

### "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) ♦

### THINK! THINK! THINK!

What sort of church would the Lord's church be if every member were just like me? ♦

### 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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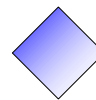


#### Schedule of Assembly

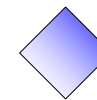
**Bible Study:** Sunday, 9:00am  
**Worship Service:** Sunday, 10:00am  
**Bible Study:** Wednesday, 7:00pm\*

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

[www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com](http://www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com)



# The Voice of Truth



April 22, 2012

## Know The Truth By Jimmy Pettigrew

A brother in Christ gave me a tract which he received in the mail entitled "Would you like to know the Truth?" This tract was from the Watchtower (Jehovah Witness). When you first look at the title it sounds good, but once you start reading the material it all falls apart. They ask certain questions in this tract like:

"What happens to us when we die?"  
"Is there any hope for the dead?"

All sound like good questions to ask, but how they answer, is altogether different than what the scriptures teach. They start out after labeling these questions, asking, "Where would you look for answers to these questions?" They tell us that there is "one book that contains reliable answers. It is the book of truth. And we know that Word as the Holy Bible." The Jehovah Witnesses claim to urge upon the people only the word of God and that sounds good, but not true! Actually, instead of accepting scripture only and imposing that on others, they impose their system upon the scriptures and force it to comply with their beliefs. How? Well, notice what they write in this tract concerning the question, "What happens to us when we die?" They write, "Most of the world's religions teach that something inside a person continues living after death ... or that God punishes the wicked by condemning them to eternal torment in a fiery hell." Then they write "What the Bible teaches: At death, humans cease to exist." They need to read **Matthew 17:1-13** in the Bible, concerning the transfiguration of Christ. Moses had been dead fifteen hundred years (**Deut. 34:5-7**), Elias had been departed from the earth nine hundred years (**2 Kings 2:11**). Yet both continued in existence in another place, an unearthly one. There is life after death. Only the body is in the grave. The spirit is alive, conscious. Men do not cease to exist (**1 Thess. 2:19**). There is consciousness after death. When Jesus taught of God saying, "I am the God of Abraham, and God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob" (**Matthew 22:32**), was He not proving that they exist? Wait, in their tract it states "The Bible teaches at

death, humans cease to exist. The dead ... are conscious of nothing at all," states **Ecclesiastes 9:5**. What does **Ecclesiastes 9:5** say? "For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten." They are in error concerning this verse in which they use to proof their point. The context of Ecclesiastes is discussing things on earth from the point of view of "observation", not "revelation." As far as we observe here on earth the dead know nothing of world events. They no longer use their knowledge and wisdom for they are gone, the body returns to dust, but the spirit is alive, conscious.

Does that sound like they believe in the Bible only? The Jehovah Witnesses reject the doctrine of eternal torment! Why? They claim it is unscriptural. According to the Bible, those who die in a state of rebellion toward God will be subjected to affliction in the hades realm immediately after death (**Luke 16:23-25**). Again Jesus taught, "And if thine eye cause thee to stumble, cast it out: it is good for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell; where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched" (**Mark 9:47-48**). **Matthew 13: 42, 50** very clearly talks about the wicked being cast "into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth." "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (**Revelation 20:11-15**). The Witnesses are in error in their teaching concerning hell. Remember they stated in the beginning of this tract, "one book that contains reliable answers... the Holy Bible." Can there be any doubt that they do not believe in the Bible only? There is eternal punishment and there is eternal life. Sometimes it is argued that there can't be eternal fire for it would soon burn you up. But we see the example of a continuing fire which does not consume in **Exodus 3:2** when Moses sees the burning bush. The bush is not consumed.

This tract goes on to ask the question: "Is there any

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hope for the Dead?" They say the Bible teaches ...those resurrected as humans will have the opportunity to live on a paradise earth (**Luke 23:43**). What does **Luke 23:43** say? *"And he said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in Paradise."* Where is the wording that states paradise is the new earth? If Paradise is this new earth that men will live on after death, that means Christ and the repented thief were living on this new earth? Don't think so! *"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall be dissolved with fervent heat, and the earth and the works that are therein shall be burned up"* (**2 Peter 3:10**). **Revelation 6:14** says the heavens will be rolled up as a scroll. **Revelation 16:26** says every island fled away and no mountain was found. **Revelation 20:11** says no place was found for the earth. *"But, according to his promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness"* (**2 Pe-**

**ter 3:13**). See, Jimmy the JWS are right, the new earth. No! **2 Peter 3:13** is speaking figuratively for the abode of the saints will be in heaven, not on earth (**John 14:1-3**). Where is the Lord? In heaven! **First Thessalonians** says we will ever be with the Lord (**4:16-18**). Since the JWS believe in the scriptures, they will believe Peter when he states *"our inheritance is reserved in heaven"* (**1 Peter 1:4**). There is where we put our treasures (**Matthew 6:19-21**). There we have our citizenship (**Philippians 3:20**). *"If ye abide in my word, (then) are ye truly my disciples; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free"* (**John 8:31-32**).

