

**THE ONE BODY**

The church is the body of Christ, "And he is the head of the body, the church (Col. 1:18). There is only one body, one church. "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all" (Eph. 1:22-23). The New Testament teaches that there is only one body; this one body is the church. We are "fellow heirs of the same body" (Eph. 3:6). We are "reconciled to God in one body" (Eph. 2:16). Christ is founder of only one church. "Upon this rock I will build my church" (Matt. 16:18). Jesus did not say that we would build a church, His church or one of His churches. He said, "I will build my church." The word "church" signifies singularity. Jesus did not build many different churches, but one! None should encourage any to seek the church of your choice, but the church of Christ's choice, that is, the one that is Christ-built, blood-bought (Acts 20:28), the one in which He is the Saviour of (Eph. 5:23).

Since there is one, and only one church and since Christ saves only those in that one church; thus, if one living to-day is not a member of that church (Rom. 16:16), then he is not saved. ♦

**What Do I Owe My Congregation?**

Author unknown

**I owe it my loyalty.** I must help carry out every good work it undertakes. I should help other congregations in special efforts, but I should not neglect my home congregation. I owe it my dependability. I am depending on it for many things it does in my behalf. It is not fair and right for me to depend on it and not be such that it cannot depend on me.

**I owe it my financial support.** It takes money to operate the church and preach the gospel. I am responsible to the Lord to give as He has prospered me. My home congregation has first call on my financial ability, for if the members of the church do not support the work of the home congregation, it will not be supported. The expenses go on whether I am there or not, so I should make up my contribution when absent.

**I owe it my presence.** If everyone stayed home there would be no worship of God. I am responsible as anyone to attend all of my congregation's services. I must not be a parasite.

**I owe it the influence of a godly life.** The life I live either helps others to obey the gospel or makes it the harder for them. How I live affects the work of the church and the salvation of the lost. I should live in such a way that my life will be blessing to others. ♦

**What Must I Do To Be Saved?**

Hear and Learn - Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; John 6:45; 17:3

Believe - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24

Repent - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30

Confess the Lord - Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21

Be Baptized - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27

Continue in the Apostles' Teaching - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17

**About the Hillcrest church of Christ**

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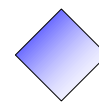


**Schedule of Assembly**

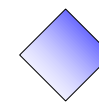
Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am  
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am  
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm\*

\*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month

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# The Voice of Truth



October 30, 2011

**How Do You Call On the Name of the Lord?**

By Jimmy Pettigrew

And it shall be, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved (Acts 2:21). For, whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved (Romans 10:13).

Some preachers, like Billy Graham, affirm that calling on the name of the Lord only involves accepting Christ as your personal Savior. God's power to save is contained in the gospel (Romans 1:16; James 1:21). The Scripture says we are called by the gospel (2 Thessalonians 2:14). There can be no calling without faith. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him whom they have not heard? (Romans 10:14). This was a very significant fact so far as concerned the Jews who were rejecting the Christ. They could not call upon Him until they came to believe upon Him. There could be no faith without hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17). There could be no calling without faith. There could be no faith without hearing. Faith does not come miraculously and directly from God, as so many so falsely claim. Rather, faith comes by hearing the word of God.

What does calling involve? It is clear that calling follows faith (Romans 10:14). It is also clear that calling precedes salvation. Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved (Romans 10:13). Calling therefore stands between faith and salvation. The order is: faith, calling salvation. All will agree.

When we study the New Testament concerning God's plan of salvation, we learn that one must (1) believe (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6); (2) repent (Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; 17:30); (3) confess his faith in Christ (Matthew 10:32; Romans 10:10); and (4) be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16). According to the Bible, standing after faith and preceding salvation: repentance, confession, and baptism. If calling follows after faith and precedes salvation, then it is clear that calling on the Lord and repentance, confession, and baptism ARE THE SAME!

Is repentance essential to salvation? Jesus said, I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all in like manner perish (Luke 13:3). The times of ignorance therefore God overlooked; but now he commandeth men that they should all everywhere repent (Acts 17:30). Does Acts 2:21 and Romans 10:13 mean that repentance is unnecessary just because it is unmentioned in the text? Then why assume baptism is to be non-essential simply because it is unmentioned with in this particular text? If God says, faith saves (Romans 5:1), let's accept that; if God says baptism saves (1 Peter 3:21), let's accept that, too!

