



*Is The Church of
CHRIST A
Biblical Church?*

**The Biblical
Plan of
Salvation**

Is The Church of CHRIST A Biblical Church? 2

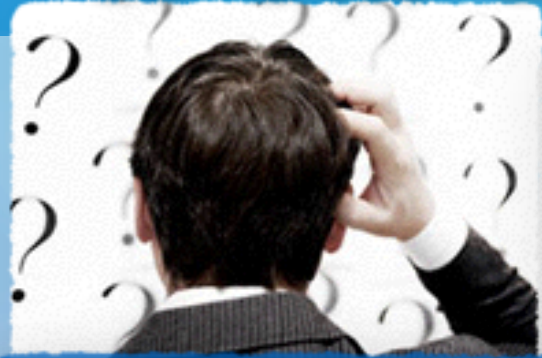


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Is the Church of Christ a good biblical church?

- There have been many questions & objections raised regarding the “church of Christ”
 - ◆ “Questions a church of Christ preacher cannot answer” - So says David Martin of the so-called “Rock Solid Baptist Church”
 - ◆ “Is the church of Christ denomination a cult” - Freedom Quest Ministries - <http://www.chocd.org>
- Regardless of the answers given, (even if the answers are Biblically sound), many refuse to listen, or even objectively consider their legitimacy. - [Stephen answered the Sanhedrin but not as they deemed “satisfactorily” (Acts 7:54-60)] -

Is The Church of CHRIST A Biblical Church? 3



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Is the Church of Christ a good biblical church?

Answer: This is a difficult question to answer due to the phrase "Church of Christ" being such a broad description. There are many churches who refer to themselves as the "Church of Christ." Even within the most widespread "Church of Christ" denomination, there can be significant differences between the churches. There is no doubt that many in the Church of Christ denomination are genuine believers in Christ who desire to truly worship, follow, and obey Him. At the same time, there are others in the Church of Christ, and some Church of Christ churches, that are borderline cult-like in their preferences, practices, and doctrines. We are by no means disparaging the entire Church of Christ denomination or every church that refers to itself as the "Church of Christ." The purpose of this article is to express some concerns and answer some questions about the Church of Christ that we have observed and experienced.

<http://www.gotquestions.org/Church-of-Christ.html>

Is The Church of CHRIST A Biblical Church?

A Biblical Understanding of The Church Jesus Built



**“CHURCH”
In The
Universal
Sense**

A Denomination
is smaller than
the universal
church, but larger
than the local
church. **Such is
not found in the
New Testament**



**“CHURCH”
In The
LOCAL
Sense**

“There is no one church or denomination that encompasses the entire Body of Christ.” ... ?

Is The Church of CHRIST A Biblical Church?

The church of Christ Submits To Christ!

THEREFORE, JUST AS THE CHURCH IS SUBJECT TO CHRIST,... EPH 5:24

“I don’t think it makes any difference what CHURCH you join!”

“You have to be a member of “MY” denomination in order to go to heaven!!”

The Bible Doesn't
Teach Me to Be A
Member of One "KIND"
of Church And You Another!!

.. The Lord added daily to the church those who were being saved – Acts 2:47

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Matthew 21:25-26



From Heaven

Mt. 21:23-27

I John 4:4-6

Gal. 1:6-9

Col. 2:6-10

2 Thess. 2:15

Only Two Possible Sources

From Men

Mt. 15:1-9

I Cor. 4:6

Gal. 1:10-17

Col. 2:8

2 Thess. 2:2-4

From Heaven or Men?

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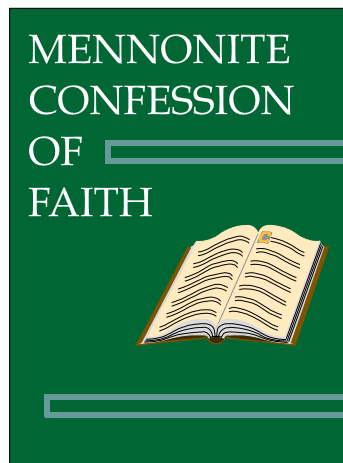
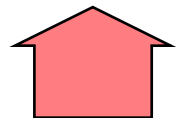
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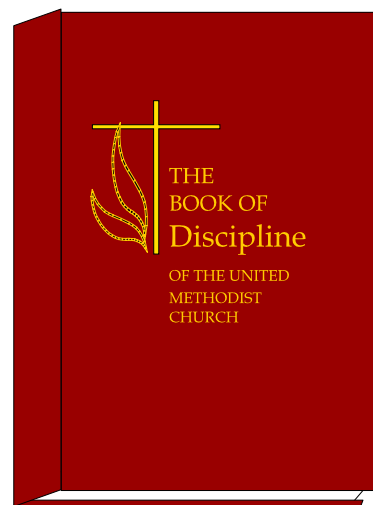
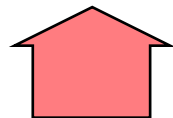
“According to Its Kind”



