

*Radio  
Talks*

*By  
W. Carl Ketcherside*

To - Mr. + Mrs. Loyd Cochran  
From - Mr. + Mrs. Warren Cochran

# RADIO TALKS

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by W. CARL KETCHERSIDE

*Sponsored by*

## CHURCHES OF CHRIST

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*"The Churches of Christ salute you with a program of song and sermon dedicated to the spiritual edification of all. The service this afternoon is under direction of Evangelist W. Carl Ketcherside . . Mr. Ketcherside".*

## CAN GOD BLESS AMERICA?

A few days ago it was my privilege to address an assembly in a large High School. Due to the present state of international emergency, the program began by the singing of patriotic songs. I sat upon the platform and watched as hundreds of young Americans joined in the words and tune of "God Bless America". It was a stirring sight to behold, and a thrilling thing to hear. Yet, I wondered as I sat there, if those who were participating realized the fact that this song constitutes a prayer, a petition to our Heavenly Father. Then I queried within myself as to what God saw when He gazed down upon this part of the world which we call "the land that we love". It has ever been a principle of mine that we should pray and then work to help answer our own prayers. We have no right to ask God to do something for us, which we are too careless or negligent to attempt to do upon our own initiative. I want to speak plainly with you today—I want to talk straight-from-the-shoulder about the conditions which confront us.

We claim to be a Christian nation! We pretend to uphold the ideals of the New Testament. Yet it is true that in this nation there are sixty millions of people who never pretend to go to the house of God and worship Him. The saloons, taverns, dance halls and places of amusement are filled to capacity and the churches sit with empty pews. We have time for everything else except God and His Word. On Sunday, which is the Lord's Day, we can take time to while away a day on the golf links, we can take our families to the theater, or go for a day of idleness to some favorite picnic spot; but we cannot devote a couple of hours of worship to the One who left the shining courts of Heaven to come and die for us in this world of sin.

Can He who said, "Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together as the manner of some is, but exhort one another and so much the more as you see the day approaching" bless a nation whose citizens trample upon even His elementary laws? It is a tragedy that we send our boys to the front lines of this terrible struggle for the preservation of our way of life, and tell them that

it is right to die for "freedom of worship", then at the same time refuse to exercise that freedom when we have it.

I watched a number of parents of service men recently as they listened to a masterful address, calculated to cheer them in the trials which they were sustaining. The orator of the day pointed out the necessity of sacrifice to maintain those principles which we have cherished through the ages. When he emphasized the "freedom of worship" there was wild applause. Yet many of those who were cheering loudest never set foot in a church edifice. Many of our ideals have become only vain platitudes, to be mouthed around when we attempt to justify our consciences. The greatest monument you can erect to your son in the services of his country is a Christian life. Why send our sons to die for freedom of worship, if we count that freedom so unworthy as to wholly neglect it?

Can God Bless America today when He sees the disrespect for parents which is prevalent upon every hand? He said from Sinai of old and repeated it in his new covenant, "Honor thy father and mother that it may be well with thee" and again, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord for this is right. Honor thy father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise". How coolly this generation turns its back upon those precepts! We are confronted today with a serious problem—that of juvenile delinquency. Boys and girls of High School age have suddenly, in the freedom from restraint which always characterizes wartime periods, "gone the limit in degradation. Drunkenness, sex crimes such as rape and prostitution have increased at such a rate among "teen-agers" that we are positively threatened with a complete moral breakdown. I speak not as an alarmist today when I tell you that we may win the war on the other side of the world and lose a greater one over here. We must put forth every effort on the foreign front it is true, but let us not forget the HOME front also, with emphasis on the "HOME".

What is the basic cause for our present condition? The answer goes back to the very roots of our modern existence. First, the solid structure of home life is being broken up. That can only result in national decay! For the woof and warp in the fabric of national existence is its home life. Today we have little of the right kind. Mothers are being attracted by the high wages paid in defense areas, and are tripping off to work, to leave their God-

given offspring to be cared for by strangers or to roam the streets. It is a strange paradox in our country that we lock our chickens up at night and turn our children out. We acknowledge that all of us should be patriotic and willing to do our part at the lathe or in the office to win this war. But there has come to be a sort of halo of glorification spread around those individuals who desert their primary obligations, and the result is that many mothers think there is no glory accruing to those who remain at home and carry on their routine tasks of housekeeping. To all such I want to say that you may never get your names in the paper, or be lauded by the daily press, but if you remain with your brood of children and rear them as Christians, strong morally and spiritually, you will have accomplished more for this nation in the years to come than any "Rosie the Riveter" whose tears of regret may some day wipe away the smile which now appears at sight of a large pay check. What will it profit us to gain the whole world and lose the souls of our children?

Another contributing factor to the moral rottenness which surrounds us today is the idea of a lot of little High School girls that they have to forfeit virtue and sell their self-respect on the counter of vice, to give the boys a thrill before they are sent to some foreign port. In their ridiculous ignorance, these Khaki-wacky little devil-may-care juveniles do not realize that you cannot even spell MORALE without spelling MORAL. Nothing is good for morale unless it is moral. It is neither smart nor cute to sin. There's a vast difference between being sophisticated and being cheap! If we send our lads away with the idea that our girls are all immoral, they will have little left to fight for. Nothing so stimulates the fighting courage of a man as to realize that behind him he has someone depending upon him, who is clean, sincere and who dares to do right. Any coward can sell out, but it takes courage to face the sneers and jeers of the ignorant and live an upright, noble life. I appeal to every young person who listens this day to square your moral shoulders up, stand erect spiritually and develop backbone instead of wishbone. America in the future is going to need men and women whose lives have not been ruined by excesses or whose bodies are not paying the penalty assessed by lust. I challenge every soldier who hears this to realize that the best fighting man is a clean fighting man! Don't be led by those whose minds are in the gutter! Be a leader yourself!

Can God who said, "Thou shalt not kill", bless a nation where murders are on the increase, and every daily paper carries its headlines detailing the brutal killing of a wife, a sweetheart, a father or mother? Horrible details are given every day as an indication of the wanton, ruthless disregard for the life of man, made in the image of his God. America must arise to her danger! She must arouse the instincts for goodness that lie dormant, or we may even yet go the dreary way of other great commonwealths of the past.

Can God who said, "Thou shalt not commit adultery", bless a nation whose people forsake His command and infringe upon the rights of others in their lust and greed? What does the Father above think when He gazes upon America with such spots of moral infamy as Reno; beholds the gay divorcee who kisses the pillar of the supposed temple of justice where she has been cut loose from the ties that bound her to her lawful husband, and sees her fling her engagement ring into the swirling waters that flow underneath the bridge which crosses the river at Main Street? He proclaimed to humanity in solemn tones, "What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder". Can He bless us today if we violate that announcement for every little trivial, insignificant, childish whim?

Too many of our modern moral lessons have been learned from Hollywood. We have hitched the wagon of our hopes to a movie star, and thus we have gradually been led deeper into the slime of moral turpitude without realizing where we were going. Recently the papers have flaunted before us the cases of two actors who were involved in suits of a criminal nature. Charged with immorality, they were haled before the courts of the land to answer for their conduct. Their popularity was only increased. Fifty years ago the names of those men would have been taken from the billboards and they would have been blackballed by the public. No theater would have dared to show a film in which they appeared. But today we are lulled into a mental torpor, and "anything goes" now. We are riding the same reckless toboggan which destroyed Babylon, Rome and Greece. Those nations which had enjoyed the blessings of God, forfeited a continuation of His grace by their national wickedness.

If we love our nation as we pretend that we do, let's get busy and make it the kind of a nation that God can bless. It is absurd to ask God to guide her, if she refuses to accept His guidance. It

is foolish to ask Him to stand beside her, if she conducts herself in such a way as to make it embarrassing for God to be seen in her company. I plead with all of you today to go to church, search the Word of God, learn your duty, then obey it. The Churches of Christ exist on earth for just one purpose—to lead men back to God. May He help us to live in such a manner that we will be worthy of His love. May we know the abiding comfort of His presence and the sweet solace of His love. We shall be happy to hear from you if you are interested in the great task of making this a better world to live in. Write us so that we may know you personally and may the Father grant that all of us shall so live that we can truly sing

God bless America,

Land that I love!

