



Bible-based. Christ-centered. Family-focused. Mission-minded.

Welcome! We're glad you are here!

Sunday - May 5, 2024

How to Identify the Church of the Bible

by Troy Spradlin

Many religious groups like to claim to be the “one true church.” But how can so many claim the same thing when each one does something different than the other just down the street? While everyone wants to belong to the right church, is it even possible to ascertain which one is right? Not only is it possible to identify the true church, but there can be only one. We need simply look in the Bible. Then, we can compare the description of that church to what the various religions claim. This is such an important matter because, according to the Scriptures - like Matthew 7:21-23; 2 Timothy 2:10; and Ephesians 5:30 - identifying the Lord’s true church is paramount to one’s salvation.



The first time we find the word “church” is in Matthew 16:18. Jesus said, “*And I also tell you, that you are Peter, and on this rock, **I will build my church**; and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.*” Jesus Himself would build the church. It would not be some man-made institution, a sect, a cult, nor a continuation of the current religious system of the time (Judaism), but rather, a divine creation of His own doing. Jesus also had no connection to the various religious sects of His day, nor did He establish any of them. This alone should prompt us to take note of an important identifying characteristic: it belongs to Jesus (Ephesians 1:22, 23). It is the *church of Christ*, which is a description of what it is, not necessarily a formal title (see Romans 16:16). No church, or religious system, that cites someone else as its founder or head, or uses a name that doesn’t identify it as belonging to Christ, can claim to be the true church of the Bible. That distinction belongs solely to Jesus. Yet, sadly, many religious institutions today completely ignore this simple fact.

The second thing we should notice is that Jesus said He “will build” the church - future tense. This implies the church didn’t exist at the time He spoke those words. We can also infer from this statement that His intentions did not include an extension of or supplementation to Judaism. It would be something different, (Luke 22:20; Colossians 2:14). But that brings up another question, “When did He establish the church?” The answer is, again, found in the Bible. Read the following verses, Luke 24:47-49; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:1-6, 37-41, 47; Acts 5:11, 8:1. Did you happen to notice the day mentioned and where it took place? It happened in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost. All of this took place shortly after the ascension of Jesus. So, did He build His church, or did someone else? Jesus did. He built it through His apostles by sending them the Holy Spirit (John 14:16,26, 15:26, 16:7) just as He said He would. Therefore, any religious body claiming to be the Lord’s church that doesn’t follow the New Testament apostolic pattern of the church established in Jerusalem on Pentecost - is making a false claim of being the Lord’s church.

Thirdly, notice that the word “church” is singular. It is not plural. Jesus Christ did not say, “My churches.” Instead, he said, “my church” - singular. What does that teach us? It teaches the same thing Ephesians 4:4-6 teaches us, that there is only one! If the Bible says there is only one, yet multiple groups claim to be that one while each has its own distinct differences that exist between them, then how are we to determine which is the correct church? The answer is rather simple: measure it with the Bible! Truth and logic make it impossible for more than one to exist.

Read and investigate what the church of the Bible looks like, what the members did, when and where they met, how they worshiped, what they called themselves, and how they became members of the church. Compare those findings (again, the apostolic, New Testament pattern, or model) with the various groups claiming to be the true church. If they don’t match up with exactly what the Bible says, then how can they say they are the Lord’s church? They cannot. If one takes the time to study the Bible about the church, then one can certainly identify the true church. If it can be identified, then one can be certain they are in the right church, the one of which God approves.

6745 Margaret Street / margarst@bellsouth.net / 850.623.8191
www.margaretstreetchurchofchrist.org



MSYG EVENTS & INFO

Kingdom Kids Parent Meeting
 Sunday, May 5th 4:45 pm
 Memory Classroom

CHILD CARE WILL BE PROVIDED

Excited to Plan!

JULY 27
Vacation Bible School

Join us for our
2024 GRADUATION BANQUET
 Sunday, May 5 | 6 pm Service | Banquet to Follow

YG BIRTHDAY NIGHT
 Wed. May 22nd
 4:30 pm in the FH



MSYG Summer Kickoff
 June 4

Register by April 15th to save \$15



Check out our dates

Gulf Coast Bible Camp
 120 Bible Camp Road
 Lucedale, MS 39452

Camp Sessions & Dates:

- Baldwin County Week:** May 26 - 31 (1st-12th grade)
- Gulf Coast Week:** June 2 - 7 (1st-12th grade)
- Middle & High School Week:** June 9 - 14 (6th-12th grade)
- Junior Week:** June 23 - 26 (1st-5th grade)
- Hattiesburg Week:** July 7 - 12 (1st-12th grade)

register at gulfcoastbiblecamp.com


MISSIONSIPPI
 AT NEW HOPE
 ★ JULY 13-18 ★

GILEGACY
 YEAR THREE · JULY 18-21 2024
 Sign up & pay by April 28th

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE:
 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." - Ephesians 2:8

Digital access to our Calendars on your computer or personal device.

