

The church of Christ

Has:

- One Builder – Jesus Christ (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 3:9-11)
- One Purchaser – Jesus Christ (Acts 20:28)
- One Head – Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:22-23)
- One Savior – Jesus Christ (Eph. 5:23)
- One destiny – eternal salvation (Eph. 5:23)

IS:

- The spiritual body of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23; 5:23)
- The kingdom of Christ (Matt. 16:18-19; Heb. 12:28)
- The depository of those saved (Acts 2:47)
- One body, not many bodies (Eph. 4:4; 1:22-23)
- One way to be added to the church:
- One must believeth that Christ is the Son of God (Jno. 8:24)
- One must repent of sins (Lk. 13:3)
- One must confess that Christ is the Son of God (Rom. 10:9-10)
- One must be baptized into Christ (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:26-27) •

The Nature Of The Kingdom Of God

IS NOT

1. Of This World (John 18:36).
2. Eating and Drinking (Rom. 14:17).
3. In Word (1 Cor. 4:20).
4. With Observation (Luke 17:20).

IS

1. In Power (1 Cor. 4:20).
2. Righteousness (Rom. 14:17).
3. Peace (Rom. 14:17).
4. Joy (Rom. 14:17).
5. Within You (Luke 17:21).
6. Unshakable (Heb. 12:28). •

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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How to Contact Us

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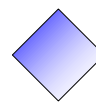


Schedule of Assembly

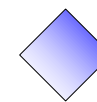
Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*

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

www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com



The Voice of Truth



April 15, 2012

"THEY HAD BEEN WITH JESUS"

By Jimmy Pettigrew

"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus," (Acts 4:13). The Jewish people saw a change in the apostles. They boldly told the people of being guilty of killing the Son of God (Acts 2). Even though they were unlearned, they could with boldness and spiritual knowledge confront the Jewish leaders. WHY? Because they had been with Jesus! The same principle is still at work among the disciples of Jesus today. Just as the Jewish people saw a change in the apostles, do people see a change in us? Can they tell we have been with Jesus?

differently. Are we walking differently, or are we walking the same path that we followed before being a Christian? Can people see a change in us? Can people see the difference from church and the world?

Elders and deacons, are you being the best examples living before the flock? Do you study, try to convert others, give generously, attend gospel meetings, and assemble every time the doors are open? Sadly, some are not! No wonder why members think it is unimportant to do these vital things; it is difficult to follow that kind of leadership! Members, are you being the best examples to the world (Matthew 5:13-16)? Elders and preachers should not have to beg Christians to study, try to convert others, give generously, attend gospel meetings, and even assemble regularly. True servants do not have to be begged.

Brethren, we are to change our inner man which results in a change of our daily living. We are to be holy in all manner of life (1 Peter 1:15). We cannot live in a "twilight zone"! •

Do they see a change in our life serving God and doing His will, or do they see the same person doing the same things in life as he/she did before? It is the Christian's responsibility to serve God, not mammon (Matthew 6:24). Serving God means serving Christ, which in turn, means following and living for Christ (John 12:26). It is mockery to claim to be a servant of Christ while living in disobedience to Him (Luke 6:46). Living for Christ demands us to live

Hindering the Gospel

By Jimmy Pettigrew

In Acts 5:39, Gamaliel warned the Sanhedrin to be careful concerning their treatment of the apostles, "lest haply we be found even to fight against God." The Sanhedrin were trying to stop the apostles from spreading the gospel of Christ (Acts 5:27-28). They were trying to hinder the gospel of Christ (1 Corinthians 9:12). They were foolish to hinder the progress of the gospel. It is a fearful thing to hinder the truth of God, and God's wrath is revealed against all who hinder His truth (Romans 1:18). Even church members often hinder the truth! How?

1. When we fail to live as we should (1 Peter 1:14-15; Titus 2:12; Romans 12:1-2).
2. When we do not attend the assemblies (Hebrews 10:25; Matthew 6:33; Psalm 122:1).
3. When we fail to develop and grow as Christians (Hebrews 5:12-14; 1 Peter 2:1-2; 2 Peter 3:18).
4. When we fail to depend on God (Hebrews 13:5; 1 Peter 5:7; Psalm 37:5; 55:22).
5. When we fail to give as we should (2 Corinthians 9:6-7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Acts 11:29).

These are some ways that we as Christians hinder the gospel of Christ. Satan is having a "field day" with many professing Christians. Brethren, "Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ," (Philippians 1:27). •

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“The Bible Has Lies In It!”

By Jarrod Jacobs

Does the title above surprise you? Would it surprise you further to learn that when said in its proper context, the above is a true statement? I realize some folks say things like this in an effort to denounce the Bible, and to put it on the level of a work of man rather than a work of God (**II Tim. 3:16-17**). This is obviously not my purpose. However, when we spend time reading and studying God’s word, it will not take long before we notice several whose lies are recorded for us in the Bible. Let us study a few examples together and make some applications:

1. Satan lied when he told Eve that she and her husband could eat of the forbidden fruit and “*shall not surely die*” after God had said they would die if they ate of that fruit (**Gen. 3:4, 2:17**). Due to this lie, we read where Christ called Satan the “*father*” of lies (**Jn. 8:44**). Satan was the author, or originator of lies on earth, and many of his lies are recorded in the Bible.

2. Many prophets have lied through the years. For example, the old prophet of **I Kings 13** lied when he told the young prophet an angel had spoken to him and told the young prophet to eat at his house (**I Kings 13:18**).

Hananiah was a false prophet who “*made this people (Judah) trust in a lie*” when he told king Zedekiah and the people that God would break the yoke of Babylon and that the people would return “*within two full years*” (**Jer. 28:2-3, 11, 15**).

