that all are going to the same place though by different roads. If I had to believe that the religious group of which I was a member was not the one and only true and correct religion I would not be part of it. Why would anyone hold on to some doctrine and organization that they were forced to believe was a second class group among a system of second class groups? If I could not believe that the religion of which I am a member is the one and only true and correct religion, I would not be such a hypocrite as to be a member of it, much less a proud member of it!

Is there such a thing as “**the church of Christ**”? Did Jesus say in Matthew 16:18, “I will build My church”? Of course He did, so there is “**the church of Christ**.” Is it conceivable that Jesus, Who taught us to count the cost before we build, Luke 14:28, would, Himself, not have counted the cost? No! It is conceivable that He would not have known all the elements included and excluded from His building project? No! Is it conceivable that He would have left something so eternally important in the hands of mere men to evolve some system as pleased them? NO! **The church of Christ**, the beautiful bride of Christ, Ephesians 5:23-33, was given in the New Testament exactly as Jesus knew it had to be to fulfill His work on earth! Its worship, with the Lord's Supper every first day of the week, Acts 20:7; prayers (public and private), 1 Corinthians 14:15; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; the giving to God as “ordered” in all the congregation under apostolic authority, 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; teaching and learning (preaching), 2 Timothy 4:1-4; and singing (fruit of lips the only thing authorized), Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 13:15, was ordered and ordained by Jesus, John 4:23-24. Its organization, with bishops (elders, pastors) and deacons, Philippians 1:1 and Jesus as the only head and legislator, Colossians 1:18 is the only pattern given by Jesus for His edifice. Its terms of membership: hearing, learning and believing the Gospel, Mark 16:15; Romans 1:16-17; repentance out of godly sorrow, Acts 17:30.; 2 Corinthians 7:10; confessions, with one's mouth, of faith in Christ, Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; and immersion in water for the remission of all past sins, Acts 2:38 (the one baptism of Ephesians 4:4-6); for the purpose of becoming a saved person 1 Peter 3:21; and as it is “faith in the working of God” Colossians 2:12; and thus being added by the Lord to the group of the saved, Acts 2:47, and which group is **the church of Christ**, is of Jesus' making, and must be obeyed in order to be saved, 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9.

The blueprint of Jesus for the building, organization and for membership in this one and only true and correct religious group is the New Testament pattern. This pattern is strict, and authoritative. **The church of Christ** is the religion which strictly obeys Jesus' word and follows His pattern. If all this is not true, then please explain, to Jesus' satisfaction, John 12:48, “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my sayings hath one that judgeth him: the word that I spake, the same shall judge him in the last day.”

Marlin, Texas

February 21st, 2002

Via the Ward Street Church of Christ Bulletin

News, Notes and Prayer List



- Please remember the following in your prayers: Geneva Atchley, Wayne Henderson, Carolyn Roller, Helen Swink, Diane Weems.

- Please remember the following in your prayers: Shawna's Aunt, Bonnie Manual is in the hospital with lung problems. Carlene Pinkley is now out of the hospital and at home. Kevin Youngblood will have carpal tunnel surgery this week.
- Jessica Lovelady and Lucille Wright are in the Berryville nursing home.
- Georgia Bonner and Edith Mischler are in the nursing home in Eureka Springs.
- All are invited to the Cauley's house Sunday, April 7th for an "open house" between 2:00 and 5:00 PM. Come and go as you please during those times.
- Next Sunday we will be singing at the Berryville nursing home. This will be an ongoing event occurring once every fifth Sunday. Please come and support our efforts there!
- We will have a VBS teachers meeting tonight after evening services.
- Many requested A.J. Hendrix address. It is as follows:

*Mr. A.J. Hendrix
General Delivery
Stark City, MO 64866*
- Remember ladies Bible class Wednesday morning at 10:30.
- Our youth day is coming up soon and we need to start getting our food ready. Please start bringing hotdogs to the building for our youth day. Make plans to support this great work!
- For those who want to donate children's clothes to the children's home, please check with Brent Stevens.
- The Pantry Item for this week is Spaghetti.



Men to Serve

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Sunday Morning:		
Song Leader:	Bill Fort	Brent Stevens
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Bob Moore	Glenn Quigley
Scripture:	Ray Duncan	Brandon Foster
Lord's Table:	Bill Fort	Bob Moore
	Bruce Foster	Ken Smith
(assist)	Ray Duncan	Clyde Atchley
	Perry Foster	Ray Duncan
Closing Prayer	Rusty Windle	Bruce Foster
Sunday Night:		
Songs:	Rusty Windle	Ken Smith
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Ken Smith	Dale Pinkley
Scripture:	Bruce Foster	Rusty Windle
Lord's Table:	Dale Pinkley	Glenn Quigley
	Brandon Foster	Brent Moore
Closing Prayer	Brent Stevens	Bill Fort
Wednesday		
Songs:	Bruce Foster	Rusty Windle
Opening Prayer:	Glenn Williams	Dale Pinkley
Invitation:	Brent Stevens	Kevin Cauley
Closing Prayer:	Brent Moore	Bob Moore

Elders: Clay Bozarth, Bill Fort, Glenn Quigley

Deacons: Leon Duncan, Bruce Foster, Dale Pinkley, Ken Smith, Brent Stevens, Rusty Windle

Preacher: Kevin Cauley870-423-6707

Times of Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class:9:30 AM

Sunday Morning Worship:10:30 AM

Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00 PM

Wed. Evening Bible Class: 7:00 PM

The "Berryville Bible Beacon" is published by the Berryville church of Christ. Please contact Kevin Cauley at work at (870) 423-3068 or at home at (870) 423-6707 or e-mail bvcc@alltel.net to contribute information.

For questions or comments, please call (870) 423-3068 or write us at:
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