Stand beside her, and guide her

Through the night, with the light from above!

## PARENTAL DELINQUENCY

Last Sunday afternoon I spoke on the subject of juvenile delinquency, among other things. This I consider to be one of the major problems confronting us in our nation today. Since my address last week, I have received a number of inquiries asking me what solution I have to offer. Today I am going to tell you with all candor what I believe to be the only thing that can save our young people, and consequently, redeem America.

The ideas that are being advanced by many of our so-called crime prevention organizations will not achieve that goal which we hope to obtain. They are being offered in desperation, but do not get to the root of our trouble. They merely lock the stable door after the horse has already escaped. Our desire should be to keep him from escaping in the first place. It is suggested in our city that we institute a curfew law—that is, pass an ordinance that all children must be in, off the street after ten o'clock at night. To enforce that law you will need a policeman on every block in the city, and if they are no more apt at finding boys and girls than they are in locating slot machines and other gambling devices in Saint Louis, they might as well stay home and get a good night's sleep. The



question I want to ask is this, "What are teen-age boys and girls doing roaming the streets by themselves at that hour of the night?" Somebody is responsible for them being there, and running wild.

The responsibility lies clearly at the door of the parents. You cannot legislate mother love, or pass laws assuring parental respect. Both are becoming obsolete in America today. Even the wild creatures of the forest guard their offspring from danger at the risk of personal injury and death. But many humans turn their children out into a world of vice, temptation and sin, without a thought of worry or of anxiety concerning their exposure to the soul-destroying influence about them. God's word declares that in the last days perilous times shall come, and says that one of the characteristics of such an age is the fact that people will be "without natural affection" (2 Timothy 3:3). I fear that we are residing in those days right now. Many women who refuse to bear children, because they will hinder their butterfly night life, lavish their God-given instinct of devotion and bestow their kisses upon a lap dog. Others who have children turn them over to a maid or hire someone else to look after them. They have to have time for a career, you know, not realizing in their deplorable ignorance that the most exalted career any woman can have is that of rearing stalwart sons and daughters to the glory of God and the strength of our great nation.

Children have a divine right to expect certain things of you as their parents. The mere fact that they cannot assert those rights or make demands in their helplessness in no sense mitigates against the idea that those inherent rights exist. They have the right to receive shelter from you—a roof over their heads to protect them from the wintry blasts and the heat of the summer. They have a right to expect you to provide food and sustenance for their physical needs. They have a right to clothing to shield their bodies from the ravages of the elements. But they have a demand far more sacred than this—that you set before them an example which will save their souls—the example of a Christian father and mother. Let us read from God's holy word, "Ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). This does not tell you to bring them up and try to get them into the admonition of the Lord, but to *bring them up in it*.

Small wonder that our boys and girls grow up with no respect

for God and the church, when they are bundled off to Sunday school by parents who make no pretence of going near the place themselves. What thoughts must be in their little minds as they long for the day when they may grow up and sleep late on the Lord's Day, stealing that day of holy worship from its heavenly-ordained purpose. It is the duty of fathers and mothers to take their children to the House of God—not merely SEND them.

Children need to be disciplined. Wrong actions need to be curbed. Bad habits need to be broken off in their incipiency. It is still true that as the twig is bent so will the tree be inclined. I believe in the old-fashioned Biblical doctrine expressed in Proverbs 13:24, "He that spareth the rod hateth his son; but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes". When punishment is needed to restrict harmful tendencies it must be administered. I know that this will not suit a lot of modern psychiatrists, nor will it meet the approval of a lot of present day child culture theorists, some of whom never had a baby, nor cared for an infant. They will tell you that an old-fashioned spanking will develop the child's inhibitions, it will destroy his morale and create an inferiority complex in his mental state. Some of these crackpot theorists, as they are designated by J. Edgar Hoover, head of the Federal Bureau of Investigations, make you feel like a murderer if you grab up a switch or razor strop and apply it with right good will to that specific part of child anatomy which seems to have been especially cushioned to withstand any too great a nervous shock. But the Bible still says in unmistakable guarantee, "Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with a rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod and shalt deliver his soul from hell" (Proverbs 23:13, 14). And it also still remains that "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame. Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul (Proverbs 29:15-17).

Nothing can take the place of Christian homes. No laws of men nor theories of this world can act as a substitute for the divine plan, which calls for Christian fathers and mothers rearing their own flesh and blood in the way of righteousness. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). Someone has said that parental authority has not disappeared in America—it has just changed hands.

Once fathers told the children what to do, now the children tell the fathers. If there is to be respect for law and civil order there must be respect taught in the home. I plead with you in these times of crisis to become a Bible-reading, Bible-loving, Bible-obeying people. Don't wait until your children are grown and wayward, then lament over them and bewail their indifference, but "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying" (Proverbs 19:18).

The Churches of Christ exist to help you with your problems but cannot take the place of the homes. They can work with you but cannot do your work for you. The only solution to our problems relating to moral conditions is the establishment of Christian environment for our loved ones. Let them see you read God's Book, let them hear your voice in prayer and thanksgiving; teach them to respect and reverence your commands, and we will have no need of curfews or juvenile courts. The memory of a Christian father and mother will be the restraining hand to guide our children to life eternal.

## RATIONED BIBLES

We live in a day of rationing and regulation. To conserve our resources and guarantee an equal supply the government has seen fit to place limitations upon the amount of certain commodities you may purchase. Tires are rationed, gasoline is doled out, meats and canned foods are sold by stamp. Our nation has rationed boots and shoes, but they haven't rationed "shoots and booze" if the pages of today's paper are to be taken as an indication, for both murder and liquor seem to be in sufficient quantity to dull the mind and damn the souls of thousands. We are in danger of becoming the "Land of the spree and the home of the slave" as we cater to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life.

But now comes word that Bibles are to be rationed. I want to talk with you a little about that announcement. Of course you are all familiar with the alleged facts, that shortage of manpower to furnish the labor, and shortage of paper to furnish the material resulting in a curtailment of Bible manufacture. Now, I am

glad to live in a land and under a government where one has a right to criticize and call in question the judgment of those who are over him politically. If I were in Nazi Germany today, I might be shot before I left this hotel. I do not anticipate anything like that happening here. But it is my firm conviction that if the United States would take a few hundred tons of the paper and raw materials which are converted into bulletins and propaganda sheets, and use the same to make more Bibles, our country would be infinitely better off. You can secure free printed information today on every subject from raising Jumbo bullfrogs for profit to making lye soap with ashes—but the only Book on earth that can point the way to Heaven is to be restricted in sale, at the time when it is most needed in our history.

Of course, the shortage of Bibles may be artificial, as it is with many other items. Just mention "shortage" and everyone seems to have a frantic desire to hasten down and stock up. If there was not a previous shortage there is thus bound to become one. Yet we can hardly conceive of a good housewife buying six or eight Bibles before the hoarders get them. Still the present shortage could not exist unless millions have purchased copies of the Word of God in recent months. We are not at all surprised to learn, then, that the Bible is the world's best seller, and that more Bibles have been sold in this past year than ever before.

I am interested in what will be done with those books. It seems peculiar that there are many who buy them to worship with what borders on idolatry. They feel better with a nice, shiny copy lying on the library table. Others put them to a superstitious use, purchasing those which have one cover made of metal, which it is thought will protect the soldiers' heart if he carries it in the pocket of his service shirt. To all such I hasten to remind that God does not teach that the covers of the Book will protect from the bullets of the enemy, but rather that it is to be a shield of faith to quench the fiery darts of the wicked, from a spiritual standpoint. The Bible will do no one any good as long as it is in a shirt pocket or on the library table. It has to be taken in hand, lovingly opened and its contents read and obeyed, before it becomes efficacious to your salvation. I feel bad when people where I visit bring me a well-preserved copy of the Old Book, and tell me "Here's a Bible we have had for ten years, and it has never even been soiled". But

it makes me rejoice when I see a worn, oft-read edition lying where it is convenient to the hand. Your Bible is not to be preserved; it is to preserve you; it is not to be kept, but to keep your soul.

