

The Church of Christ; Colossians 1:24-27

I. Church

- A. "A building that is used for Christian religious services" Merriam-Webster
- B. "A particular Christian organization, typically one with its own clergy, buildings, and distinctive doctrines." Google
- C. "Congregation, assembly" Dictionary of Biblical Languages
- D. A congregation of believers understood as a human body; often of the universal church

II. What is the Church?

- A. The Body of Christ
- B. Colossians 1:24; Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church,
- C. Paul refers to the physical pain and suffering that Jesus endured
 - 1. Matthew 26:59; Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death,
 - 2. Luke 22:63-65; 63 Now the men who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking him as they beat him. 64 They also blindfolded him and kept asking him, "Prophesy! Who is it that struck you?" 65 And they said many other things against him, blaspheming him.
 - 3. They spit in his face (Matthew 26:67)
 - 4. Luke 23:8-11; 8 When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. 9 So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer. 10 The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. 11 And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate.
 - 5. Pilate had him scourged (flogged, beaten)
 - 6. Mark 15:16-20; 16 And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. 17 And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. 18 And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 19 And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. 20 And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.
- D. This sacrifice is so important that God wants us to capture it in a memorial, the body and blood of Jesus
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 11:23-30; 23 For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 27 Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. 28 Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. 30 That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died.
- E. We are the body of Christ

1. 1 Corinthians 12:27; Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.
 2. Colossians 1:18; And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.
- F. The place of worship is an expedience
1. "Going to church"
 2. "Going to assemble with the church"
- G. The only thing special about this building is that the Body of Christ meets here!
- III. What does the Church Do?
- A. Why are people drawn to the church?
- B. Ask yourself this question, "Why did I come here today?"
- C. Some people here have committed themselves to assembling with the Body their entire lives
- D. I think "worship" is an okay answer, but not the one that drives us to be here
- E. "Servant," or "service" is a better answer, but still not the driving force
- F. Those two things are driven by our desire, passion, zeal, commitment to the one who is the Head of the Body
- G. Jesus wants those who are in His Body to be committed, completely and totally to Him and His work
- H. If, by all Jesus bodily suffering, humiliation, pain, and death, He has redeemed me; then my appropriate response is to desire what He wants and not what I want
- I. I must die to myself and live for Him (Galatians 2:20)
- J. The Body of Christ is based on our (His) faith; but is practiced in our service
- K. James tells us the the two are inseparable
1. James 2:20–26; 20 Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; 23 and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"—and he was called a friend of God. 24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. 25 And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? 26 For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.
- L. Paul tells us that this is the answer to the age old question, "what is the meaning of life?"
1. Ephesians 2:8–10; 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
- M. Peter urges us to actions and deeds as obedient children
1. 1 Peter 1:13–17; 13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." 17 And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,
- N. We are here because we have a passion for Jesus and His Father
1. This passion draws us to worship Him
 2. This passion draws us to meet together
 3. This passion draws us to be servants

IV. How do we Get In?

- A. Jesus tells us the core of our salvation
- B. Mark 16:9–16; 9 [[Now when he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. 10 She went and told those who had been with him, as they mourned and wept. 11 But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it. 12 After these things he appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. 13 And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them. 14 Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. 15 And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.
- C. Acts 2:37–41; 37 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” 38 And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” 40 And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” 41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.
- D. “The Roman Road” in the missile fields of Wyoming
 1. 3:23 - we’re all sinners
 2. 6:23 - the consequences of sin
 3. 6:23 - the gift of God, eternal life in Christ
 4. 10:9 - confession by mouth
 5. 5:1 - justified by faith
 6. “Saying this prayer is a way to declare to God that you are relying on Jesus Christ for your salvation. The words themselves will not save you. Only faith in Jesus Christ can provide salvation! "God, I know that I have sinned against you and am deserving of punishment. But Jesus Christ took the punishment that I deserve so that through faith in Him I could be forgiven. With your help, I place my trust in You for salvation. Thank You for Your wonderful grace and forgiveness - the gift of eternal life! Amen!"
gotquestions.org
- E. Whoever designed the Roman Road missed a huge aspect of it (I still haven’t found the “sinner’s prayer” in the Bible
 1. Romans 6:3–7; 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin.
- F. How can we think anything different than what Jesus says and His apostles repeat
 1. Jesus - Mark 16:15-16
 2. Peter - Acts 2:37-42; 1 Peter 3:21
 3. Paul - Romans 6:1-7

4. Ephesians 4:4–6; 4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
 5. Colossians 2:8–15; 8 See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. 9 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, 10 and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. 11 In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. 13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.
- G. We are “made alive” together with Christ; in the “powerful working of God” our trespasses are forgiven through the “one baptism”
 - H. This isn’t my opinion, I haven’t looked up some obscure meaning of some Greek word
 - I. Jesus says it and His prophets and apostles repeat it
 - J. I don’t understand why there are so many questions about it
- V. The Church of Christ
- A. We are the Body of Christ
 - B. We are ought but servants in His Kingdom
 - C. Acts 2:41; So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.