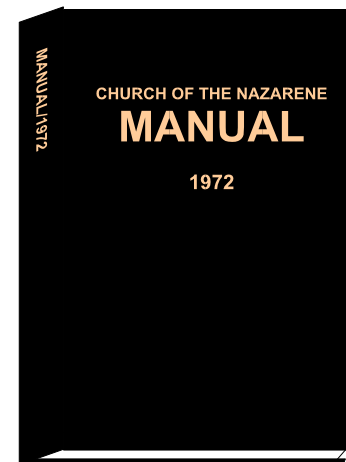
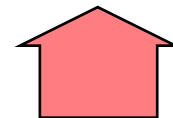
Mennonite



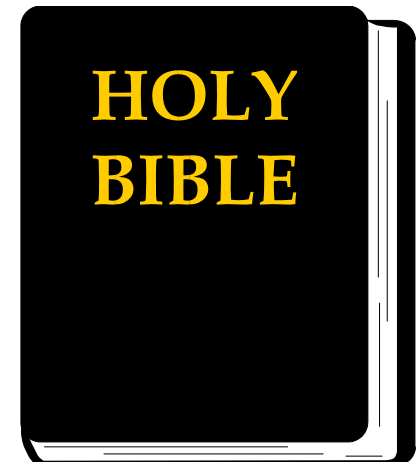
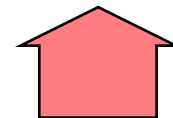
Methodist



Nazarene



Christian



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- ◆ **The New Testament Church**
- ◆ **The plan of salvation**
- ◆ **The acts of worship**
- ◆ **The day to observe the Lord's Supper**
- ◆ **The church and the support of preaching**
- ◆ **The church and helping the needy**

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Is the Church of Christ a good biblical church?

A third and very important issue is the Church of Christ's emphasis on baptism as being necessary for salvation. Church of Christ advocates point to Scriptures such as Acts 2:38, John 3:5, Mark 16:16, 1 Peter 3:21, and Acts 22:16 as biblical evidence that baptism is required for salvation. There is no denying that baptism is very important. Baptism is intended to be an initial act of obedience to Christ, an illustration of Christ's death and resurrection, a public declaration of faith in Christ, a step of identification with Him, and a proclamation of desire to follow Him. In the minds of the apostles and early Christians, baptism was so inextricably linked with salvation that the two were viewed as inseparable. The idea that a person could receive Christ as Savior and not be baptized was completely foreign to the early church.

<http://www.gotquestions.org/Church-of-Christ.html>

Is The Church of CHRIST A Biblical Church?

The church of Christ Are Those In Christ!

FOR AS MANY OF YOU AS WERE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST HAVE PUT ON CHRIST. - GAL 3:27

ACTS 2:38 (NKJV)

³⁸ Then Peter said to them,
“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.

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- ✦ **John 3:5 (NKJV)** - Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.
- ✦ **Mark 16:16 (NKJV)** - He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.
- ✦ **1 Peter 3:21 (NKJV)** - There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
- ✦ **Acts 22:16 (NKJV)** - And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'

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“The idea that a person could receive Christ as Savior and not be baptized was completely foreign to the early church.”

Examples	Believed	Repented	Confessed	Baptized
Pentecost – 2:14-41	Implied	✓ 37,38	Implied	✓ 38,41
Samaria – 8:5-13	✓ 12	Implied	Implied	✓ 12,13
Eunuch – 8:35-39	✓ 36,37	Implied	✓ 37	✓ 38
Saul – 9,22,26	Implied	Implied	Implied	✓ 22:16
Cornelius - 10:34-48	✓ 43	Implied	Implied	✓ 48
Lydia – 16:13-15	✓ 14	Implied	Implied	✓ 15
Jailor – 16:30-34	✓ 31	Implied	Implied	✓ 33
Corinthians - 18:8	✓ 8	Implied	Implied	✓ 8
Ephesians - 19:3-5	Implied	Implied	Implied	✓ 5

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“With that said, however, baptism is not required for salvation. There are biblically plausible and contextually valid interpretations of each of the above Scriptures that do not indicate baptism as being necessary for salvation. There are many Scriptures that declare salvation to be received by faith / believing, with no mention of baptism or any other requirement (John 3:16; Acts 16:31; Ephesians 2:8-9). If baptism is necessary for salvation, these Scriptures are in error and the Bible is contradictory.”

