

**"WHICH CHURCH SHOULD I ATTEND?"**

**One Where His Name Is Glorified**

**Acts 4:12** - No other name whereby we might be saved.  
**Acts 11:26** - God gave the name Christian  
**1 Peter 4:16** - We can glorify God in this name.

**One Where His Teachings On Salvation Are Followed**

**John 14:6** - Only He is the way to heaven.  
**Hebrews 5:9** - All must obey Him to be saved.  
**John 8:24** - He said we must believe on Him.  
**Luke 13:3** - He said we must repent.  
**Matthew 10:32-33** - He said we must confess Him.  
**Mark 16:16** - He said we must be baptized to be saved.

**One Where His Will Is Followed In Worship**

**John 4:24** - Worship must be sincere and proper actions.  
**Acts 20:7** - Lord's Supper on the first day of the week.  
**Colossians 3:16** - Singing praises to God.  
**Acts 2:42** - Prayer and teaching.  
**1 Corinthians 16:1-2** - Giving of our means on the first day of the week.

YOU SHOULD ATTEND THE CHURCH OF CHRIST *"The churches of Christ salute you."* (Romans 16:16) •

**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**

**Evangelist: Jimmy Pettigrew**

**How to Contact Us**

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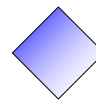


**Schedule of Assembly**

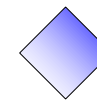
**Bible Study:** Sunday, 9:00am  
**Worship Service:** Sunday, 10:00am  
**Bible Study:** Wednesday, 7:00pm\*

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

**www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com**



# The Voice of Truth



May 1, 2011

**The Church Doesn't Matter?**

By Jimmy Pettigrew

The prevalent attitude toward the church among religious people for years has been, "Oh, the church is not important. It makes no difference whether one is a member or not. One church is just as good as another. The church is non-essential to man's eternal welfare." If what is meant by these statements concerns man-made churches, then we would agree heartily. Jesus said, "Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up," (Matt. 15:13). Every last "church" built, named and governed by man is doomed to destruction. Jesus Christ fervently prayed against them all (Jn. 17:20-21). In reality Roman Catholicism and Protestantism have no connection at all with one's salvation. However, if some are saying that the Lord's church does not matter, now we got a problem, because I strongly protest. God's Book never has taught the concept that the church of Jesus Christ is a worthless institution, one void of all value. If the church doesn't matter, you are telling me, then:

**That The Body Of Christ Doesn't Matter.** Christ is the "saviour of the body," (Eph. 5:23). Paul teaches that there is one body (Eph. 4:4). How many bodies is He the Saviour of? "But now in deed there are many members, yet one body," (1 Cor. 12:20). Paul, as we see, has taught time after time the oneness of the body. What is the body? **THE CHURCH!** (Eph. 1:22-23). In this passage Paul tells us that the church is the body. In Col. 1:18, he teaches that the body is the church. So the church is the body and the body is the church. There is only one body; therefore there is only one church. How perfectly this agrees with the promise: "I will build my church" (Matt. 16:18). Salvation is found in this one church. This does not mean the church is the Saviour. The church is the saved! If the church does not matter, neither does salvation matter which is graciously conferred within the church of our Lord Jesus Christ. When Paul was persecuting the church (Acts 9), he was persecuting Christ (Acts 9:4). The church and Christ cannot be separated. The church is important! If the church doesn't matter, then:

**You Are Telling Me The Blood Of Christ Doesn't Matter.** In his epistle to the Ephesian church, Paul said that Jesus "loved the church, and gave himself for it; . . ." (Eph. 5:25). Christ shed His blood for the church (Acts 20:28). How could anyone say the church is not important? The blood of Christ purchased the church. If the church doesn't matter, then the blood of Christ doesn't matter. It is the blood of Christ that made it possible for us to be reconciled back to God (Rom. 5:10). We are reconciled unto God in one body (Eph. 2:16), which is the church (Col. 1:18, 24). Thus, one is saved from his sins, reconciled unto God, when he enters the one body, the church of Christ (Rom. 16:16). Who would say that Christ wasted His blood on the cross for a worthless institution? You do if you say the church doesn't matter, that then church is unimportant.