This sacred volume is different than other books in that it is alive and powerful. I quote Hebrews 4:12, "For the Word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit and of the joints and marrow and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart". It actually possesses the power of God unto salvation, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation, to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16). Still it cannot accomplish its purpose in your heart without your voluntary submission to it. "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness and receive with meekness the engrafted word which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any man be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass for he beholdeth himself and goeth straightway, forgetting what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed" (James 1:21-25).

Often we judge a man's wisdom by the amount of schooling he possesses, by the colleges he has attended or the fraternities he has joined. Sometimes we estimate by the rule of dollars and cents and conclude that those who are wealthy are wisest. But not so does Christ judge. What is the difference between a fool and a wise man in Heaven's sight? Listen, "Whosoever heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man which built his house upon a rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house, and it fell not for it was founded upon a rock. And everyone that heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man which built his house upon the sand, and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house; and it fell, and great was the fall of it" (Matthew 7:24-27). Thus you can see that in Heaven's sight you are a fool or a wise man, depending upon your attitude to the word of God. Yes indeed, in the homes of my listeners this day rests that book which will

determine eternally what your status will be. What are you doing with it? How are you treating it?

The Bible is the most purchased and least read book on earth today. More people possess it and fewer are guided by it than any other volume. Yet the mere fact we have access to it will make our responsibility greater. The Bible needs to be *studied*. God commands, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needed not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). The Bible needs to be *preached*. Many of our pulpits today are filled with men who are attempting to compromise with the devil and yet retain their standing as religious teachers. They deny the great and fundamental truth of the Bible, laugh at its stories, ridicule its tenets, scoff at its commands, and attempt to bury it beneath a load of scholarship and science falsely so called. Such men are trying to please men instead of God. Paul the apostle declares, "If I yet please men, then am I not the servant of Christ" (Galatians 1:10). The world cannot be saved by oratory, it cannot be saved by statesmanship, it cannot be saved by death-bed stories or funny jokes in the pulpit. It can only be saved by the teachings of the Bible. In thundering tones comes the command as of old, **PREACH THE WORD** (2 Timothy 4:2). The Churches of Christ are doing just that and nothing else!

## WHAT IS THE CHURCH OF CHRIST?

From time to time it is my happy lot to contact friends who are interested in the things for which we stand. Often the question is asked, "Just what is the Church of Christ anyway?" It is conceivable that there are many in our radio audience today who have asked the same thing, and you have not yet received a satisfactory reply. I want this afternoon to answer that question for you with God's Word as my sacred guide. What is the Church of Christ?

It is that institution of which our Saviour spoke in the record as given in Matthew 16:16-18. If you will read that account you will learn that Christ asked His disciples to tell who He was. Without hesitance the impetuous Peter declared, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God". Upon hearing this, Christ declared, "Blessed art thou, Simon, son of Jona, for flesh and

blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but My Father which is in Heaven; and I say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build MY church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it". Herein we find then that Christ was going to build a church upon earth. It had not yet been constructed at this time, which was six months before His crucifixion. It was still future, because He said "I will build". He affirmed that this institution to be constructed by His divine wisdom would be HIS church. He would possess it. It would belong to Him, and not to man. And the gates of Hell (Hades) would not prevail against that church.

Now, before the Master left this earth to return to His Father, where He is seated on the right hand of God today, He called His apostles unto Him and said, "All power is given unto Me in Heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:18-20). Thus we see that with all authority vested in Him, Christ commissioned the apostles to announce the gospel unto dying humanity, and baptize those who were taught and were willing to accept the terms laid down.

He designated the place where they were to begin this preaching, for I read, "And he said unto them, Thus it behooved Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day; and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" (Luke 24:46, 47). For that reason one of the last instructions offered to these initial ambassadors of the kingdom was as follows, "And being assembled together with them, He commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith He, ye have heard of Me" (Acts 1:43). Now the promise to which He had reference of course was the baptism of the Holy Spirit which the apostles were to receive to assist them in their work of establishing the church and writing the New Testament as its guide. So we read again, that He said, "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem and Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

After Christ had thus spoken He was received up in a cloud out of their sight, and the apostles returned to Jerusalem where they abode until the day of Pentecost was fully come. On that occasion, they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and for the first time the gospel in fact—that is the death, burial and resurrection of Christ—was preached by Simon Peter. At the close of his memorable address, his listeners were pricked in their hearts and cried aloud unto Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37). I quote his exact words, "Then Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38). "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized, and the same day were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:41, 42).

In the latter part of this chapter we read again, "And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:46, 47). Here we have the church mentioned as an existing organization, and since the gates of death can never prevail against it, it must be on earth today, and will continue to be until the Saviour comes to claim it, that it may be with him triumphant in glory through the never ending eternity of bliss.

Let us recapitulate a little. Let us check up on what we have found. The Church of Christ is that institution which the Saviour declared He would establish. It is that spiritual unit set up by His authority in the preaching of the gospel. It is that church which came into existence in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. It is that church by which salvation is offered to the world. It is that church which is entered by the initial terms laid down at its establishment; that is, repentance and baptism.

The Church of Christ is not a reformation of anything. As it exists today it seeks to reform no religious body, but only to restore and keep alive the apostolic purity and simplicity of the church as it was in the days of old. This has ever been a struggle, for, as the great apostle to the Gentiles declared, "I fear lest by any means as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds



should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ" (2 Corinthians 11:3). The simplicity that is in Christ. We contrast that fear of Paul's with the pageantry and pomp and political power of the church today, and we are made to wonder if men have ever read that statement. We listen to the vain cavilings, the false pronouncements, and the authoritative edicts of modern theology, and our hearts sigh once more for the plain, simple gospel of the by-gone days, when the great interest was in the souls of men and not in the wealth which they possessed.

The greatest beauty on earth is in the simple things. That which costs the least is often worth the most. We see the last red glow of sunset when the day is gasping out its closing breath, ere the night enshrouds us with its sable curtains. We gaze upon the beauty of the fragrant flower, whose petals have within them every hue of the rainbow's tints. These things we say are simple, everyday occurrences, and that is true. Yet, Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Just so, there is more strength in the simple worship of a pure heart in a humble chapel, where God's Word is declared and His worship rests like a solemn benediction upon all who kneel in His presence, than there is in the parade of those who come to show their earthly garb, or to see or be seen. The Churches of Christ are simple in their devotions, humble in their desire to keep alive the ideals of the Master, charitable in heart to all who come, and friendly in spirit to all who seek to learn more of the truth as it is revealed in God's Book. To all of you, we issue an invitation to come and worship with us in the beauty of holiness.

## THE ONE BODY

My friends, we continue this afternoon a discussion of the query which many of you place before us, "What Is the Church of Christ?" I want first to remind you that there is but one source of authentic information to which we can go for an answer to this question. That is the Word of God, for "all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Timothy 3:16, 17).

To the Bible we go then for the information we seek on the subject, "What Is the Church of Christ?" One of the first things we learn is that the church is the body of Christ. I quote, "And He is the head of that body, the church: who is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, that in all things He might have the pre-eminence (Colossians 1:18). This is a very fortunate illustration, for all of us possess bodies, and can easily see this comparison as it works out. There is a decided likeness between your physical body and the spiritual body of Christ, the church. Both possess the same characteristics to enable them to properly carry out their respective functions. What is required in order to have a working body? One of the first things is a head, is it not? Who is the head of the church? The passage just quoted says that it is Christ. But listen again, "Wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and He is the saviour of the body" (Ephesians 6:22, 23).

We now ask, "When did Christ become the head of the church?" We find our answer as follows: "And what is the exceeding greatness of His (God's) power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power, which He wrought in Christ when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in Heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world but in that which is to come; and hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all" (Ephesians 1:19-23). This shows us that Christ became the head of the body when He was raised from the dead. But some man may say, "I thought the church was established before Christ's death". In answer to that we simply reply that if it was true, it was a body running around without a head. And that is ridiculous to even contemplate.

But we ask next, "Of how many bodies is Jesus the head?" That would be like asking how many wives a man should have at a time, for we learn that the church sustains the same relation to Christ as the wife does to her husband. "Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it" (Ephesians 5:25). Now, our Saviour condemned the idea of a multiplicity of wives, for he declared, "For this cause shall a man leave

father and mother and shall cleave to his wife and they *twain* shall be one flesh" (Matthew 19:5). And when they who stood about asked Him why Moses permitted the granting of divorce, He said, "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, suffered you to put away your wives, but from the beginning it was not so" (Matthew 19:8). Now, certainly Jesus was not fooling when He endorsed monogamy for men. Do you think He would then turn around and practice polygamy, by being joined to any number of brides, all wearing different names, and living according to their own rules and regulations, not being subject unto him? Surely we know that such could not be the case.