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- ✦ **1 Peter 3:21 (NKJV)** - There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism ...
- ✦ **Acts 22:16 (NKJV)** - ... Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'

“There are biblically plausible and contextually valid interpretations of each of the above Scriptures that do not indicate baptism as being necessary for salvation.”

- ✦ **The passages need to be believed!**
- ✦ **What demands we take these passages to mean something other than what they say?**

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“There are many Scriptures that declare salvation to be received by faith / believing, with no mention of baptism or any other requirement (John 3:16; Acts 16:31; Ephesians 2:8-9). If baptism is necessary for salvation, these Scriptures are in error and the Bible is contradictory.”

- ✦ **There are passages that only mention repentance, (Luke 13:5; Acts 3:19; 17:30; etc) - if we used above logic - we have a contradiction!**

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Examples	Believed	Repented	Confessed	Baptized
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Samaria - 8:5-13	✓ 12	Implied	Implied	✓ 12,13
Eunuch - 8:35-39	✓ 36,37	Implied	✓ 37	✓ 38
Saul - 9,22,26	Implied	Implied	Implied	✓ 22:16
Cornelius - 10:34-48	✓ 43	Implied	Implied	✓ 48
Lydia - 16:13-15	✓ 14	Implied	Implied	✓ 15
Jailor - 16:30-34	✓ 31	Implied	Implied	✓ 33
Corinthians - 18:8	✓ 8	Implied	Implied	✓ 8
Ephesians - 19:3-5	Implied	Implied	Implied	✓ 5

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FOR AS MANY OF YOU AS WERE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST HAVE PUT ON CHRIST. - GAL 3:27

Salvation by grace through faith

THE PRINCIPLE -



- ◆ Noah - Gen. 6:8,13-17; 22; 7:5; Heb 11:7
- ◆ Abraham - Gen 12:4; 15:6; 17:10,23; 22:3,16-18
- ◆ Israel - Exo. 12:13; 14:30; Deut 30:15-19; Jos 6; 1 Cor 10:1-13
- ◆ Us - Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 8:12,37; Rom 6:3-6; 10:9-13; Gal. 3:26,27; Col. 2:11-13; 1 Pet 3:21;

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Ask Jesus to come
into your heart . . .
Say the sinners
prayer!

There is
**ABSOLUTELY
NOTHING** you can
do to be saved!

The Bible Doesn't
Teach Me to Be
Saved One Way
And You Another

**Believe, repent, confess, and be baptized
into Christ – Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Rom. 10:9;
Rom. 6:3-6; Col. 2:11-13**

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**Salvation by grace
through faith**

- ◆ Luke 8:11; Rom. 10:17
- ◆ John 8:24; Heb 11:6
- ◆ Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30
- ◆ Mat. 10:32,33; Rom 10:9
- ◆ Acts 2:38; 1 Pet 3:21

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**Salvation by grace
through faith**

- ◆ **Receive Correct Information -**
- ◆ **A Change of Conviction**
- ◆ **A Change of The Will**
- ◆ **A Change of Allegiance -**
- ◆ **A Change of Conscience -**

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**Salvation by grace
through faith**

- ◆ This is the **TRUTH!**
- ◆ These steps, when truly experienced, result in **SALVATION**
- ◆ The danger of trivializing –
- ◆ The need to understand –

Is The Church of CHRIST A Biblical Church?

The church of Christ Are Those In Christ!

Baptized Into

Prior to baptism

Outside Christ

Lost Without Hope

- 1. NO spiritual blessings –**
- 2. NOT chosen –**
- 3. NOT children of God –**
- 4. NOT accepted –**
- 5. NO redemption –**
- 6. NO forgiveness –**
- 7. NO heavenly Inheritance**

Ephesians 1:1-13

Rom. 6:3-6

Gal. 3:26,27

Acts 2:38,47

After baptism

Inside Christ

Saved / Hope

- 1. ALL spiritual blessings**
- 2. Chosen –**
- 3. Adopted child of God –**
- 4. Accepted –**
- 5. Redeemed –**
- 6. Forgiven –**
- 7. A Heavenly Inheritance**

