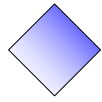


# The Voice of Truth



February 23, 2014

## The Bible Is the Blueprint for Human Conduct

By Jimmy Pettigrew

The word of God, the scriptures, offers to mankind principles to help them make decisions in all areas of human conduct. For many years, atheistic, pagan philosophers have assumed the duty to teach what they feel is right for human conduct. *“Every man did that which was right in his own eyes” (Judges 21:25)*. These men have failed every time because they have failed to consider what God has said in His words on a given conduct pattern. *“They have rejected the word of the Lord; and what wisdom is in them?” (Jeremiah 8:9)*. *“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; But the end thereof are the ways of death” (Proverbs 14:12)*. The Bible offers a clear voice, and throws light on how we are to live.

Listen carefully: there can be no morality without God! Why? Because God is the absolute standard of good **(Matthew 19:17; 1 John 1:5; 1 Samuel 2:2; Psalms 147:17; Isaiah 45:19; Hosea 9:11; Habakkuk 1:13)**. We are told that the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared unto all men, *“teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world” (Titus 2:11-12)*. Peter added: *“According as his divine power hath given us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue” (2 Peter 1:3)*. Man cannot know right and wrong by reasoning on his own: *“O Jehovah, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps” (Jeremiah 10:23)*. *“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith Jehovah. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:8-9)*.

The world about us makes little effort to follow the blueprint of the word of God. People have rejected God’s standard. We are living in a time when little attention is given to the word of God and much attention is given to doing what pleases the desire of men. Many have no regard for the moral teachings of the Bible. There is simply too much

of “Hell” in the world today. The sinful world has always condoned evil practices, such as dancing, immodest dress, profanity, gambling, fornication, and the use of alcohol. We must return to the teaching of God’s standard found in His word **(Galatians 5:19-21)**. It must be taught what God has said about the sins of adultery, homosexuality, fornication, immodesty, drinking and any form of loose living. People believe they have the right to act as they wish. Wrong! What we do in word or deed we are to do all in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ **(Colossians 3:17)**. *“Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:16)*.

The word of God provides us with righteousness **(Proverbs 14:34; Psalms 33:12)**. *“Every word of God is pure” (Proverbs 30:5)*. There is a standard of behavior that God expects men to follow, and it’s in His word, the blueprint of human conduct. All men everywhere need to return to the wholesome purity Jesus stressed in **Matthew 5:8**. God’s word is man’s light, lamp and path **(Psalm 119:105)**; it is man’s hope against sin **(Psalm 119:11)**; it sanctifies **(John 17:17)**; it cleanses **(Ephesians 5:26)**; it gives us understanding **(Psalms 119:130)**; it has the power to produce godliness **(2 Peter 1:3)**; to produce a new life **(James 1:18; Romans 6:17-18)**.

Notice what Ezekiel told the children of Israel, *“And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean” (Ezekiel 44:23)*. God’s word does that for us today; it is our blueprint for human conduct. The Bible moral code is wonderfully practical; every moral rule that God has given is for our good. The gospel changes the heart or thinking; the mind is renewed **(Romans 12:1-2)**.

Man is incapable of directing his steps in life. The Israelites had attempted to direct their lives; they had forsaken God’s way: the result is captivity! The scriptures

*Continued on Page Two*

### In This Issue...

**Pages 1 to 2 - The Bible Is the Blueprint for Human Conduct**  
**Pages 2 to 3 - “The Lord’s Church Vs. Denominations” | THE ONE BODY**

**Page 4 - The church of Christ | GOD HAS A RIGHT**  
**Page 4 - What Must I Do To Be Saved?**

*Continued from Page One, "The Bible Is the Blueprint for Human Conduct"*

must be the foundation of any moral restoration. The Bible

alone is our answer! It is past high time that God's morality found its way back into the lives of men and women. ♦

## **"The Lord's Church Vs. Denominations"**

**By Jarrod Jacobs**

Many today do not realize that there are fundamental differences between the Lord's church and the denominations of men. Some believe there is really no difference at all; and that one church is as good as another. This is not true. In this issue, we will look at the differences between the Lord's church and the denominations.

### **The Lord's Church Was Built By Christ. Denominations Were Built By Men.**

This fact is made clear when we read several plain statements in the Scriptures. First, Jesus Christ said He would build His church based upon Peter's confession (**Matt. 16:16-18**). He also died for only one church (**Eph. 5:23-25**). He is the foundation of His one church (**I Cor. 3:11**). He is the chief cornerstone of His one church (**I Pet. 2:6-7**). Therefore, how can those belonging to a denomination come along and say that "x" denomination belongs to Christ, too?

Our Lord didn't die to establish a denomination. His blood did not purchase a denomination. He is not the foundation of a denomination! Knowing that two or more houses cannot be built upon the same foundation, and since Christ is the foundation of His own church, we can know for certain that the denominations today are built upon another foundation, and not on Christ!

### **The Lord's Church Follows His Word. Denominations Follow Creed Books And The Opinions Of Men.**

The Lord's church follows only what the Bible says. Peter taught: *"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God"* (**I Pet. 4:11**). Paul taught that whatever we do or say must have authority from Heaven (**Col. 3:17**)! The preaching of Christ and the apostles, as well as the early Christians rings with Scripture and appealing to God's authority for all they did and said.

Do the modern denominations believe or practice this? While I know many would say, "We use the Bible, too!" The truth is that denominations do not follow the Bible only. They have other books they follow. In my office, I own Methodist "Disciplines," and a Catholic "Catechism". Even the Baptists have creed books and "articles of faith". Further, Mormons have their own creed books like the "Pearl of Great Price" and "Doctrine and Covenants." In addition

to this, they have a pseudo-Bible (The Book Of Mormon) which they use in teaching. The Jehovah's Witnesses have done this as well by writing their own Bible called the "New World Translation"!

