

# The church of Christ

## Introduction

1. While most preachers and members of denominational churches will not come right out and condemn one who is a member of the church of Christ, they do levy the charge that *"we think that we are the only church that is right and that one must be in the church of Christ in order to be saved."*
  - A. **Is that true? Is the church of Christ the only church that is right among all the churches? Also, must we be in the church of Christ in order to be saved?**
  - B. **Jesus stated the following in Matthew 16:13-20:  
Matthew 16:13-20**
  - C. **He also stated this very important fact:**

Matthew 15:13-14 But He answered and said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch."

2. **In the lesson this morning my aim is to show why the church of Christ is the right church based on Bible teaching.**

## **The church of Christ Is Right Because: It Was Built by the Right Person**

1. Christ stated: “on this rock I will build My church.”
  - A. Any church built by anyone except Christ can’t possibly be the church that Christ said He would build.
  
2. Did Christ fulfill His promise of Matthew 16:18? YES He did!
  - A. Notice what is said in the following passages:  
**Acts 2:47; 20:28**
    - 1) Christ gave His life’s blood to build His church.
      - a. He never promised just any church – just His own church. It is the only Heavenly designed, blood bought, and Spirit filled institution in all the world.
  
3. There is a difference in wearing the name Christ and that of wearing the name Martin Luther or John Smythe
  - A. Luther lived and died in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. **(Lutheran church 1530)**
  - B. Smythe lived and died in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. **(Baptist church 1607)**
    - 1) This was 1500 to 1600 years on this side of Christ building His church.
  
4. The church of Christ was built by Christ while other churches were built by men, many years after Christ’s church was established.

## **The church of Christ Is Right Because: It Was In the Right Place**

1. **God made the choice of the building place of His church, or House.**

**Isaiah 2:1-3**

- A. **Any church that had its beginning any place other than Jerusalem is not the church that Isaiah prophesied as being built in Jerusalem**

- 1) **Therefore, it cannot be the church that Christ built and as a result is a wrong church.**

2. **The Psalmist wrote the following:**

Psalms 127:1 Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.

- A. **Does the New Testament say that the church was established in Jerusalem?**

**Acts 1:9-12; 2:1-5, 47**

## **The church of Christ Is Right Because: It Was Built At The Right Time**

1. **Any church that had its beginning before, or after the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Christ cannot be the church that Christ built.**

2. **Notice if you will the wording of Acts 11:15:**

Acts 11:15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, **as upon us at the beginning.**

- A. **This is pointing back to the day of Pentecost (Pente = 50; cost = day); Thus just 50 days after Christ rose from the dead the church of Christ was built, the very one which He said He would build!**

- B. **This is a long time before the church of Martin Luther in the 15<sup>th</sup> century and the church that John Smythe built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. These were built long after the church of Christ.**

## **The church of Christ Is Right Because: It Was Built On The Right Foundation**

Isaiah 28:16 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; Whoever believes will not act hastily.

### **1. Some today believe that the Apostle Peter was the foundation of the church. But listen to what the scriptures plainly say:**

1 Corinthians 3:10-11 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For **no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.**

1 Peter 2:4-6 Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "*Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.*"

### **A. A living foundation upon which living stones are built, with a living head, a living Savior – of the living church!**

#### **1. NO OTHER FOUNDATION CAN **NO MAN** LAY.**

## **The church of Christ Is Right Because: It Wears The Right Name**

- 1. In Matthew 16:18 “My” is a personal pronoun that denotes possession – it (the church) belongs to Christ.**
- 2. John speaks of seven congregations of this great body, or church in the book of Revelation — all wearing Christ’s endearing name.**

Revelation 19:7-9 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, "Write:'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me,"These are the true sayings of God."

Revelation 21:9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you **the bride, the Lamb's wife.**"

- A. Can you picture the bride of Christ, the church, wearing Luther’s name, or the name of John Smythe?**

## **The church of Christ Is Right Because: It Has The Right Head**

1. **Those in the Catholic church today are taught that the Pope is the head of the church.**
  - A. **Some will say that Christ is the spiritual head but that the Pope is the material head.**
    - 1) **This would seem odd because this would mean that there is a church with two heads hanging to it.**
    - 2) **Pope's die, therefore the Catholic church would exist with a dead Pope's head hanging from it.**
  
- 2 **Jesus Christ is not dead. He is living and He is the living head of the church in which He built by His own blood.**
  - A. **He is the living foundation, and the living Savior of the living body, the church.**  
**Ephesians 1:20-23; 5:22-23**

Revelation 1:17-18 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, **I am alive forevermore**. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

## **The church of Christ Is Right Because: It Teaches The Right Doctrine**

- 1. From the time of its establishment, the church of Christ teaches the only correct doctrine.**

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

1 Timothy 4:16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

- 2. In regard to the worship of the church, God has specified certain things that He expects His church to do:**

- A. Sing** (*Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16-17*)

- B. Pray** (*1 Timothy 2:1-5*)

- C. Giving** (*1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7*)

- D. Observing the Lord's Supper** (*Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23f*)

- 1) This is to be observed EVERY first day of the week.**

## **The church of Christ Is Right Because: It Observes The Right Baptism**

1. **The doctrine of Christ teaches that one must be baptized in order to be saved.**  
**Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21**
  - A. **On Pentecost, when the church of Christ was established, those who wanted to be forgiven for crucifying Jesus were told plainly by the apostle Peter:**  
**Acts 2:36-41**
  
2. **Baptism is from the Greek word “Baptizo” which means to dip, plunge, or immerse.**
  - A. **The following passages of scripture testifies plainly to that definition:**
    - 1) **Acts 8:36-40**
    - 2) **Colossians 2:11-12**

### **Conclusion**

1. **The church of Christ always has an open door for anyone who would desire to come to Christ, to be part of His body, the church.**

John 10:9 I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

2. **Jesus invites everyone to come to Him.**  
**Matthew 11:28-30**
3. **Won't you come and enter into His body through baptism so that you can be saved.**

Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body .