So we are not surprised to hear the inspired apostle say, "There is *one* body, and one Spirit, even as you are called in one hope of your calling. One Lord, one faith, one baptism. One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all and in you all" (Ephesians 4:4-6).

But listen further, "For as the body is one and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:12, 13). Nothing can be plainer than that it was the eternal purpose of God that we might all be together, that no class, social or national restriction should bar from membership in the body of Jesus the Master, who died for all that all might live. But today, sectarian prejudice, denominational emphasis and religious bias have created bodies galore, confusing the world, neutralizing the truth, and making infidels of hundreds who see so much empty profession and so little actual obedience of the Heavenly Word. I unhesitatingly make the charge that the division of the Protestant religious world today is doing more to drive people from consecrated religious life than any other one thing. It defeats the purpose of the death of Christ, and nullifies the effect of the cross of Calvary.

The New Testament says, of Christ: "For He is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us, having abolished in His flesh, the enmity; even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in Himself of twain ONE new man, so making peace; and that He might reconcile both unto God IN ONE BODY by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby" (Ephesians 2:14-16). There

are within our vocabulary no words sufficient to portray in its staggering fulness the awful scene which transpired at Golgotha; we can only vision with finite perception the rabid multitude, the humble figure in their midst, and the haughty forms of the Roman soldiers who stood guard. Perhaps we can paint upon the canvas of our hearts the vision of Him hanging there, with the blood gushing from the nail wounds in His hands and feet, and growing black around the thorn-scratches upon His head. But let us remember that all of this was endured to make us *one* in Him. He died to establish a church in which we might worship, work and walk together. "Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it" (Ephesians 5:25). It is "the church of God which He hath purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28). It is the one of which He spoke when He was still among the children of men, saying to Simon, "And I say unto thee that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18).

Friends and dearly beloved ones, if mankind had ever sought to keep alive the truth of the New Testament, if they had ever attempted to be guided solely by God's revelation, we would not today be torn into warring, bickering, striving, God-dishonoring, self-serving groups, seeking to elevate our own opinions at the expense of Heaven's Truth. I plead with you to study the New Testament, learn from it the ideal that God had in mind in His plan of the ages, then make that a part of your ideal in living on earth. The Churches of Christ seek to restore to humanity the same humble, consecrated, devoted, sincere gospel which fell from the lips of the apostles. That gospel, heard, believed, obeyed, will make you just a Christian and nothing else. If you want to be anything else religiously, you'll have to accept and follow some other teaching. You'll either have to go beyond what is written or fall short of it. The New Testament was given to make Christians and nothing else. Seek this day the church of Christ nearest you standing for these divine and sacred principles revealed, speaking where the Bible speaks, remaining silent where it is silent; then accept the gospel, repent and be baptized into Christ, be faithful and diligent in your service to the Christ, as a member of the **ONE BODY** and a crown of life will be your eternal reward. May God bless you!

## MEMBERS OF HIS BODY

In our discussion of the question "What Is the Church of Christ?" we emphasized last Sunday that the church is the one body mentioned in the New Testament Scriptures. It is the body of Christ. It was determined that the church is thus referred to, because of the similarities existing between our physical bodies and the spiritual body of the Saviour. Thus we know that even as your body has a head, so does the church. The head of the church is Christ (Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:22, 23; Ephesians 5:23).

Now, your body also has various members, such, for instance, as arms, ears, eyes, mouth, etc. These do not all have the same function but, all working in harmony, make for an active body. This is also true of the Church of Christ. It is made up of many members. These consist of those who have believed in Christ and obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine delivered unto them (Romans 6:17). Those who repent of their sins and are baptized for remission of the same are added unto the church (Acts 2:38, 47). They are then members of the body.

Let us hear the apostle Paul on this matter, "For as we have many members in one body and all members have not the same office, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and everyone members one of another" (Romans 12:4, 5). Again I read, "For as the body is one and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ" (1 Corinthians 12:12). Thus we have it summed up, in these words of the apostle, "For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones" (Ephesians 5:30).

Since individuals who obey God's truth are members of His body, there are two questions I wish to consider today. The first refers to those who are not members of the Church of Christ; the second with those who are. Here is the initial query then: "Can a person be saved outside the church referred to in the New Testament?" Let us get that straight. It is not a question of whether a person can be saved outside some church, or this or that church, but can one be saved outside the church revealed in God's Holy Word? Can he?

To answer that, let us first remember that the church is the body of Christ. Those who obey His word are members of, and make

up that body. Now let me ask you this, "If your physical arm were severed from your body, could it live?" Could it function or be saved for any necessary use, separate and apart from the body? You know that it cannot. You realize that it is essential that the members of our earthly bodies be attached to, and unified with those bodies. Like the stub of my railroad ticket read the other day, they are "Not good if detached". That same thing holds true in our relationship with the Saviour. All spiritual blessings are found in Christ. Listen, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in Heavenly places IN CHRIST" (Ephesians 1:3). There is not a single spiritual blessing obtainable out of Christ. But to be in Christ is to be in His body. Certainly if I took some medicine into myself I would take it into my body. But to be in Christ's body is to be in the church. So, in reverse, to be out of the church is to be out of Christ's body, and to be out of Christ's body is to be out of Christ. There are no blessings out of Christ. Since salvation is a blessing, and cannot be obtained out of the church, it must then be located in the church. Let us hear the scripture, "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47).

To say that the church has nothing to do with one's salvation is the equivalent of saying that Christ shed His blood in vain, for we learn that He shed His blood to purchase the church. It is the Church of God which he hath purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:28). Would you say that He got cheated in His transaction? You certainly intimate as much when you say that the church has nothing to do with our hope of eternal life. Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it (Ephesians 5:25). Do you love it enough to give yourself to it? Go to the nearest faithful Church of Christ today and obey the gospel. Become a member of the One Body.

I want to speak now to those who have already obeyed the gospel and thus have become members of that body? Do you realize your responsibility? Are you living up to your obligation? In order that your physical body accomplish the most, it is essential that every part of the body be working and functioning properly. When you have the toothache, that one little hurting member affects the whole organic structure. When you have a severe headache the entire body is slowed down. Do you sometimes argue,

"Well, if I were given a better job or more prominence in the church, I'd do more?" Do you fret, fuss and fume in your envy and jealousy because someone else is appointed to do certain things and you are left out? Well, your trouble is that you've never really been converted to your duty as a Christian. Listen to Paul again, "For the body is not one member but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not one of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members everyone of them in the body as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members and yet but one body" (1 Corinthians 12:15-20).

This shows us that we all have a duty to perform and a task to fulfill in the church. We cannot all be leaders, we cannot all be directors of the work, but we can all further it. The thing that counts is not whether you get the glory for what is done, or whether someone else receives it. We are not to labor for earthly glory or reward. So we find the Book teaching, "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory" (Philippians 2:3). Again, "And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vainglory, provoking one another, envying one another" (Ephesians 5:24-26).

How far would you get if when you arose from sleep some morning and prepared to go to work, one of your legs would suddenly say, "I'm not taking a step today. I've been walked on long enough! I do not receive any honor for what I do. He puts a pair of cold leather shoes on me, and a pair of warm gloves on his hands. I'm not as good as his hands, so I'll just quit!" Certainly that sounds ridiculous. Indeed it does. Yet that is exactly the state in which many who profess to be Christians find themselves today. The work of the Lord is an important thing; yea, it is the most important thing in the world today. Let us all resolve to unite in the great task of carrying the gospel to humanity. Let none of us hinder the progress of the truth or hold back the word by our petty, tragic and human desires and lusts of the flesh.

