

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE:**

Euin Barrier, Bernice Beeson,  
Carl Brand, Terry Cantrell,  
Ora Cash, Dickie & Joann Crouch,  
Richard Faulkner, Jimmy Hall,  
Eva Lee, Ken & Mabel Lock,  
Melvin & Ruth Messer, Bobby Mills,  
Glen Parks, Randy Parr,  
Sophia Sears, Earline Smith,  
Linda Smith, Barbara Staten,  
Joann White, Lisa Williams,  
Jimmy, Elizabeth, Katie & Laura Thompson,  
Darlene Wilson, Geneva Wortham,  
and those engaged in home Bible studies.

**If you notice someone's absence from the assembly pray for them, and call to see if there is some additional way you can help.**

*He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish (Proverbs 12:28).*

MIDWEEK NEWS UPDATES AT:  
www.HarrisburgChurchOfChrist.com

**PRAYER LIST UPDATES:**

**Bernice Beeson** is out of town with family for a couple of weeks.

**Randy Parr** is recovering at home from his leg amputation.

**OTHER NEWS:**

**CHILDREN'S HOMES GROCERY TRUCK** is due here tomorrow.

**BIBLE BOWL** meets here tomorrow at 7:00

**TEACHERS' MEETING:** All current and prospective Bible class teachers please meet following the evening assembly on Sunday January 24. This will be a time to express your thoughts on the new material we are using, and to share ideas on how to get the best results with it.

**FAMILY VIDEO BIBLE NIGHT:** is Saturday this week. As you make your plans to attend, include invitations to others who could benefit from Brad Harrub's teaching. Response from area churches indicates a very good attendance. Be sure that you are among those who give this glory to God.

**POTLUCK:** Next Sunday is the day of our 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday dinner following the morning assembly. Plan now to eat dinner with your brothers and sisters in the family of God.

**YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED:** put your Bible questions in writing and give them to Al for answering next Sunday in the evening assembly. You don't need to sign your questions.

**THANK YOU:** In the past two weeks, and in the week upcoming, there have been more than usual occasions to give of your time and resources in the service of God, and you have done very well in shining a light to this community and an example to your brethren in surrounding communities. May God bless you for it.

**Welcome**  
to the Assemblies of  
**Harrisburg**  
**Church of Christ**  
P. O. Box 266  
(504 N. Brooks St)  
Harrisburg, AR 72432  
(870) 578-2965

**Sunday:**

Bible Classes 9:00  
Worship 9:45; 6:00

**Wednesday:**

Bible Classes 7:00

**Elders:**

Ray Blanchard 578-2559  
Bill Mears 578-9650  
Mark Weston 931-2790

**Evangelist:**

Al Parr 578-9154  
(Cell) 903-721-0332

**World Evangelism:**

- ◆Cape Town, S.A.;
- ◆Int'l Bible Academe;

**Benevolence:**

- ◆Children's Homes, Inc.;
- ◆Southern Christian Home

★REMEMBER★  
Pot luck dinner  
next Sunday noon

Be a  
Daily Bible Reader



visit [www.HarrisburgChurchOfChrist.com](http://www.HarrisburgChurchOfChrist.com)

January 24, 2010

**A TEENAGER'S PRAYER**

God in heaven, I am young and don't understand what it is like to be a parent, but it must be very hard because so many people are failing at it these days.

I pray for Mom and Dad to be good parents - strong in the ways you want them to be, so I can look up to them with admiration and feel confident that their instruction is right. Help me, dear Lord, to understand my parents. Remind me that when I don't get my way it is because they love me, and not because they want to be mean or deprive me of a good time.

Help me, God, when I become stubborn and refuse to listen, to accept the fact that they have wisdom and experience because they were once teenagers, but I have never been a parent. Put in my heart the respect and consideration they deserve for their years of sacrifice and hard work. They raised me as best they could; let me not repay them with grief or shame. Rather help me to give them obedience, respect, forgiveness and love. Most of all, God, while I still have my parents here on earth, help me to appreciate them and let them know that I do.

*Author Unknown*  
"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and has been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; and that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (II Timothy 3:14-15).

**BE A DAILY BIBLE READER**

# WHAT IS THE CHURCH OF CHRIST?

About the time I began preaching the gospel a well-known preacher in Texas made headlines among us by claiming that the church of Christ was “one big sick denomination.” A great deal has been written and spoken in more recent years concerning the church’s relationship with other churches around us. One preacher – one of our own – called upon all his brethren in the churches of Christ to think of themselves as “the undenominational denomination.” How *should* we think of ourselves? What is the church of Christ, really?