Every Christian, child of God, is a member of the church of Christ. No one can be saved without the blood of Christ (Heb. 9:22; Eph. 1:7), and the church of Christ was purchased by the blood of Christ (Acts 20:28). Thus, there are no Christians who are not members of the church of Christ. If the church doesn't matter, then:

**God's Eternal Plan Doesn't Matter.** Who would say this? You do when you say the church is unimportant. The church was not an after-thought on God's part (Eph. 3:8-11). It existed in purpose before the world was; it existed in prophecy (Isa. 2:2-4; Dan. 2:44). God had His plan of redemption before He made man; the church was and is a central part of it. No other foundation is man permitted to lay (1 Cor. 3:11). If the church does not matter, then:

**The Lord's Supper Does Not Matter.** The Lord's Supper is to be observed in His kingdom (Lk. 22:29-30). In 1 Corinthians 11:20-34, the sacred penman taught the brethren at Corinth to observe the Lord's Supper in their church assembly. The church at Troas observed the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7). This sacred feast was and is to be done in the church of the Lord. God never

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commanded anyone to partake of His Son's Supper save those in the church and only upon the first day of the week, Sunday. If the church doesn't matter, you're telling me the Lord's Supper doesn't matter. Who would do this? You, if you say the church is not important, one church is just as good as another. If the church doesn't matter, then:

**The Gospel Doesn't Matter.** The gospel of Christ produces the church of Christ, it is the seed (Lk. 8:11). If the gospel had never been preached, then the church never could have existed. The church and the gospel are inseparably linked. If the church doesn't matter, neither does the

gospel matter. The gospel is composed of facts that must be believed. We must believe Jesus is the Christ the Son of God, that He died, was buried and rose again for our sins according to the Scriptures (1 Cor. 15:1-4). The gospel tells us what we must do to be saved. One must hear God's Word (Rom. 10:17); believe it (Mk. 16:16); repent (Lk. 13:3, 5); confessing Christ is the Son of God (Rom. 10:9-10); being baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38) and live a life of continued faithfulness (Rev. 2:10). None of these are important if the church doesn't matter. If the church is of no value, neither is the Bible which produces the church. Who would say this?

Does the church really matter to you? ♦

### "Attitudes We Need To Avoid"

By Jarrod Jacobs (www.southside-churchofchrist.com)

There are some people who are guilty of wrong attitudes, which result in wrong actions. We are not immune to such wrong dispositions. The Bible tells us of some who had wrong attitudes, and as a result, sinned. Let us consider the following.

#### Some Have A Proud Attitude.

Perhaps pride is one of the worst attitudes. It has raised its ugly head on many occasions. Pride is a dangerous attitude we are warned about on many occasions in the Bible. The Holy Spirit, through Solomon, warned of pride many times in the book of Proverbs. "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogance, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate" (8:13). "When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom" (11:2). "In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride..." (14:3). "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall" (16:18). "A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit" (29:23).

We see several in the Bible who displayed pride. Consider Diotrefes who loved "to have the preeminence" (III Jn. 9). Because of his pride, he "receiveth us not." He not only used malicious words against John and others, but did not receive brethren, and "forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church." This man was so lifted up with pride, that he was literally out of control. He would allow nothing and no one to question his preeminence he had in that local church. Friends, this is as wrong as it can be!

Other examples of pride include King Nebuchadnezzar,

who lost his kingdom for a time because he thought he was a "self-made man." This was wrong. (Dan. 4:30-37, 5:20). Ultimately, his grandson Belshazzar lost the kingdom forever because of his pride (Dan. 5:22-31). Hosea 5:5-7 records that even God's people Israel were guilty of pride. As a result, God withdrew Himself from them.

God has no part nor lot with a proud man. One with pride cannot be God's child. He uses those who are humble (I Pet. 5:5-6). Friends, do you have a proud attitude? If so, you need to change, for God hates that attitude (Prov. 6:16-17).