We give you an invitation to come and study with us the word

of eternal life and then obey it. The gospel is no good if merely professed by the lips and not lived in the life. The Lord has a job for you. If you are not working for Him you are working against Him. None hurt His Cause half so much as those who pretend to favor His Word and do nothing to assist in its furtherance. Go to church, study the Bible, live it before your fellowmen—then it will not be necessary to apologize, for your doctrine and practice will both demonstrate that there is a joy in being associated with the One Body—the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST

We are pleased to continue now, with all lovers of the Bible, our study of the question, "What Is the Church of Christ?" In our previous investigations of the topic we have found that the Church of Christ is that institution which the Saviour declared He would build on earth, and also that it is the One Body referred to so often in the New Testament. Today, I shall present evidence that the Church of Christ is the Kingdom of Christ. It represents the reign of Heaven among the children of men today.

The church is called a kingdom because of its governmental nature and structure. Just as there are certain features about the human body which bear a likeness to the church, causing it to be referred to as the Body of Christ; so there are also features about earthly kingdoms which are found likewise in the Kingdom of God's dear Son. There are four essentials to every orderly kingdom. They are: a territory, subjects, a ruler, and a governing law. The Church of Christ possesses all of these requisites, therefore it is a kingdom of order.

What is the territory of the church? In reply we read the great commission of the Saviour, "All power is given unto Me in Heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 28:18, 19). The kingdom of Christ has as its working territory the entire world. It is not limited or inhibited by national, social or sexual lines, for we read again, "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither



Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:27, 28). After the resurrection of Christ, He appeared unto His disciples and spoke of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God (Acts 1:3) and told them, "Ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (verse 8). So the extent of the kingdom of Christ is the whole earth.

Who are the subjects of the kingdom? Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Verily, verily I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God". Here is positive proof that we must be born again in order to become citizens of that kingdom. But Nicodemus did not understand this, and asked, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Let us hear the reply of the Master, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:3-5). This narrows it down. Those are in the kingdom of Christ who have been born of the water and of the Spirit. But how is this accomplished, and how does each function?

We turn to 1 Peter 1:23 and read, "Being born again, not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever". This shows then that the new birth is accomplished by God's word, and verse 25 says, "And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you". Any conversion which does not include the preaching or obedience of the Word of God is not the kind the Bible talks about. But what does the Spirit have to do with it then? The answer is that the Spirit has given us the Word; it is filled with the Spirit and His inspiration. When therefore one receives into an honest heart the Word of God, and obeys that truth, he is motivated to do so by the teachings of the Spirit. Any conversion which does not therefore include obedience of the gospel is not the kind referred to in the Bible. Let us read, "Seeing ye have purified your souls IN OBEYING THE TRUTH through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently" (1 Peter 1:22).

There is not a single instance, and you will be surprised at the statement I am now about to make, there is not a single instance I say, in the New Testament, where the Holy Spirit personally

appeared to any man, for the purpose of converting or saving him. I imagine that instantly some of you will grab up your Bibles and turn to the conversion of Cornelius, as recorded in Acts 10, and say, "Mr. Ketcherside is mistaken this time. Here's a case right here where the Holy Spirit appeared to Cornelius to convert him", for Peter said (Acts 10:47) "Can any man forbid water that these should not be baptized which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?" But I still insist that my statement is correct. The Holy Ghost did not appear to Cornelius to convert him. If it did, it was working in opposition to God, for God through His angel told Cornelius to send men to Joppa and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter; who shall tell thee *words* whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved" (Acts 11:13, 14). Either Cornelius and his family were saved by the words of the gospel preached by Peter, and their obedience to the same, or else the angel of God told a falsehood.

Then why did the Holy Ghost fall upon Cornelius, you ask? The Bible answers that. This was the first Gentile family to hear the gospel preached in its fullness. Peter said, "Ye know that God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the gospel and believe" (Acts 15:7). This was that occasion. But the Jewish brethren in the church were not ready to accept the Gentiles upon even terms. Therefore God sent the Holy Spirit upon Cornelius, not to save him, but to convince the Jews that the Gentiles were accepted. We know that is true, for when Peter was called to account for preaching to the Gentiles, he refers to the outpouring of the Holy Ghost, and says, "Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as He did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I that I could withstand God? When they heard these things, they held their peace and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life" (Acts 11:17,18). "God is no respecter of persons but in every nation he that feareth Him, and worketh righteousness is accepted of Him" (Acts 10:34, 35). This was Peter's opening sentence to Cornelius and his friends. Certainly Peter must have known what it would require to be accepted of God. Regardless of nationality it demands fearing of God and **WORKING** righteousness. We believe that the Spirit operates on the heart of an alien sinner, but He does this through a medium. That medium is the gospel which must be preached, believed and obeyed. When a man

receives the word of truth, repents of his past sins, and then humbles himself to obedience of the Lord in water baptism, that man has fulfilled the initial requirements of citizenship and is enrolled in the kingdom of Christ. We can understand this better by taking into account the entrance of the first candidates for citizenship on the first Pentecost after the resurrection. On that occasion the gospel was proclaimed by Peter, the multitude heard it and believed it to the extent that they were touched to the very heart, and made to cry out, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Hear the answer of the inspired apostle, "Then Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38). My friends, if God is no respecter of persons, we today must enter the kingdom this same way; thus being born of the water and of the Spirit.

Next Sunday afternoon I shall speak on the remaining two phases of the kingdom; that is, its ruler and its code of laws. We trust we may also have your attention then.

## THE KING AND HIS LAW

The Church of Christ is the kingdom of God's dear Son. Last Sunday we made that assertion, and followed it with proof of the fact. We found that it requires four things to constitute a kingdom. They are—a territory, subjects, a ruler, and a law. The Church of Christ possesses all of these. We have considered the first two in our previous lesson, and now we turn our attention to the last two.

Who is the head, the king or ruler over the church? The Bible is full of teaching on this matter. In Colossians 1:18, we learn of Christ that, "He is the head of the body, the church". That this church is the kingdom of Heaven is proven by the statement of Jesus to Peter, when He declared, "Upon this rock I will build My church and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee (Peter) the keys of the kingdom of Heaven, and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in

Heaven" (Matthew 16:18, 19). Here the Christ shows that He will build the church, and the keys to it, or the kingdom, will be given to Peter. Now, the term "key" in prophetic writings always signifies authority. Thus we know that when Christ built His church, He would have authority over the kingdom of Heaven, else he would not be in position to transfer such authority to another.

When did Christ become the head of the kingdom? Paul says it was when He was resurrected. Listen! "God raised Him from the dead and set Him at His own right hand in Heavenly places, far above all principality, and power and might and dominion . . . and hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church" (Ephesians 1:20-22). Thus when Christ appeared to the disciples after His death and return from the grave, He declared "All power is given to Me in Heaven and in earth" (Matthew 28:18). Christ has that power now. He is in authority now! Some there are who think that when He came to earth to establish the reign of Heaven, His plans misfired, backfired or cross-fired, because of opposition of the Jews of that day. They conceive that He is coming back to establish His kingdom in the future. But that theory is not taught in the New Testament. On the contrary, the apostles taught that the early Christians were already in that kingdom. Listen to Paul, "Giving thanks unto the Father which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light, Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness and hath translated us into the kingdom of God's dear Son" (Colossians 1:12, 13). **HATH TRANSLATED US.** That is past tense. Those people were in the kingdom of Christ at that time. How say some among ye then, that the kingdom of God's dear Son has not been established? What wait you for?

Where is Christ's throne located? David says with prophetic vision, "The Lord's throne is in Heaven" (Psalm 11:4). Again he declares, "The Lord hath prepared His throne in the Heavens and His kingdom ruleth over all" (Psalm 103:19). So if Christ's throne is in Heaven it is evident that He rules from there. Paul says, "We have such an high priest who is set on the right hand of the Majesty in the Heavens" (Hebrews 8:1). Christ is on the right hand of God, and He is in Heaven. Now, the term right hand is also a symbol of authority or power. Even in our military system, the one in greatest authority is always found walking on

the right of a group. Christ is in authority today, and He is ruling His kingdom from Heaven, from the right hand of God.