The only proper source of answers to questions of religious truth is *the Bible* (John 17:17). We must look into *the Bible* to learn what the church is (I Corinthians 4:17; 7:17; 11:16; 14:33; 16:1). Though many today try to define religious right by comparing one group with another, still the Bible teaches the wise that this is impossible (II Corinthians 10:12).

We would not know the term “church of Christ” if we had not learned it from the Bible (Romans 16:16). The same Bible that reveals to us the existence of the church describes for us its name, nature, origin, purpose, and creed.

**THE NAME AND NATURE OF THE CHURCH.** The church described in the Bible is called by various terms that show its nature. That nature of the church is one of peculiar relationship to the Lord. We find the church called the *church of God* (I Corinthians 1:2), *church of the firstborn* (Hebrews 12:23), *body of Christ* (Ephesians 1:22-23), *bride* (i.e. of Christ, see Revelation 19:7; 21:2), *house of God* (I Timothy 3:15), and *kingdom* (Revelation 1:9). Most often, though, it is simply called *the church* (Matthew 18:17 and at least 79 other times). Several local churches considered together are called *the churches of Christ* (Romans 16). The church is rightly called *the church of Christ* because it belongs to Him (Colossians 1:24); He called it His own (Matthew 16:18). He is the head of it (Ephesians 1:22; 5:23; Colossians 1:18), and it is subject to Him (Ephesians 5:24).

**THE ORIGIN OF THE CHURCH.** The identifying marks of the beginning of the church also show its peculiar relationship to God and to the Savior Jesus Christ. First, Christ promised to build it (Matthew 16:18). He promised to build but *one*, and that *one* is described in the New Testament. No other church on earth today can rightly claim to have been built by Jesus. To do

**We would not know the term  
“church of Christ”  
if we had not learned it from the Bible  
(Romans 16:16).  
The same Bible that reveals to us the  
existence of the church describes for us its  
name, nature, origin, purpose, and creed.**

so would be to claim for a founder One who did not do what He said He’d do: build one church. Secondly, His church was in existence as early as 50 days after His resurrection (the time from the Jewish Passover – Mark 14:1-15:27 – to their Pentecost – Leviticus 23:15-16). On that day Peter preached the first gospel sermon (Acts 2:1-40) and people were added to the church (v. 47). They could hardly have been added to that which did not exist, therefore the Lord’s own church existed at that time. Not *one* of the other churches known on earth today, however, had yet come into existence at that time.

**THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH.** The Bible also defines the purpose of the church. No human statement of design or purpose will suffice for the church which is subject to Christ, for God has clearly revealed His will that the saved be edified (I Corinthians 14:5), and that they then, as the church, show unto to the world the “manifold wisdom of God” (Ephesians 3:10), caring for the needy in the process (Acts 6:1-4; I Timothy 5:16; Galatians 6:10).

**THE CREED OF THE CHURCH.** The word *creed* means “a brief statement of religious belief; confession of faith” (*Webster’s New World Dictionary, Second College Edition*). Practically every church known to man has its own peculiar creed. Surely, some subscribe to one or more of several “universal” creeds, and by these they are nominally linked together. Yet, as one views modern religion as a whole, nothing is more evident than *division*. More than by any other single factor, that division is caused by beliefs, and statements of beliefs, that are peculiar to each “denomination.” But the church which Jesus built is not a denominated, divided church (Ephesians 4:1-13). It has one “creed,” one “statement of religious belief; confession of faith.” That creed is Jesus Christ Himself: His identity as the Son of God (Acts 8:37). Upon this statement the church is built (Matthew 16:1-18). No other creed is found authorized for the church of the New Testament.

