

The Vincennes Voice

“...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Matt. 3:3)
A teaching bulletin produced and provided by FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Volume 2 ♦ Issue 44 ♦ October 31, 2021

BECOMING A PART OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Larry R. Ping II

The only way one can become a part, or member, of the Church of Christ is to have the Lord add him to it (Acts 2:47). This is where the Lord places those who are “saved.” Have you become a part of it yet? Has the Lord added you to it yet? You can, by simply doing what those in Acts did.

1) They heard. Luke reports, “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do” (Acts 2:37)? Acts 4:4 states “about five thousand” had “heard the word.” When Lydia found herself in Philippi, she “heard” Paul preach the Gospel (Acts 16:14). Your journey to God begins at this place too. Have you heard?

2) They believed. When Philip “preached Christ” (Acts 8:5) to the city of Samaria, it is told “they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ” (Acts 8:12). Luke records concerning some in

Corinth, “And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed” (Acts 18:8). Now that you have heard the Gospel, do you believe it?

3) They repented. That is, they were willing to make necessary changes. When asked what to do, the Jews on Pentecost were told to “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). Paul taught the Athenians that, “all men every where to repent” (Acts 17:30). Are you willing to make the essential alterations in your life? Now is the time to do so!

4) They confessed. This is not a confession of sin. Rather, it is a confession of Jesus. The eunuch simply said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God” (Acts 8:37).

5) They were

baptized. On the day of Pentecost, “they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls” (Acts 2:41). Once the folks in Samaria believed, “they were baptized, both men and women” (Acts 8:12). Ananias taught Saul, “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16). Have your sins been washed away by virtue of your being baptized?

6) They continued in doing right. The early disciples “continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles” (Acts 2:42-43). Paul was “exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God” (Acts 14:22). Are you remaining faithful as a child of God? Aren’t we thankful for the book of Acts?

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST – WHAT IT IS AND NOT IS

Larry R. Ping II

The Church of Christ, the Lord's Church, has been turned into many things over the years. Most of these are not accurate, and are in need of being corrected. Hence, we make this brief study.

1) The Church of Christ is not a denomination. By definition, a denomination is a "break off," or "section" of something larger. This the Church of Christ is not. Paul reports there is only "one body" in Ephesians 4:4. Earlier in this same epistle, Paul noted, "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all" (Eph. 1:22-23). The body is identified as the church, and there is only one. It is from this body denominations began to form, beginning with the Catholic church in 606 A.D., and many others during the Protestant period in the 1500's-1700's. Let no man tell you the Lord's Church broke off from anything, for it most certainly did not!

2) The Church of

Christ is not the meeting-house. The church, or body, is comprised of "many members" (I Cor. 12:12). The people who make it up may meet in any number of places. I know the Church of Christ is not the building because "great fear came upon all the church" (Acts 5:11). I know the Church of Christ is not the building because the church in Jerusalem was said to have "ears" (Acts 11:22). Meeting-houses do not quake with fear, neither do they sprout ears!

3) The Church of Christ is not a social club. It is not involved, nor is it charged with entertaining or physically feeding folks. Paul summed it up well when saying, "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost" (Rom. 14:17). The Church of Christ uses Jesus as a Divine magnet. He said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me" (Jn. 12:32). The Church of Christ uses the Gospel as a Divine magnet. The apostle said, "For I am not ashamed of

the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Rom. 1:16).

4) The Church of Christ is Truth-Concerned. Timothy was told, "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth" (I Tim. 3:15). The Church of Christ is in the truth-telling business.

5) The Church of Christ is the collection of all the saved. When the about 3000 were baptized in Acts 2:41, the "Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47). Paul made the connection between salvation and the church when penning that "Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body" (Eph. 5:23). May we study well and hard enough to know what the Church of Christ is, and is not. How are you doing with this endeavor?

FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

MEETING AT HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS
2720 Battery Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. Box 672
Vincennes, IN 47591

Phone: 317.308.8288
Website: www.firstcitychurchofchrist.com
Email: firstcitychurchofchrist@gmail.com

MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY
Bible Study – 10:00 am
Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY
Bible Study – 7:00 pm