Peter said, “*false prophets also arose among the people ...*” (**II Pet. 2:1**). Yes, the lies of many false prophets are recorded in the Bible that we might hear and fear!

3. Ananias and Sapphira lied when they made it seem like they had given all their money from a property sale to the apostles for the benefit of the poor saints. In fact, they didn’t do that at all, but lied to the Holy Spirit (**Acts 5:1-11**).

4. Paul warned Timothy about the lying of certain ones, specifically naming Hymenaeus and Philetus as two who lied to Christians when they taught them that “*the*

resurrection has already happened” and overthrew some folks’ faith (**II Tim. 2:17-18**).

5. When John wrote to the Christians, he said that one who would deny that Jesus is the Christ “*is a liar*” (**I Jn. 2:22**). Did this happen at times? Evidently, it did, for Peter said there were some who went that far in their false teaching (**II Pet. 2:1**).

These are just a few examples of the lies which can be found in the Bible. Yet, what is their purpose for being in the Bible? I don’t know that there is a single reason for including these lies, but perhaps a couple of reasons for recording lies in the Bible would include:

1) Many times, when folks lied, they were exposed for the lies they told. Thus, when the lies were exposed, it caused the truth to shine that much brighter. In other words, God’s word (**truth, Jn. 17:17**) is so diametrically opposed to error and falsehood, that when lies are exposed, the difference between truth and falsehood becomes even more apparent.

2) Take note that sometimes, those who lied were God’s people (ex: Abraham in **Gen. 12:13, 20:2**; or Peter in **Matt. 26:69-75**, etc.). Such impartiality by God (**Rom. 2:11; Col. 3:25**), lets us see these characters, “warts and all” and allows us to learn from their mistakes (**Rom. 15:4**) so we don’t make those mistakes, ourselves.

Conclusion

Yes, the Bible records many who lied, but for all of the lies, we find the Truth is there to defeat and denounce each and every lie (**Jn. 17:17**)! Make no mistake, if folks tell lies and are unrepentant, they will “*have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death*” (**Rev. 21:8**). Though men are susceptible to lying, God still remains opposed to it. God cannot lie (**Titus 1:2**), and He expects us to be honest as well (**Eph. 4:25**)! Let us be like God (**Rom. 12:2**) and tell the truth (**Col. 3:9**)! Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com ♦

Can You Imagine?

- 1. Paul saying:** “You don’t have to obey the gospel to be saved?” Read **2 Thessalonians 1:7-9**.
- 2. Paul saying:** “We are sprinkled with him in baptism?” Read **Romans 6:4**.
- 3. Jude saying:** “I don’t think it is right to argue the scriptures?” Read **Jude 3**. ♦

REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

By David J. Riggs

Jesus said, “*Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.*” (**Matt. 11:11**). This exalts the kingdom revealing that all therein, no matter how insignificant, have a station superior to John’s. This being true, the requirements for membership in the kingdom should be of grave importance to everyone. Let us, therefore, carefully examine the Scriptures to fully understand what God requires, to avoid the traditions of men, and to better equip ourselves to teach others.

The Word of God must be heard. Peter said, “*...God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe.*” (**Acts 15:7**). John showed that the written word produces the faith that brings life in the name of Jesus (**John 20:30-31**). Thus, before one can become a member of the church or kingdom, he must hear with open mind the gospel which is God’s power to save.

A living faith must be produced. We must not only believe that God is, but also that he is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (**Heb. 11:6**). In all the cases in the Bible where God blessed men because of faith, it was after faith was demonstrated in some act. Faith without such visible acts is dead and will not justify (**James 2:24**). The faith that saves is the faith that obeys.

Repentance is necessary. Godly sorrow works repentance to salvation (**2 Cor. 7:10**). God now requires that all men everywhere repent (**Acts 17:30**). Peter told those Jews on the day of Pentecost, “*Repent, and let every one*

of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (**Acts 2:38**). Unless one repents, he will perish (**Luke 13:3**).

A verbal confession must be made. **Rom. 10:9** says, “*If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*” Peter confessed “*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*” (**Matt. 16:16**). The Eunuch said, “*I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.*” (**Acts 8:37**). These various confessions are similar and proclaim that Jesus is ruler and king, the anointed of God, and the One who is to be worshiped and obeyed. Everyone must confess with his mouth Jesus as Lord.

An immersion in water is essential. The baptism of Christ requires a burial in water (**Acts 10:47; Col. 2:12**). Jesus was immersed to fulfill all righteousness and thereby left us an example (**Matt. 3:13-16**). Jesus commanded baptism in His great commission as a condition of pardon (**Mark 16:15-16**). It is for remission of sins and puts one into Christ (**Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:26-27**). It places one in the body which is the church (**1 Cor. 12:13**). Thus, baptism is the final act of obedience that completes one’s membership.

When people obey God, their sins are forgiven and God recognizes and accepts them as His own. They are added to His church and enjoy the privileges and share the responsibilities of that relationship.

Credit: <http://oakridgechurch.com/riggs/req-mem.htm> ♦

I Am Your Bulletin

I am not just another piece of paper.
I am your weekly church information sheet.
I do not come to you easily, or without expense.
I cost money, time, thought, and energy.
I should not be taken for granted.
I can only be as useful and valuable as you allow me to be.
I am often abused and overlooked.
Sometimes all I get is a fleeting glance.
Sometimes all I get is a critical analysis.
I want so much for you to read me, study me, appreciate me,
and make me useful for your spiritual activity and development.
I want to serve you. ♦