#### Some Have A Covetous Attitude.

To covet is to have "avarice, i.e. (by impl.) fraudulency, extortion ... greediness" (Strong's). In fact, Paul equates covetousness with idolatry in Colossians 3:5. When one puts all his energy in obtaining/acquiring a thing, he is covetous. Some may be covetous toward money (I Tim. 6:10), toward a person (Ex. 20:17), toward their own interests (Eph. 4:19-20), toward recreation (I Tim. 4:8), etc. Anything that you allow to come between you and God becomes your idol. It is that for which you covet and devout yourself. If we are going to be God's faithful children, we must not be covetous.

Some examples of covetousness in the Bible include Achan who coveted after "a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight" and caused the Israelites to lose the battle against the people of Ai (Josh. 7:5, 18-21). The remedy was that he was to die, as well as his family, in order

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for the Israelites to be in good standing with God (Josh. 7:23-26).

We might also consider the covetousness mentioned in I Timothy 6:10. "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." Notice that those who would covet after money, or wealth err from the faith. The NKJ says, "some have strayed from the faith in their greediness." The NAS says, "some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith." It is a dangerous matter indeed when we think of those who covet after money or wealth. When people put this first in their lives, they are turning away from God and from His soul-saving word!

#### Some Have A Self-Sufficient Attitude.

Some, especially in this country, have the attitude that they can do it all by themselves. Some never admit their need for God, but think that all things depend upon them and their efforts. We need to realize that we are not self-sufficient, but are helpless. We could do nothing if it were not for God. We would not be here if it were not for God. Colossians 1:17 teaches that Christ "is before all things, and by him all things consist." Consist means "to set together, i.e. (by impl.) to introduce (favorably), or (fig.) to exhibit; intrans. to stand near, or (fig.) to constitute:—approve, commend, ... make, stand (with)" (Strong's). The NAS says, "in Him all things hold together." In other words, were it not for our Lord, nothing would even exist! How dare we think we are self-sufficient in any way? How many times have we sang, "I Need Thee Every Hour"? Do we really mean that? Or, is our attitude toward Christ one of "don't call me, I'll call you"?

Some who had a self-sufficient attitude include the rich fool of Luke 12. Jesus, in speaking of him, showed that this man thought he had provided all of this for himself. Notice in Luke 12:16-21, that the personal pronoun "I" is used by him 6 times in this short account. He had not thought about God, nor thanked Him for the bounty. He was merely concerned for himself, and lost it all in a night!

The Christians James wrote to thought they were self-sufficient as well. James told them, "Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a

little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil" (Jas. 4:13-16).

Their proud, arrogant boasting was evil in God's sight. They thought they were self-sufficient, could provide for their own, and did not need to include God at any point. They were wrong then, and we are wrong today if we think we do not need God. We do not know what may come tomorrow (Prov. 27:1). Therefore, we need to remember who holds tomorrow, and live for Him!

#### Some Have An Apathetic Attitude.

To show apathy is to not show interest or concern. Therefore, those who show apathy toward the Lord and His church show no concern or interest for the Lord and His church. This can do nothing but damage people spiritually. Yet, there are many today so caught up in worldly pursuits, that they have no interest, nor concern for the things that are most important.

There are many apathetic people mentioned in the Bible. Consider the fact that Paul had to remind those "that are rich in this world" that they had a responsibility to the Lord and His cause (I Tim. 6:17-19). If they were not careful, they would only show their interest in material pursuits, and no interest in the Lord. Another who was apathetic was Agrippa. When faced with the greatest decision one can make in this life, he refused, saying, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian" (Acts 26:28). He was very aware of the doctrine of Christ (v.26), but had no interest or concern in it, nor for his soul. In fact, there are many today who show that their interests lie in other things beside the gospel. When people show apathy toward the Lord and His church, it shows that we need to watch ourselves lest we also become apathetic (I Cor. 10:12, 15:33).

#### Conclusion

As always, we need to examine ourselves (II Cor. 13:5). Let us make sure we are not guilty of these wrong attitudes, for they will develop into wrong actions! In some, it is already apparent what attitude they have. Let us do our best to live by the Bible, to follow its precepts, and love the Author. If we are guilty of harboring any of the attitudes we have studied, then let us repent and turn from those things while we have the time to do so. May God help us all to have the right attitude, to live for Him, and look forward to Heaven when this life is over. ♦