How long will He remain in authority? I read, "For He must reign till He hath put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death" (1 Corinthians 15:25, 26). So the Saviour will be over the kingdom with all power or authority until he has subdued His final enemy. That final enemy is death. But then what will happen to the kingdom, for we know it is eternal? When Christ has put down all opposition, what will He do with the kingdom? We read again, "Then cometh the end, when He shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when He shall have put down all rule and all authority and power" (1 Corinthians 15:24). Now, that is clear. God raised Christ from the dead, and gave Him all power in Heaven and in earth. He decreed that Christ should continue with such power until death was destroyed. Then Christ will deliver the kingdom back to God, even the Father. But you ask, "What will then be the status of Christ?" I am so happy that the Bible answers everything we need to know. I read once more, "And when all things shall be subdued unto Him, then shall the Son also Himself be subject unto Him that put all things under Him, that God may be all in all" (1 Corinthians 15:28). Friends, the kingdom of Christ is among you today. You can become citizens of that kingdom, you can faithfully serve our Christ the King, and then dwell with Him forever, over there. If you are not a member of the One Body, if you are not a citizen, I implore you to become one today!

What law will govern you as a Christian? Has God provided a law for His kingdom. Indeed He has, and those who continue in it will be blest for so doing. James says, "Whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deeds" (James 1:25). It is a law of spiritual life, for the Book states, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Jesus Christ, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Jesus Christ hath made me free from the law of sin and death" (Romans 8:1, 2). Certainly we should welcome the opportunity of living under such a life-giving law as that described by these inspired men. The Old law was taken out of the way at Calvary, when it was fulfilled by

the death of the Saviour, that we might live under a new law, that of the gospel. It is called the law of Christ, because given under His authority. Thus we have Paul saying, "Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). In order to become a citizen of the kingdom of Christ, one must obey the laws of naturalization specified by inspiration. If you are outside that institution today, you must hear the Word, believe it, repent of your sins, confess your faith and be buried with the Master in water baptism. Then when you rise to walk in newness of life, you must continue to live in obedience to the regulations of the gospel law.

But you ask perhaps, if the church is helpless, when there are those in its number, who walk after the carnal things of this life? Certainly not! The perfect law provides disciplinary measures, beginning with correction, then rebuke, but if such is not heeded, then with exclusion from the fellowship. When the church at Corinth tolerated within their number a man guilty of fornication, Paul ordered them to "deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh( that is, his lust) that the Spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus" (1 Corinthians 5:5). He says for the church to "purge out the old leaven" (verse 7), which means to clean up and get rid of sin. He asserts, "I have written unto you not to keep company (that is, to fellowship) if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolator, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner, with such an one no not to eat. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person" (1 Corinthians 5:11-13). A church that will tolerate drunkenness, lust, and wink at other sins, is not the Church of Christ. It can call itself that, and parade the name before the world, but God does not recognize it. Christ says, "Many will say unto Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not done many wonderful works in Thy name, and then will I profess unto them, I never knew you. Depart from Me, ye that work iniquity" (Matthew 7:22, 23). If we are to be faithful citizens of the kingdom of Christ, we must believe, accept, respect and enforce the law of the gospel. Thank you!

## THE HOUSE OF GOD

We resume at this time our study of the question, "What Is the Church of Christ?" Today, I wish to affirm that the Church of Christ is the "house of God". Hundreds of years before Christ came into the world, the evangelical prophet Isaiah predicted as follows, "It shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us His ways, and we will walk in His paths, for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem" (Isaiah 2:2, 3).

Several facts are herein asserted relative to the Lord's house. Let us notice them. The Lord's house was to be established in the last days; it was to begin at Jerusalem; and it was to be for people of all nations. You may ask why it is called the "mountain of the Lord's house?" In answer we remind you that the term "mountain" in prophecy always signifies a kingdom. Thus this phrase is equivalent of saying the "kingdom of the Lord's house". In other words, when the Lord's house was established in Jerusalem, it would be His kingdom.

This explains the thought of the prophet that it should be established in the top of the mountains; that is, the kingdom of God would not be under or beneath the kingdoms of this world, but above and superior to them; "and it shall be exalted above the hills" simply means that God's kingdom will be glorified above the lesser kingdoms of men, for hills are but lesser mountains. Concerning the superiority of God's kingdom over others, we need only refer to the words of another prophet, Daniel, "And in the days of these kings shall the God of Heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms and it shall stand forever" (Daniel 2:44).

Now, I have asserted that this kingdom of God's house has already been established, and that it is the church. I must prove that. I know that there are two ways open to me. Either I can go to the scriptures and show by plain statement that God's house is the church, in so many words; or I can show that the church fulfills all of the prophetic specifications, and since things that are equal

to the same thing are equal to each other, therefore, the church and kingdom of God's House are one and the same. I have those two avenues of approach open. But I prefer to use them both.

I recapitulate briefly. The house of God was to be established in the last days, it was to be established at Jerusalem, it was to admit all nations. Every one of these specifications is fulfilled in the church. But the New Testament makes a plain statement that settles for all times any controversy. Listen to it. "These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly; but if I tarry long, that thou mightest know how to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God; the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15). The house of God is the church. It is the church of the living God.

On the day of Pentecost, when the church was established and the apostles were filled with the Holy Ghost, there were certain scoffers present, who tried to dismiss the phenomena by ridicule. To them Peter replied, "These men are not drunken as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day, but this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel, that, It shall come to pass in the last days" (Acts 2:15-17). There is a solemn declaration that the events of Pentecost fulfilled the prophecy concerning what was to happen in "the last days". Peter declared "This is that which was spoken".

Where did these events occur, you ask? Why, in Jerusalem of course. Listen to Christ just before His ascension, as He is with His apostles, "Then opened He their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, and said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" (Luke 24:45-47). Among all nations. Beginning at Jerusalem. Could anything be plainer?

For this reason the Book declares, "That being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father" (Acts 1:4). That is why after Christ went up to Heaven the record declares, "Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a Sabbath day's journey" (Acts 1:12). Again, "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place" (Acts 2:1).



The mountain of the Lord's house was to be established in the last days at Jerusalem says Isaiah, and the New Testament shows how perfectly this was fulfilled.

But the ancient prophet also says that all nations should flow into it. This was an amazing statement when made. For, remember that Isaiah was a Jew, and he was speaking to the Jewish people. They were strict nationalists. They believed in one God, but they believed just as strongly that He was the God of one people and no other. He was the God of Israel. Yet Isaiah ventured to predict that this God was going to build a house at Jerusalem and invite all nations to enter it freely. Was that true of the church?

The Saviour Himself announced the terms of entrance to the church as God's house, when He said to the apostles, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel unto every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:15, 16). Again, "Go ye therefore and teach *all nations*, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 28:19). There's a place in the kingdom of God—the Church of Christ—for you. Go to the nearest Church of Christ sponsoring these programs, and the brethren will be pleased to reason with you concerning your soul and its welfare. Make the noble confession of faith in Christ the Lord, be buried with Him in water baptism to rise and walk in newness of life—then be faithful as a steward of God's manifold mercies, as a member of His family in His house.

If you belong to an institution which was established at some other place than Jerusalem, on some other occasion than the Pentecost after Christ's resurrection, and which follows a creed other than the New Testament Scriptures; it is evident to you, I am sure, that you are not a member yet of that institution which is known as the Lord's house. For it was to be built at Jerusalem, in the last days, for all nations who would worship according to God's law the gospel which went forth from Zion or Jerusalem, proclaimed by the holy apostles. Dear dying friend, in view of the brevity of life, the certainty of judgment, the fate of eternal death for those who disobey, I plead with you this afternoon to examine your Bibles upon this important topic. May your heart be free from prejudice, your mind clear in your interpretations of the scriptures, and may you be humble and sincere and obey it, is my prayer, that we may all be one in the house of the Lord, the Church of the Living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

## LIVING STONES

We invite your attention now to a continuation of our discussion of the subject, "The Church of Christ Is the House of God". The premise laid down in our topical heading is proven over and over again in the New Testament. For instance, we read in Paul's instructions concerning the qualifications of elders of the church, that to be eligible for that office a man must be, "One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity, for if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the house of God?" (1 Timothy 3:15). Here we learn that it is the duty of the elders to take care of the house of God, and we know that they are over the church. Thus the church and the house of God are the same. Further proof of this was given last Lord's Day afternoon when I quoted from this same chapter, "But if I tarry long that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, the Church of the Living God, the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15). Yes, the church is the house of God.