Acts 2:21 and Romans 10:13 are not saying that salvation can be acquired by mere verbal confession alone (I accept Jesus into my heart as my personal Savior). Nowhere is the statement Accept Jesus as your personal Savior found in Scripture. The opposite is true. Jesus destroyed such understanding of salvation by mental acceptance/verbal profession alone in Matthew 7:21 and Luke 6:46. Read carefully, Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? If faith is not coupled with the appropriate obedient action (like baptism), then such faith is unable to justify; read carefully James 2:17, 20, 26.

The phrase call on the name of the Lord is another way of saying, Do what He tells you to do. Isaiah 55:6 tells the Jews of Isaiah's day to call on God. Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near. Verse 7 explains how: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon (Isaiah 55:7). (1) Forsake wicked ways; (2) Forsake wicked thoughts, and (3) Return to the Lord. To obey these three stipulations constituted calling on God. Likewise, those in Jerusalem who called on the Lord's name (Acts 2:21) had done so, not by verbal

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This is how one calls on the name of the Lord; no other confession, but by repentance and baptism so that sins way but this! • could be forgiven (**Acts 2:38**).

## “My People Love To Have It So”

By Jarrod Jacobs

Jeremiah, the weeping prophet proclaimed, “An appalling and horrible thing has happened in the land: The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule on their own authority; And My people love it so!” (**Jer. 5:30-31, NAS**). As Jeremiah warned God’s people of their sins, and of the coming captivity by the Babylonians, he found that his own people ignored him. Therefore, he ended this chapter by asking, “But what will you do at the end of it?” What would they do seeing that the people loved engaging in wicked things, and loved seeing others engaged in wicked practices as well? They refused God’s warnings, and were content to live in sin, enjoying earthly, filthy, and lewd pleasures.

Unfortunately, this attitude is still prevalent with men. Just like in Jeremiah’s day, people do not consider the consequences of their actions, but are striving for that which makes them “happy,” “content,” or “comfortable” and “love to have it so” (**Jer. 5:31, KJV**)! Consider the following “modern-day” examples of this problem:

### “Faith Only”

Some believe and teach that man is saved at the point of faith alone or “faith only”, even though the Bible teaches no such thing. James said, “Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only” (**Jas. 2:24**). Christ requires a man to believe in Him, repent of his sins, and be baptized in order to be saved (**Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38**). Faith alone is dead (**Jas. 2:26**)! Sadly, people “love to have it so” in regards to this false doctrine. Where is the outrage from godly men who know there are so many lost because of the false doctrine of “faith only”?

### “Once Saved, Always Saved”

Some believe and teach that once a man is saved from past sins, he can never act in such a way as to forfeit the promise of a home in Heaven. Such will admit that a man may sin from time to time; yet they claim this has no bearing on the soul of that man. The Bible doesn’t teach this doctrine! Consider the words of the apostle Paul in **I Corinthians 9:27**. Why would he be concerned about his being a “castaway” if he could not sin and ultimately be lost in Hell? He also told Timothy, “Now the Spirit speaketh ex-

pressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils” (**I Tim. 4:1**). The Hebrew writer penned, “Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God” (**Heb. 3:12**). Friend, we cannot depart from a place we have never been! The Bible’s plain declaration that some folks had departed from “the faith” and departed from “the living God,” imply they were in that relationship at some point! Yes, man can so sin as to fall from grace (**Gal. 5:4**) and be lost in eternity. Do not fool yourself, nor allow others to fool you on this most important truth!

### “No Difference Between The Individual’s And The Local Church’s Work”

There are those today who teach that there is no difference between the work of the church and the work of individual saints. They say things like: “Whatever the individual can do, the church can do”. The Bible does not teach this. In fact, Jesus made a distinction between an individual, a group of individuals, and the church (**Matt. 18:15-17**). We need to do the same. Paul told Timothy, “If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed” (**I Tim. 5:16**). Yes, the responsibilities of the individual and church are separate. It is not “what one can do, the other can do”! The local church has a responsibility to preach the truth, help needy saints, and edify the saints (**I Thess. 1:8; I Tim. 5:16; I Thess. 5:11**; etc.). This is the limit and scope of what a local congregation can do. Why would people want it any other way? Why do people today wish to drag the local church into works in which she was never to be engaged? (I.E., distributing funds to any and every one, providing for social and recreational activities, etc.?) These are responsibilities of the individual, not the local church! Sadly, so long as God’s people “love to have it so,” there will be apostates in this world!