Scan this QR Code for the Church Calendar on teamup.com



CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST

Recent/Urgent Requests

- Joe Bartell* - hip replacement, recovery
- Cassie Buchanan* - recovery, PT outside
- Sherry Davis* - physical/mental comfort
- Wilfred Derrick - kidney failure (Renee Ray*)
- Richard Fisher* - back surgery, recovery
- Patrick Johnson- upcoming surg. (McGriff*)
- Josie Locklin* - pacemaker, recovery
- Gloria Martin* - humerus broken, recovery
- Donald McGriff* - health, prayers
- Mary McGriff* - upcoming test, prayers
- Newcomb family - birth of Gemma Grey!
- Sharon Parker* - seizures, upcoming surgery
- Clark Smith - recovery, prayers
- Edwina Sumrall-broken tailbone, prayers
- Debbie Rivers - surgery soon (Jak G.* sister)
- Ted Russell* - stent replaced, recovery
- James Williamson-heart surgery (Roxanne P)
- Deanna Wilson* - prayers/encouragement

Grieving a Loss

- Terry Baxley*- passing of Darlene
- Bostwick* family - loss of mom, Kandi
- Winston & Lola Burnham-loss of Brooks Ann
- Hatcher family* - loss of mom, Rachel Sullins
- Judy Jennings and family* - loss of Terry
- Lanya Lester and family - loss of mom, Renee
- Paul Lipford and family - loss of mother
- Linda Loftin* and family - loss of Jim*
- Scott Shanahan - loss of Scott's father, Kevin
- Gloria Vonada & family - loss of Troy*

Assisted Living / Shut-Ins / Rehab

- Ron Bartanen* - Victorian Manor
- Dennis Brice - hospice (Gary Coleman*)
- Sherryn Canniff* - homebound
- Sherry Davis*-Memory Care (Davis/Napier*)
- Donna Dudley-Life Care Center (S. Davis*)
- Annie Favorite - Haven (Mary Lou's mom)
- Bobbie Garcia*- Fort Walton Beach
- Linda Mann* - Shut In
- Peggy Masoner - Santa Rosa Health Care
- Larry McDaniel*-Santa Rosa Rehab
- Ina Ruth Miller* - Coral Bay of Pensacola
- Ruth Phillips*- Shut In
- Jim Pitts - Daphne, AL
- Lillian Raines* - Victorian Manor
- Faye Smith - Shut in (J.English mom)
- Marlene Smith - (Fulton*)

Other Requests / Health Issues

- Sharon Ates - upcoming surg. (Gallagher*)
- Gerry Baldwin - health (J.Pace sister)
- Louie Bond - knee surgery, recovery
- John & Gale Broadfoot - health
- Rachel Bugsby - heart surgery, recovery
- Robbie Bullard-aneurysm/defect valve (Lee*)
- Janice Carter* - mobility, prayers
- Keturah Dickey - MS (K. Longmire*)
- Laura Elliot - (S. Lee* mom)
- Myrna Fuller* - pulmonary fibrosis
- Steve Fulton - pain, health difficulties
- Dixie Gorham - heart failure
- Scott Graham* - back pain
- Edwina Harris - health (J.Pace sister)
- Jackie Hamilton-severe health issue(McGriff*)
- Chris Hollins - health, test (McGriff*)
- Kenna Jackson - (Kristina P's* friend)
- Joe Lewis - lupus
- Josie Locklin* - fractured vertebrae , health
- Yvonne Loomis - prayers, health (Nunes*)
- Victoria Martinez - thyroid, prayers
- Ron Miller- esophagus infection (Ina Ruth*)
- Jeffery Norman - transplant list (Nunes*)
- Patsy Prince - health struggles (Burnham*)
- Otis & Eleanor Pollit - (Gallagher*)
- Kara Ritchie - blood disorder (M.Scott*)
- Glenn Rose - heart problems (Garcia*)
- Jennifer Salter - surgery, recovery (Ruth W.*)
- Rodger Schwitzerlett - (Gallagher*)
- Edith Sullins - @ home, recovery (Hatcher*)
- Donnie Turner- (Helms*)
- Willie Waitman Jr. - leg amputation(Pace)

Military

- John Bartell - Washington, DC
- Spencer England - Jacksonville, FL
- Javanta Johnson - NAS Jacksonville Airforce
- Spencer Gable - New London, Groton, CT
- Amya Huey* - Italy
- Ni Mack - Kansas

Mission Works

- Shanahans* - Mission Italy
- Eliezer Perez - San Lorenzo, Paraguay
- Trevor Smoot - Domestic Missions
- Sebastain Garcia - Brazil
- SRC Correctional Institute