These teachings of the Jehovah Witnesses reject clear and unmistakable teaching of the scriptures. The Jehovah Witnesses claim that they only follow the word of God, but they twist the scriptures to fit their needs. *"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one (point), he is become guilty of all"* (**James 2:10**). ♦

## "How Will God Feel When You Die?"

By Jarrod Jacobs

God is not oblivious to the goings-on of men. He knows who we are, and what we are doing. Solomon said, *"The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good"* (**Prov. 15:3**). Jesus said, *"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows"* (**Matt. 10:29-31**). Based on these verses, as well as others, we know that God is aware of us, and knows when we leave this earth. Now, how will God feel when YOU die? Will He be .....

**SAD:** *"As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?"* (**Ezek. 33:11**). *"Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord GOD, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live?"* (**Ezek. 18:23**) It is evident that there are some whose death will bring a sadness to Him as He sees people dying in their sin. We are His creation (**Gen. 1:26-27; Rev. 4:11**), and God does not want to see anyone perish (**II Pet. 3:9**) when they have yet to take advantage of the opportunities God has provided and are not saved.

**GLAD:** *"Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints"* (**Ps. 116:15**). *"He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy. From oppres-*

*sion and violence he redeems their life, and precious is their blood in his sight"* (**Ps. 72:13-14**). When seeing a righteous person leave this life, God looks upon that death as precious. This one has not wasted his life and opportunities, but has taken advantage of opportunities God has provided and death comes as a welcome release from the hardships of this life.

Why did God make this distinction as He saw people die? The difference in God's response to a men's deaths is seen in the relationship with God in life! If a man died as a sinner or wicked, then God's view of his death was one of sadness. If a man died as a saint or righteous, then God's view of His death was described as a "precious" death.

Knowing that death comes to us all (**Heb. 9:27**). Knowing that it is wise to number our days (**Ps. 90:12**), then let us make sure we are in that right relationship with God while we live. Now is our "second chance" — there is no guarantee of tomorrow (**II Cor. 6:2**).

How can a man make sure his death is "precious" to God? He can do so by becoming a Christian! One becomes a Christian by believing in Christ as God's Son (**Jn. 8:24**), repenting of his sins (**Lk. 13:3**), confessing Christ as the Son of God (**Rom. 10:10**), and being baptized for the remission of sins (**Mk. 16:16**). How you done this? Are you preparing for eternity? *Credit: The Old Paths - 3/11/12* ♦

## "WHOSOEVER CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED"

By David J. Riggs

The above expression from the Word of God is found in **Acts 2:21** and **Rom. 10:13** and is a quotation out of the Old Testament from **Joel 2:32**. It is one of today's much abused passages. It is often quoted over the radio and television, at funerals and religious gatherings and so forth, and is used in the sense that one only needs to ask the Lord to save him and that is all that is necessary. However, is that the only things involved in being saved—just saying in one's heart, "Lord save me," or "Lord, I accept you as my personal Savior"? **Rom. 6:16-17** says, *"But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness."* Thus, obedience from the heart is necessary to be set free from sin.

According to the prophet Joel the blessing of calling on the name of the Lord and being saved was to be afforded in the last days (See **Joel 2:28-32**). Peter quoted Joel's words in Acts 2 and from his application we learn what is involved in calling on the name of the Lord. The apostles had received the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit and some accused them of being full of new wine. Peter said they were not drunk as some supposed, but this was that which was spoken by the prophet Joel (**Acts 2:14-16**). He then quoted Joel's words from **Joel 2:28-32** ending it with the expression, *"Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."* (See **Acts 2:17-21**).

Peter continued by showing that the Jews present were guilty of crucifying the Savior (**Acts 2:22-23**). He then proclaimed that God had raised Jesus from the dead and made Him both Lord and Christ (**Verses 25-37**). They were convicted in their hearts and said, *"Men and brethren, what shall we do?"* Peter answered, *"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."* (**Verses 37-38**). They obeyed Peter words (**verse 41**) and "the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved" (**verse 47**).

Therefore, in the last days men would have opportunity to call on the name of the Lord and be saved as was prophesied by the prophet Joel. Peter showed that those days began on the day of Pentecost. On that day men called on the name of the Lord by obeying the Lord and He added them to His church.

Saul of Tarsus called on the name of the Lord in his obedience to the Lord. When he saw the vision on the road to Damascus, he said, *"Lord, what do You want me to do?"* The Lord said, *"Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."* (**Acts 9:6**). Ananias was sent to Saul and he said to him, *"And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord."* (**Acts 22:16**). Thus, in his obedience in baptism he was calling on the name of the Lord. **1 Pet. 3:21** says, *"And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you (not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience) through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."* (NASV). Consequently, in baptism one appeals to God (calls on His name) for a good conscience.

What's involved, therefore, in the expression, "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved"? Obedience to the commands of the Lord! One of those commands is baptism as is shown by those who first had opportunity to call and be saved, by Saul of Tarsus, and by other passages in the New Testament. A person hasn't truly called on the name of the Lord until he has obeyed the Lord. Jesus said, *"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?"* (**Luke 6:46**).

*Credit: <http://oakridgechurch.com/riggs>* ♦

## HOW TO GET WHAT YOU WANT

If you want friends — **be friendly.**  
 If you want someone to smile — **smile.**  
 If you want courtesy — **be courteous.**  
 If you want knowledge — **study.**  
 If you want a good name — **live right.**  
 If you want to reap well — **sow well.**  
 If you want to be a Christian — **obey God's word.**  
 If you want to go to heaven — **live a Christian life** ♦