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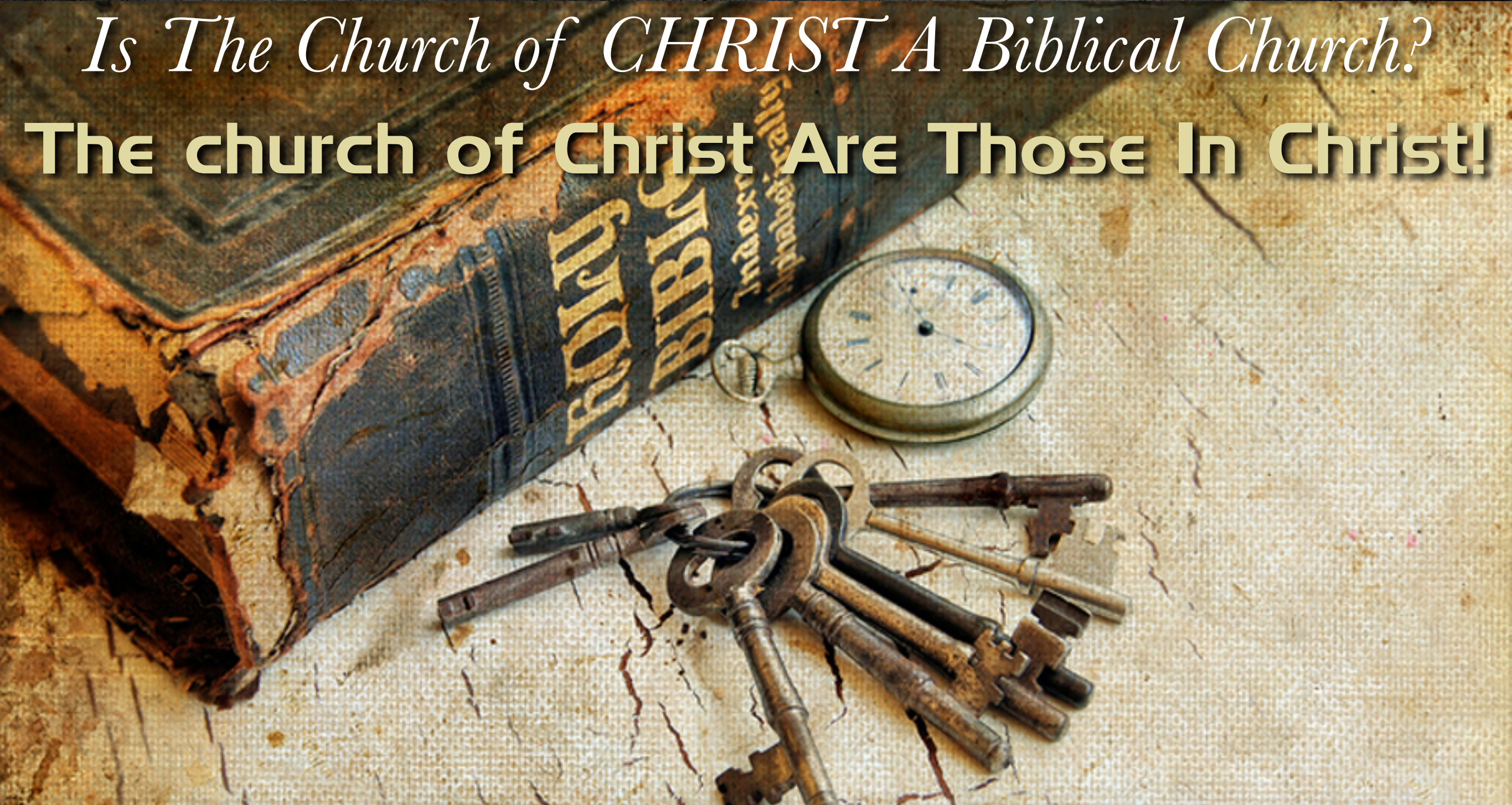
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2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

**¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ,
he is a new creation; old things
have passed away; behold, *all*
*things have become new.***

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The church of Christ Are Those In Christ!



Charts by Don McClain

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ACTS 8:30-39 (NKJV)

³⁰ So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² The place in the Scripture which he read was this: "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, So He opened not His mouth."

ACTS 8:30-39 (NKJV)

³³ In His humiliation His justice was taken away, And who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth.” ³⁴ So the eunuch answered Philip and said, “I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?” ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.

ACTS 8:30-39 (NKJV)

³⁶ Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" ³⁷ Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

ACTS 8:30-39 (NKJV)

³⁸ So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. ³⁹ Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.