Cancer

- Mike Anderson - (Warrington)
- Misty Bray* - (Bird*)
- Jimmy Calhoun - (Mike Scott*)
- Tish Clark - (Hatcher*)
- Lynn Colada - (Ted's sister)
- Jack Davis*
- Sheryl Downy - (Burnham*)
- Eddie English - (R.English*)
- Timothy Ezzell - former member
- Chris Hendrix - (Baxley*)
- Ricky Jennings - (McGriff*)
- Lisa (Dixon) Johnson - (McGriff*)
- Tierney Lancaster - rare blood (Baxley*)
- Evergena Larkin - final stages (McGriff*)
- Greg Lewis* - lung cancer
- Connie Moore - (Fulton*)
- Karen Parker - (Spradlin* friend)
- Ariel Perry - throat (Hatcher)
- Karen Pollit - (Gallagher*)
- Mary Lee Smith - (McGriff*)
- Meg Stojanik - (Hatcher*)
- Reynold Voeltz - (Boughton's friend)
- David Walther - brain (English*)
- Kellie (Wiggins) Ward - (former mem.)
- Eli Whitney* - prostate
- Daisy Jean Williams - (J.Pace)

Students in College

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| • Haley Bartell | • Savannah Smith |
| • Seth Crider | • LizAnn Webb |
| • Stephen English | • Nick Webb |
| • Caitlyn Frizzell | • Lily Weathersbee |
| • Jackson Lash | • Reed Wilson |
| • Caleb Owens | • Lexi Wildes |

Recently Baptized/Restored/Identified

- Makenley Hitchcock* - Baptized 12/31/23
- Debbie Gill* - Baptized 1/23/24
- Savannah Smith* - Baptized 1/31/24
- Brad & Amy Turner* - Baptized 2/18/24
- Logan Ray* - Baptized 2/25/24
- Dawson Hitchcock* - Restored 12/31/23
- Joe and Gloria Martin* - Identified 2/4/24
- Billy & Heidi Hudgens* - Identified 4/21/24

Expectant Mothers

- Tara Henry - May 2024
- Lauren Godwin - August 2024



SERVING WITH HONOR

SUNDAY, MAY 5

MORNING

Opening Prayer Mike Scott
 Song Director Casey Bearden
 Sermon Troy Spradlin
 "Choosing A Church"
 Scripture Reading Josh Owens
 Matthew 9:9-13
 Closing Prayer Rick Bird

Serving Communion (Left - Right):

Matt Gingerich Trevor Bostwick
 Jeremy Dunaway Brad Turner
 Cooper Jennings (Balcony)
 Comments Phillip Webb

EVENING

Opening Prayer Various Men
 Singing Various Men
 Scripture Various Men
 Various Scriptures
 Comments Phillip Webb

Worship Service and Preparation:

Communion Prep ... Harrington Family
 PowerPoint Lori Mense
 Greeters John Pace
 Secure Building Troy Spradlin

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Song Director Mike Scott
 Opening Prayer Brody Crider

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE REPORT:

Sunday Bible Class 172
 AM Worship 207
 PM Worship 232
 Wed. Night Bible Class 162
 Contribution \$9,346
Weekly Budget : \$11,558

TIMES OF SERVICES:

Sunday AM Bible Class 9:00 am
 Sunday AM Worship 10:00 am
 Sunday PM Classes, Worship . 6:00 pm
 Wednesday PM Bible Class 6:30 pm

Visitors:

Thank you for coming!
You are our honored guest!

For more information about the church, spiritual topics, our classes, and activities, there is a tract rack at the entrance of the auditorium for your convenience.
 Or, ask any member for assistance.
Please take a moment to fill out a visitors card, or sign our guest book so that we might have a record of your attendance. Thank you!

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADMINISTRATION

- Deadline for all bulletin items is **Thursday, by noon.**
- If interested in utilizing the library, please reserve with Blisse or Lisa.
- Apologetics Press Study Bibles available for purchase - see Blisse.
- **Reminder:** If you use online giving, please consider covering the processing fees as part of you contribution.



FOOD PANTRY

- Food Pickup : 5/7/24 @ 9:30 AM
- Preparing Boxes:
 - 5/7/24 @ 5:30 PM
 - 5/8/24 @ 9:30 AM
- Distribution : 5/9/24 @ 2:30 PM

EDUCATION

- Adult and Children Bible classes available on Sundays @ 9 AM and Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM.
- Willing to teach? See Chris Davis!



OWLS BIBLE STUDY
ANGELS AND DEMONS
 Every Thursdays @ 10:30 AM
 Starting February 1st

<WiFi Password posted in Foyer>



Scan this QR Code to open webpage for Online Giving

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DEACONS* & MINISTRIES

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 Benevolence..... Dennis Maduell
 Building & Grounds Paul Lipford*
 Education Chris Davis*
 Evangelism Troy Spradlin
 Finance
 Fellowship Jeff Scott*
 Involvement Joe Taylor*
 Lads to Leaders David English
 OWLS Stephen Fulton
 Missions Mike Scott*
 Visitation Bob Locklin
 Mason Chandler
 Kingdom Kids Dane Harrington*
 Worship Blake Hatcher*
 Youth & Family Casey Bearden