### “The Authority Of Christ”

Christ has all authority today (**Matt. 28:18**). He is the One that we follow, doing all things by His authority (**Col.**

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## Conclusion

**3:17**). Why then do we find those who are promoting the idea that man is his own authority, and we are only answerable to ourselves? Yes, there are those who say that once this life is over, our existence is over; therefore we may live as we please without eternal consequences. Unfortunately, this type of thinking is wrong. This makes for a life based upon the worst; when Christians are supposed to strive toward the best! We must have our eyes on Heaven (**Col. 3:1-4; Matt. 6:19-21, 33**)! Paul said, “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (**Phil. 1:21**). The only way one can say his death is “gain” is if his life has been “Christ”! In other words, all our ambitions, aspirations, and activities are summed up in the One who died for us and sits at the right hand of God (**Mk. 16:19**).

Consider this: “For to me to live is \_\_\_\_\_ and to die is \_\_\_\_\_.” If we do not put “Christ” in the first blank, we cannot put “gain” in the last blank! We may place anything in the first blank, but if our life is not “Christ,” then our deaths will not be “gain”! Yet, people place things other than Christ in the first blank and “love to have it so.” Why? Why waste our lives in activities that are not conducive to our going to Heaven? Are we waiting for something better?

### “The Church Of Your Choice”

Many people belong to denominations of various names. It may be the Baptists, Methodists, Catholics, Pentecostals, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Wesleyans, or a thousand other groups. They “love” to say, “Join the church of your choice.” They “love” to say, “We’re on different roads to the same goal.” However, the Bible says that Christ built only one church (**Matt. 16:18**). Paul taught that Christ shed His blood for only one church (**Acts 20:28**). **I Corinthians 3:11** declares, “other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” Peter uses Isaiah’s prophecy to show that Christ is “the head of the corner” and Christians are “lively (living) stones” (**I Pet. 2:5-7**). The Lord adds Christians to “the” church (**Acts 2:47**). In fact, in a discussion of Christ and the church, we find a comparison between the husband-wife relationship (**Eph. 5:22-33**). Now, does man have the right to have more than one wife? If not, why say that Christ has more than one church? Even though there are false teachers spreading lies, and even though some “love to have it so” when it comes to choosing “their church;” this is as wrong as it can be! We need to get back to following the Lord’s word and will concerning this and all other subjects!

What about you, friend? What do you love? What do you want to hear from the pulpit? What do you want to read in publications such as this? When one comes as Jeremiah, pleading for men to return to the “old paths” and to “walk therein,” do we say “we will not” (**Jer. 6:16**)? Are we as those in Isaiah’s day who, “say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits: Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us” (**Isa. 30:10-11**)? Are we so enamored by men’s doctrine (**Matt. 15:9**) that we “call evil good, and good evil; ... put darkness for light, and light for darkness; ... put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter” (**Isa. 5:20**)? Yes, too many are like this today. The question is whether or not we have become like the world, or like Christ.

Knowing that “it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps” (**Jer. 10:23**), who will we follow? What do we “love”? A better question would be WHO do we “love”? Remember **John 14:15**? Are we still appalled at the prospect of false doctrine among God’s people? Does it still bother us to know that there is a lost and dying world that does not know what it means to be a Christian? Have we become complacent? I hope not!

Jeremiah’s question comes to all of us, “What will you do...?” Every day this question is before us, and every day we answer. We answer through complacency and laziness. We answer by yielding to temptations. We also answer by living as God’s peculiar people, zealous of good works, confessing Him through our actions as well as our words (**Tit. 2:14, 1:16**). How will you answer this question today? This week? This month?

Don’t allow Satan to have another day, but make sure that you are living in a way that is pleasing to God. Be a Jeremiah! Be a Moses! Be a Joseph! Be a Joshua! Be a Paul! Be a Jude! Be a John! Let us not be satisfied with what Satan has done to this world; but let us fight against the sin and error that abounds and show people “the way, the truth, and the life,” Jesus Christ our Lord (**Jn. 14:6; Col. 1:28-29**)! Friend, what is stopping you from doing that which is right? Don’t delay! *Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com* ♦