Friend, consider the following question very carefully. Can one say he is following the Bible when he relies on creed books for his teachings and beliefs? The Lord's church follows only the Lord's word, that which will judge us one day (**Jn. 12:48**).

### **The Lord's Church Has No Earthly Headquarters, But Denominations Have Them.**

We know that the headquarters for anything is where the head resides. For example, this country's headquarters is in Washington D.C. Why? Because that is where the President resides!

Did you know that denominations have headquarters located on earth? They do this because this is where the head of their church resides! For example, the head of the Catholic Church resides in Vatican City. Therefore, the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church is in Vatican City. In like manner, the headquarters for the Mormon church is in Salt lake City, Utah because this is where their head resides. Albany, New York is the headquarters for the Jehovah's Witnesses, and Cleveland, TN is the worldwide headquarters for the Church of God denomination.

Many other examples could be listed, but in contrast, let us note that the Lord's church has a head and a headquarters as well — Christ is the head of His church (**Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22-23**)! Furthermore, He resides in Heaven (**Acts 1:9-11, 7:55-56**, etc.). Therefore, the "headquarters" for the Lord's church is in Heaven. It is not on the earth! In addition to this thought, let us remember that Jesus has all authority in Heaven and earth (**Matt. 28:18**). If Christ has "all" the authority, how much does that leave for you? Me? Now, dear reader, consider the church of which you are a member. Is your church's headquarters in Heaven or on earth? Is it in Rome? Is it in Salt Lake City? Is it in Nashville? Philadelphia? New York? Etc....? The Lord's church has its headquarters in Heaven, because this is where Jesus (the head) lives (**Acts 1:9-11, 7:56**)!

Continued from Page Two, "The Lord's Church Vs. Denominations"

### The Lord's Church Follows God's Plan For Salvation. Denominations Do Not.

God's plan for the salvation of men's souls is clear. He expects men to hear the gospel, which produces faith (**Rom. 10:17**). Man must believe that Jesus is the Son of God (**Jn. 8:24**). It is then required that men repent of their sins (**Lk. 13:3**). They must also confess their faith in Christ (**Matt. 10:32**). Finally, God requires that a man be baptized for the remission of sins (**Acts 2:38**). We can read about men following God's plan for salvation in places like **Acts 2:36-38, 16:30-34, 22:16**, etc. When one follows God's plan of salvation, then God will add him to His church (**Acts 2:47**)!

The denominational world does not teach this plan. Most denominations, like the Baptist church, teach that "faith only" saves men. Yet, the only time the Bible even uses terms like "faith only," God says it DOES NOT SAVE (**Jas. 2:24**)!

Other denominations, like the Catholic and Methodist churches will say that a little baby needs to be saved, and so they will sprinkle water on the baby, and say that he/she must believe later and will be "confirmed" at a later time! This practice contradicts plain passages as **Mark 16:16** which show that faith must come before baptism. Also, such practices contradict passages as **Colossians 2:12** which declare baptism to be a burial in water, and not a sprinkling of water on a person.

Further, the Lord's plan of salvation requires one to choose to obey, and to make these wishes known to others. A baby cannot do this. "Infant baptism" is taught be-

cause it is believed that a little baby has inherited the guilt of Adam's sin. This is something that the Bible does not teach (**Ezek. 18:4, 20**). Truly, our denominational friends have not been teaching the truth when it comes to the plan of salvation, as well as who is subject to this plan.

### The Lord's Church Worships As God Directs. Denominations Worship As They Please.

God wants people to worship Him "in spirit and in truth" (**Jn. 4:24**). He expects His people to worship Him in song, in doctrine (teaching His word), giving as we have been prospered, partaking of the Lord's Supper, and prayer (**Acts 2:42, 20:7; Eph. 5:19; I Cor. 16:1-2**). All of this is to be done every first day of the week! In contrast, almost every denomination in existence uses mechanical instruments in worship. They will also take the Lord's Supper at their convenience. Most do not teach the Bible, but their creeds and/or other opinions. They demand people give to them at times other than the first day of the week, and use bingos, raffles, car washes, bazaars, etc. as ways to make money as well. Does this sound like they are worshipping as God directs?

### Conclusion

There are other differences between the Lord's church and denominations that we could study. But, the things mentioned above ought to encourage all of us to study and learn whether or not the church to which we belong is the Lord's church or not. Remember, we need to "receive the word with all readiness of mind and search the Scriptures daily..." (**Acts 17:11**). Are you a member of the Lord's church? (**Rom. 16:16**) *Credit: The Old Paths - 11/3/13 ♦*

## 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 today is not a member of that church (**Rom. 16:16**), then he is not saved. ♦

*Truth is truth even if no one believes it.  
Error is error if everyone believes it. ♦*

### 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 believe 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) ♦

### GOD HAS A RIGHT

Author unknown

- God has a right to a definite part of your time
- He has the power to take all of it.
- God has a right to a definite part of your money
- He has the power to take all of it.
- God has a right to be glorified through your tongue
- He has the power to take all of it.
- God has a right to be honored through your influence
- He has the power to take all of it.
- God has a right to your life
- He has the power to take all of it. ♦

### 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	Our Address	Schedule of Assembly
<p><b>Telephone:</b> (920)499-5677  <b>E-mail:</b> hillcrestcofc@live.com</p>  	<p>1621 Hillcrest Drive                      Green Bay, WI 54313</p> 	<p><b>Bible Study:</b> Sunday, 9:00am  <b>Worship Service:</b> Sunday, 10:00am  <b>Bible Study:</b> Wednesday, 7:00pm*</p> <p><small>*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month</small></p>