Today we want to determine something about the construction of this house. Naturally we know that God was the great architect. He drew the plan and laid the pattern. Just as He gave the exact blueprint for the tabernacle in the wilderness and told Moses, "See thou do all things according to the pattern showed thee in the mount" (Exodus 25:9), so he likewise designed the church which was to endure through the ages. For that reason it is called "the true tabernacle which the Lord pitched and not man" (Hebrews 8:2).

The plan was turned over to Christ for execution. He built the church. I read, "Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the Heavenly calling, consider the apostle and high priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; who was faithful to Him that appointed Him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house. For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house" (Hebrews 3:1-3). Thus we learn that Moses was faithful under the Old Testament as A PART of Gods' house, but Christ was faithful under the New Testament as the BUILDER of God's house.

But of what kind of material is God's house constructed? I may answer by saying, it is a "stone" house. But do not get the wrong

impression from this. I do not mean that the church of the Lord is a pile of literal masonry. Far from it. Instead it is a spiritual stone house. I quote the words of the apostle Peter, "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 2:5). Just as Christ is called a cornerstone, so you are called a lively stone in the church, if you are a member of the One Body. The word "lively" here means living. Christians are to be just that. There is no place in the church for those who are spiritually dead, or who are negligent, indifferent and disinterested. God is not going to hold us unaccountable just because we are in His house. As a matter-of-fact we learn from the Bible that, "The time has come that judgment must begin at the house of God; and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? For if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?" (1 Peter 4:17, 18).

It is therefore not enough to just begin the Christian life, but we must finish our course with joy. Hear Paul once more, "Moses verily was faithful in all God's house as a servant, but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end" (Hebrews 3:5, 6). No doubt you have often looked at a stone house and wondered at the intricate skill of the masons who erected it. You have been impressed by their ability to take stones of many sizes and fit them into the structure in such a manner as to make it strong and yet a thing of beauty. All of the stones are not the same size, but all of them are equally important. If I wanted to wreck a beautiful building made of rocks, I would not have to tear out of place just the large ones. I could reduce it to ruin just as effectively by removing the smaller ones. In the church, we do not all have the same amount of talent. Some of us may be mere pebbles in comparison with others. But we all have a work to perform. The ones who have but one talent are as essential to the structure as those who have five. If Satan wants to wreck a church, his quickest way to do it is to persuade the average members that they are not important, and thus they can stay away when they wish, and do as they please. Remember that the Word teaches, "But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body as it hath pleased him" (1 Corinthians 12:18). Be faithful as a living stone in the house of God.

It requires mortar to hold the stones together in a temporal

house. That mortar is made of a mixture of lime, sand and water. Just so, we as Christians must be held in place by spiritual mortar, if we are to remain as stones in God's house. In the Old Testament God condemned the leaders of His people for attempting to bind them together with something beside His Word. He calls their doctrines, "untempered mortar". Listen! "Because, even because they have seduced My people, saying, Peace, and there was no peace; and one built up a wall and lo! others daubed it with untempered mortar" (Ezekiel 13:10). What was that mixture which he condemns? He says, "Therefore, thus saith the Lord God; because ye have spoken vanity and seen lies, therefore, behold, I am against you, saith the Lord God" (Ezekiel 13:8). Now, listen to the outcome! "So will I break down the wall that ye have daubed with untempered mortar and bring it down to the ground, so that the foundation thereof shall be discovered, and it shall fall, and ye shall be consumed in the midst thereof: and ye shall know that I am the Lord" (Ezekiel 13:14).

Many today are trying to seduce God's people and build up a religious structure with the untempered mortar of vanity and falsehood. It will not stand. Jesus says, "Every plant which my Heavenly Father hath not planted shall be rooted up" (Matthew 15:13). Sectarian institutions, without Biblical authority, elevating the creeds and glorifying the names of men, will not stand. They are held together with untempered mortar. Only God's House will stand the lashing trials of wind, rain and flood.

The living stones in that house are held together with the mortar which is made of the ingredients of truth and love, mixed in the water of life. It will not weaken, it cannot crumble. Time will not overcome it, the storms will not overwhelm it. We entreat you then to heed the admonition, "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him; rooted and *built up* in Him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of this world, and not after Christ" (Colossians 2:8).

If you are not a member of the body of Christ, obey His word today, become a living stone, and "ye shall be no more a stranger and foreigner but a fellow-citizen with the saints, and of the household of God; built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone" (Ephesians 2:19, 20). The church needs you, and you need the church. Obey the gospel at once.

## THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

Let us continue our study of the question, "What Is the Church of Christ?" After having looked at this query from several angles, we come today to the point where we affirm that the church is the bride of Christ. The same intimate relationship which exists between a faithful husband and his wife also unites the church to our Lord and Master. For proof of this, let us search the scriptures.

First we hear the apostle Paul as he says, "The husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church; and He is the Saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it. . . So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife, loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh, but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord, the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. . . This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church" (Ephesians 5:23-32). Nothing can be plainer than that the Saviour considers the church as being His own bride.

This enforces several things of which I desire to speak. The first is that the church must honor Christ as the bridegroom. In order to do this, the church must wear the name of Christ. If she wears the name of any other person, she proves untrue to her spiritually legal husband. But occasionally there are those who get confused in their reasoning. They think that John the Baptist established the church, and honor should be accorded unto him, by naming the church after him. No better witness on this matter can be produced than John himself. Listen to what he said, "Ye yourselves bear me witness that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice; this my joy is fulfilled" (John 3:28, 29). Thus you see that John disclaimed having the bride. He said he was the friend of the bridegroom; in other words, what we of today call "the best man" at a wedding. I'd like to ask you sincerely, whose name does the bride wear, that of the groom, or that of the best man? You know the answer to that one, and by the same token it is wrong to call the church by the name of John the Baptist.

But someone may reason that we should honor Paul, by letting the bride wear his name. I know of no better witness to summon on that than Paul himself. Listen to his declaration, "Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you but Crispus and Gaius, lest any man should say that I had baptized in mine own name" (1 Corinthians 1:13, 14). You see, Paul teaches that it is wrong to wear his name religiously. He says that Christ is not divided. He declares that we should wear the name of the one into whom we were baptized. Who was that? Hear the apostle Peter, in Acts 2:38, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ". I want to suggest in all humility, friends, that if it was wrong for the church to wear the name of the great apostle Paul, it is certainly wrong for it to be called by the name of some lesser mortal. A man may have been a great reformer, he may have been a wise religious teacher; but there is just One who died on Calvary's cross for us—Jesus Christ—and it is His name that the church must wear as a bride.

Some of you may be rather critical and say, "Oh, what difference does it make? One name is as good as another". But that is not the sentiment of the Bible. It was Shakespeare who said, "What's in a name? A rose by any other name would smell as sweet". But Jesus Christ did not teach that doctrine. Instead he taught us that our salvation depends upon the name we honor religiously. This is what Peter said, after the establishment of the church, when he had healed a cripple, "By the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God hath raised from the dead, even by Him doth this man stand here before you whole. . . Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under Heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:10, 12). In view of this, do not ever say that there's nothing in a name. You will deny the simple statement of God's blessed book to make such a statement. I plead with you to realize that the Bible teaches there is just one name in which salvation is concerned.

What would you men in my audience do today if your wives all banded together and agreed that there was nothing in a name, and each would resolve that she would be called by a different name than that worn by her own husband? Would you like that? Would you appreciate it, if you came home from work tomorrow afternoon to have your wife meet you at the door and say, "You know, after listening to you argue about names in religion I have

come to the conclusion you are right. So, after this, I'll be your wife, but I'll be called by the name of the man across the street"? You wouldn't endorse that, I'm sure, for you would be a Mr. Somebody, living with a Mrs. Somebody Else! How then do you think Christ likes what we do in attempting to tack eight hundred different names onto our religious institutions, then say, "Oh, yes, we are still all churches of His"? Is the Saviour a polygamist? Does He, who taught men to love their own wives, have a multiplicity of brides? Surely you would not rashly declare that he has.

