

WHY I AM A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST #1

God has not left it to the judgment of the individual as to what is right and wrong in religion. Nor has he given men a choice in regard to what church they can belong. Many declare “join the church of your choice.” But Proverbs 14:12 says, “*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*” Our opinion, our thinking, is not the standard. The Bible is the standard.

Jesus came to this world to establish His kingdom. It is a spiritual kingdom (John 18:36, not of this world). It is identified as His church/body (Matt. 16:18-19; Mark 9:1). The church is His body and the body is His church (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18). They are one and the same. There is only “*one body...one faith*” (Eph. 4:4-5). Jesus is the saviour of His body, His church, and no other (Eph. 5:23). Matthew 15:13 says He will not save any body other than His: “*Every plant (body, church, kingdom), which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up!*”

God has certain laws that must be obeyed in order to be saved: “*Forget not my law,*” ... “*Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye*” (Prov. 3:1; 7:2). Sin is a violation of God’s law (1 John 3:4). Everyone must abide by the Lord’s way. What “seems right” to man is the way of death, spiritual death, separation from God (Prov. 16:25). Man is not capable of directing his own steps in life (Jer. 10:23). All humanity must follow God’s directions and be faithful to his commands. When we do, He adds us to the body of the

saved which is his church (Acts 2:38, 41,47). We have no choice in the matter. Jesus said, “*And why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say*” (Luke 6:46)?

Don’t you want to be a faithful member of the Lord’s church and be saved on the day of judgment?

Why am I a member of the church of Christ? Consider these reasons and pay close attention to the inspired word of God as the answer (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3). The words of the New Testament will be used to judge us in the last day (John 12:48). It is our job to learn it and obey it.

I am a member of the church of Christ because it is Scriptural in Organization. It has *elders* who oversee (superintend) the local congregation (Acts 20:17,28; Acts 15:6; 1 Tim. 5:17; Titus 1:5). They are also known as: *pastors/shepherds* (Eph. 4:11), *bishops* (Phil. 1:1; Titus 1:7; 1 Tim. 3:1-7). One man cannot serve by himself. Elders are always mentioned in the plural. It has *deacons* who serve (1 Tim. 3:8-13), a *preacher* who proclaims the whole counsel of God (2 Tim. 4:2; Acts 20:27) and *members* who strive to live holy lives (Eph. 1:4).

Each congregation governs itself. There is no legislative body on earth that makes rules and hands down orders. The headquarters of the church of Christ is in heaven (Phil. 3:20). Every congregation appeals to the Bible and answers directly to God, not man or “headquarters.”

Churches instituted by man cannot appeal to the Bible for their organization.

— Garland M. Robinson