Don’t be a *divided* Christian. Be just a *Christian*: simply a member of the same church the first Christians knew. Believing the same doctrine they did, and following the same practices will certainly make us what they were and put us into the same church. -Al Parr

---

*I will meditate in thy precepts*

(Psalm 119:78):

**B E A D A I L Y B I B L E R E A D E R**

## “What Must I Do to be Saved”

(Acts 16:25-30)

### INTRODUCTION:

- I. An appropriate question
  - A. Gen. 2:8, 16, 17 - Created in the perfect image of \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. Gen. 3:1-6, 22-24 - Departed from God’s perfection into \_\_\_\_\_
- II. What “Death” in the Garden?
  - A. Rom. 5:12 - by one death entered
  - B. Rom. 7:11 - \_\_\_\_\_, taking occasion of the commandment, slew me

### DISCUSSION:

- I. GOD PROMISED SALVATION
  - A. Gen. 3: \_\_\_\_\_ - “he shall bruise thy head”
  - B. Isa. 62:1-5 - “beulah” = married to Christ - Rom. 7:4
- II. GOD PREPARED FOR MAN’S SALVATION
  - A. Isa. \_\_\_\_:6-7 - unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given
  - B. Dan. 2:44 - the God of heaven shall set up a \_\_\_\_\_ & all \_\_\_\_\_ flow into it
- III. GOD EFFECTED MAN’S SALVATION IN JESUS
  - A. Jn. 1:1-5, 9-14 - the was word made \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. Matt. 16:16-19 - I will build my \_\_\_\_\_; i.e. the kingdom
  - C. Lk. 19:10 - to seek & save that which was \_\_\_\_\_
  - D. Lk. 24:44-47 - fulfilled the law;

repentance & remission of sins preached in \_\_\_\_\_

- E. Mk. 16:14-20 - \_\_\_\_\_ believed, preached, confirmed

### IV. THOSE WHO KNEW HIM SPOKE

- A. Their Authority
  1. Jn. 14:26 - Comforter to give them remembrance of all that \_\_\_\_\_ spoke
  2. I Cor. 2:13 - speak by words which \_\_\_\_\_ teaches
  3. I Jn. 1:1-4 - what we have seen, looked upon & handled, we declare to you
- B. Who they said He is - Acts 2:22-24, 36 - \_\_\_\_\_ & Christ
- C. What they required of their hearers - Acts 16:30, 31, 32, 33 - why?
  1. Rom. 6:2b-4 - baptized into Him to be raised with Him to new life
  2. Gal. 3:26-28 – children of God by \_\_\_\_\_: baptized into Christ, put on Christ

### CONCLUSION:

- I. WHAT MUST \_\_\_\_\_ DO TO BE SAVED?
  - A. When apostles preached men were saved by believing, repenting, confessing and being baptized
  - B. God has not changed the plan - These are still the only steps to salvation

### THE RECORD SPEAKS (week of 1-17):

Sunday Bible Class .....	91
Sunday AM Worship .....	103
Sunday PM Worship .....	81
Contribution .....	\$2,145
Wednesday PM Bible Class .....	60

### WHAT DOES IT SAY ABOUT *you*?

#### Next Week’s Lessons:

**AM:** “The Wicked Doth Compass About the Righteous”

**PM:** Your Questions Answered

#### The “Steps of That Faith”

Abraham had “a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had... that he might be the father of all them that believe... who walk in the steps of that faith” (Rom. 4:11-12). Abraham’s faith was evident in the steps he took to obey God. The steps God calls us to take are:

1. **Believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (John 20:30-31; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 8:37; 17:3);
2. **Repent** from sin (Luke 13:3; 24:47; Acts 2:38);
3. **Confess** that belief in Jesus as the Christ (Matt. 10:32; Acts 8:36;38; Rom. 10:9-10; I Tim. 6:12).
4. **Be baptized** in the name of Jesus for forgiveness of your sins (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 4:7, 12; Rom. 6:3-7; Gal. 3:27).
5. **Walk in the light** of His word all the days of your life (I John 1:7; Psalm 119:105; II Peter 3:11-12).

## The Lord Only Made One Race

There is no question that the Bible teaches there is only one race – the human race.

God created mankind in His image and in His likeness. We are the pinnacle of His creative activities. The Bible clearly states that all of the lineage of humanity came through one woman, Eve. She is defined as the “mother of all living” (Genesis 3:20). But do we really believe that?

While congregations would argue that they are not racist, most congregations still remain segregated. While we preach about diversity and everyone having a special role in the body of Christ, we do not promote or celebrate integration because for many it is not comfortable ....

How many times have conversations been started in which a Christian says, “I’m not a racist or prejudiced, but ...” But what?! Christ is the Savior of blacks and whites. If we are going to purify the hearts of our children and grandchildren, we need to stop playing the blame game and start actively teaching them the biblical perspective that there really is only one race.

-Brad Harrub  
(This speaker on Saturday’s Family Video Bible Night teaches all over the world on cultural issues that separate man from God, and he accurately shows God’s answer to those divisions. Come and see. -ALP)