The Church of Christ wears the name that it does, not from a desire to be narrow, exclusive, partial or self-centered. We accept that name because we believe it to be the scriptural one, the one endorsed by the sacred and inspired scriptures. Have you listened carefully to the announcer as he puts us on the air each Sunday afternoon? I do not know whether he is familiar with the Bible or not. I do know that he is a fine fellow and I appreciate his courteous helpfulness. But perhaps he did not know that his opening words constituted a verbatim quotation from the New Testament. "The Churches of Christ salute you". Those are words of the apostle Paul in Romans 1:16. Turn and read them. Why did Paul call the various congregations he labored with, Churches of Christ? It was because Christ Himself said, "Upon this rock I will build My church" (Matthew 16:18). Whose church? Mine! Who was speaking? Christ! The Church of the New Testament is the Church of Christ. The Church of Christ is the Church of the New Testament.

Human names are divisive in their tendency. They defeat the purpose of the Master's prayer, "that they all may be one as thou Father art in me and I in thee" (John 17:21). We can never unite upon one of them or all of them. In the interest of scriptural and divine oneness I pray this day, then, that you will re-examine your position religiously. Are you glorifying the name of the Son of God, or that of some lesser person, place or thing? When you worship, do you do it as a member of some sectarian, denominational, humanly-organized, earth-born institution? God has declared, "My glory I will not give to another". He demands of us that we heed the admonition, "Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end" (Ephesians 3:21). Let us seek to restore to dying humanity the pure and simple gospel, and then restore humanity to the church of the Redeemer. The church is the bride of Christ. He loves and adores that bride. Let her prove her worthiness for such affection by wearing his name always. Then she will be blessed!

## THE FOLD OF GOD

Your kind indulgence has permitted us to come into your homes each Sunday afternoon through the medium of the air waves and discuss with you the important question, "What Is the Church of Christ?" In the pursuit of that topic today, we wish to consider the church of our Master as being the "fold of God". That we are justified in so doing is evidenced by a parable of the Christ as given in John, chapter ten.

He starts by declaring that all who enter not by the door into the sheepfold, but climb up by some other way are thieves and robbers. Only he that entereth by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. There were many false teachers who came to the Jews, claiming to be the Messiah. They led many of the people in their ignorance into rebellion and insurrection. These were thieves and robbers of God's heritage. Christ is not talking here about those who try to get into the church by some other than the prescribed method, for the church was not established before, but after His death. He is talking about those who came before Him, for He says (verse 8) "All that ever came before Me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them".

What is the door by which Christ entered into the Jewish fold? I answer that it was the door of prophecy. He was the only one who could enter by that avenue, for He was the only one who fulfilled all of the prophecies. He was the seed of the woman predicted in Genesis 3:15; the seed of Abraham through whom the world was to be blest, Genesis 12:3; the Shiloh or peacemaker of the tribe of Judah, Genesis 49:10; the Mighty Counselor of Isaiah, 9:6; and the Sun of Righteousness of Malachi 4:2. No other man could fit these prophecies to his life, therefore was a thief and robber if he claimed to be the promised one. Only Christ could say, "I am not come to destroy the law or the prophets, but to fulfill them" (Matthew 5:17).

Continuing, the parable states, "To him the porter openeth and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name and leadeth them out" (John 10:3). Who was the porter who opened the door for Christ? Now, a porter in that day was a door-keeper. He was one who prepared the way for another. Thus the porter who opened the door of prophecy for the Saviour was John the Baptist. Was he a prophet? Listen to Christ, "For I say unto you, among those that are born of women there is not a greater



prophet than John the Baptist" (Luke 8:28). Did John prepare the way for Christ to accomplish His work? I read, "In those days came John the Baptist preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, Repent ye, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand. This was He which was spoken of by Esaias the prophet saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord" (Matthew 3:1-3).

How did John make this preparation? Before his birth the angel of the Lord said to the prospective father Zacharias, concerning John, "He shall go before Christ in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord" (Luke 1:17). Thus we know that John was a reformer to prepare the hearts of the Jews, so they would be the people of the Lord, when he came to them in his personal ministry. Christ did not find all of the Jews ready to accept Him when He came, but John as a porter opened the way for Him into the Jewish fold, and He entered in as the shepherd. The Book says, He called His own sheep by name, and led them out. Who were His own sheep? Why, those who had been prepared for Him by John. They were a people made ready, prepared for the Lord. They heard the preaching of John, believed it, repented of their sins, confessed their transgressions, and were baptized in the river Jordan (Matthew 3:5, 6).

Did Jesus leave these sheep in the Jewish fold when he entered in? No indeed not. Had he done so, there never would have been a Church of Christ. Salvation would have been in the age-old doctrine of Judaism. The parable said, "He calleth his own sheep by name and LEADETH THEM OUT". After Christ called His sheep out of the Jewish fold He then became their leader. They were no longer subject to the law of Moses, or the restraints of the Old Covenant. From henceforth they were to be followers of Him. Hear the record once more, "And when He putteth forth his own sheep, He goeth before them, and the sheep follow Him: for they know his voice" (John 10:4).

Are all the sheep of Christ these Jewish converts to the gospel? If so, we who are Gentiles are left as sheep without a shepherd. But we are happy to hear Him say once more, "And other sheep I have which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold and one shepherd"

(verse 16). Not all of His sheep are of the Jewish fold. He declares that He has others which are not of that fold. When they (the Gentiles) are gathered in, there shall be one fold or flock, just as there is one shepherd. No wonder Paul boldly affirms, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation, to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16). The Church of Christ is the one body of the New Testament in which both Jews and Greeks or Gentiles can be welcomed as a part of the one flock.

Speaking to the Gentile world at Ephesus, Paul says, "But now in Christ Jesus, ye who were sometimes afar off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For He is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; having abolished in His flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances, for to make in Himself of twain one new man; so making peace; and that He might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby" (Ephesians 2:13-16).

The Church of Christ dare not impose any national restrictions or limitations. Christ did not die just for Americans, Though it may be hard for us to accept it, we are made to realize that He died for our enemies, and He wants to take them to Heaven, if they will repent of their wicked deeds and come to Him. "There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for ALL" (1 Timothy 2:5, 6). Whatever your color, whatever you parentage, whatever your past life, whatever your nation, you can come to Christ, and by acceptance of the terms of the gospel you can become an heir of God and a joint heir with Christ. In Him there is "neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free, but Christ is all and in all" (Colossians 3:11).

Do you want to be one of God's beloved this day? Do you want to follow the lead of the Good Shepherd? Would you enter His fold and be saved? Cease then your wandering and going astray. Having heard His Word, believe it, repent of your past transgressions, turning away from your evil deeds, confess your faith in Him publicly, then in all humility be buried with Him in water baptism that you may rise to walk in newness of life. Have you not been baptized into Christ? Then, dear dying friend, you have not followed His leadership. Christ came to John to be immersed, and John forbade him, saying, "I have need to be baptized of thee".

Jesus said, "Suffer it to be so now, for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness". If Christ had to be baptized in water to fulfill all righteousness, can you fulfill righteousness without it? Are you better than the Lord Jesus. Seek the nearest *faithful* Church of Christ this day and obey His teaching. We bid you come.

## DEAR FRIENDS OF THE GOSPEL:

Each Lord's Day afternoon you have heard us go on the air with the familiar words, "The Churches of Christ salute you". At the close of each radio service, you have heard the station announcer say, "This program came to you with the prayers of the Churches of Christ".

At the close of this little booklet of gospel themes we assure you that it too comes to you accompanied by our prayers. We of the program personnel have but one desire, and that is the leading of the world to Christ. We believe that He died to establish the Church of Christ. We believe that salvation is to be found in that institution. We are sure that there are no promises given outside of it. It is our wish that you learn more about it. Be earnest, pursuing the study of the Bible with a sincere heart. Be obedient to the principles that are therein set forth.

We have received hundreds of encouraging letters as a result of our humble attempts to set forth the pure word of salvation. Those communications have meant much to us and we express our sincere appreciation to all of you who have given us the encouragement to press on in the service of the Master. God has richly blessed the radio ministry of His Word, and our hearts rejoice that we may be instruments in His hand to lead others to the cross of Calvary and the atoning blood of Our Redeemer.

We hope you have read this little book carefully. Read it again, study the truths it contains. Then pass it on to another and help in circulating the life-giving Word. May the Lord bless all of you is our concluding prayer.

Yours for the Master,  
W. CARL KETCHERSIDE.