

Announcements & Prayer Requests

- Let's keep the following in our prayers:
 - Kim Self: Stomach ulcers and weekly Chemo treatments
 - Angie Self: Arthritis and Parkinson's
 - Joann Larkin: Advanced dementia
 - Barb Agee's son (James)
 - Rick Parks' parents: Roy has prostate cancer; Helen has dementia
 - Jimmy Woodall's sister: Cancer
 - Dorothy Macon, Sandra Perez's grandmother: Dementia
 - Frank Wineinger, Sandra Perez's uncle: Stage 4 cancer

THE GOSPEL PLAN OF SALVATION

- Hear Gospel – Rom. 10:17; Acts 8:30-31
- Believe – Heb. 11:6; Mk. 16:16
- Repent of & Turn from Sins – Acts 2:38; 17:30
- Confess our Faith – Rom. 10:10; Mt. 10:32
- Baptism – Acts 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21
- Live Faithfully – Rev. 2:10

Let us draw near with a **true heart in full assurance of faith [Believe]**, having our **hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience [Repent]** and our **bodies washed with pure water [Baptism]**. Let us **hold fast the confession [Confess]** of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to **stir up love and good works**, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but **exhorting one another**, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. – *Heb. 10:22-25*



CHURCH OF CHRIST

Invitation

'Therefore, go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' – Mt. 22:9

Address

5080 Highway 70 East
Rockwood, TN 37854

Assembly Times

Sunday Bible Study – 10:00 AM
Sunday Worship – 11:00 AM

Please text/email any announcements, questions, or concerns to Bill Fix, (865) 934-9239 or fix.bill@gmail.com

www.hwy70church.com

January 17, 2021

We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors and members. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please let one of us know.

Adult Bible Class – Legal Principles and the Bible:
Introduction

Sermon Topic – Simple, But Not Easy

“The Churches of Christ Salute You”

By Kenneth Sils (GUARDIAN OF TRUTH, XLI, Sept. 18, 1997)

The book of Romans in the New Testament is one of the most informative books in the Bible. Paul wrote that he was ready to preach the gospel to them for it was the power of God to salvation for all people, whether they be Jew or Greek, slave or free, and male or female. This theme resonates throughout the book as Paul encourages all of them to see themselves as the people of God, united in the body of Christ, saved by the grace of God through obedient faith. Towards the end of the letter, Paul lists a series of salutations, including "...The churches of Christ salute you" in Rom. 16:16. Allow me to make three important observations concerning the term "churches of Christ" that is found in this passage.

The first observation from this God-given name is the section "of Christ." When one says church "of Christ," one is showing who the owner is of that which is called the church. Jesus Christ is the owner and possessor of the church. In Matthew 16, Jesus asked his disciples whom they thought He was. The answer Simon gave was correct. He said in Mt. 16:16, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." In response to his confession of faith, Jesus said in 16:18, "... on this rock, I will build my church." The church belongs to Jesus and Jesus alone. The headship of the church was never left to Peter, Paul, or any other man on this earth. In Col. 1:18, we learn that Jesus "is the head of the body, the church." The church of the Bible is truly the church "of Christ."

Secondly, "the churches of Christ salute you" points out the truth that the word "church" could never refer to any arrangement of man-made buildings. It's impossible for a stone or brick building to salute anything! In the New Testament, the word church means "called out" or "those who are called out." Acts 5:11 states, "So great fear came upon all the church."

Only people have the ability to fear and those who were the "called out" of Christ expressed in unison reverential fear due to the awesome power they witnessed through the hands of the apostles. No physical building (cathedral, synagogue, sanctuary, meeting house) was ever referred to as "the church" in the New Testament. To do such today shows a gross ignorance of God's way taught in Holy Scripture.

Finally, "the churches of Christ salute you" refers to God's use of the plural for the word "church." The term "churches" simply meant "the called out" in reference to a variety of locations around the world. This is a phrase of common sense. Paul was currently instructing the "church of Christ" which was meeting in the city of Rome. There were the "called

out" in Jerusalem, Ephesus, Antioch, and the list could go on and on. Consider the seven "churches" of Asia which had letters sent to each one in the book of Revelation. It is vital to understand that the only distinction between these churches is in respect to their location. They were not denominations with differing doctrines, organizations, and allegiances. Their doctrine was the same for all as Paul commanded as he was sending Timothy to them, "... who will remind you of my ways in Christ as I teach everywhere in every church" (1 Cor. 4:17). The same doctrine that Timothy must preach to Corinth would be preached before every church of Christ he spoke to, regardless of their location.

We propose to be a group just like you read about in the New Testament. We give our total allegiance to Christ and His inspired message just as the churches of Christ did in the first century. Our mission is to teach the gospel of Christ for the salvation of your soul.

Fixating on What's Important: *Simple, But Not Easy*

By Bill Fix

Today's lesson will highlight the distinction between the terms *simple* (not complicated) and *easy* (not difficult, requiring no great effort). Some things in life might be easy, yet complicated; however, many more objectives, tasks, and decisions will be simple, yet far from easy. For example, to lose weight, one simply needs to burn more calories than what is consumed. But how *easy* is it for overweight Americans to stick to that?

I believe that being a Christian is simple, but it is not always easy. To become a Christian, one merely needs to study the Word, believe it, and obey it. (A detailed listing of this procedure follows on page 4 of the bulletin.) Paul even contrasts the "simplicity that is in Christ" with those who may preach a different gospel in 2 Cor. 11:3-4. The gospel was meant to be simple so that all mankind could understand it and not be deceived.

So whether we're considering salvation (Mk. 16:16 is not complicated and easy to understand) or how to overcome temptation (1 Cor. 10:13 tells us God won't allow us to be tempted beyond what we can resist), perhaps it will help to remember that these matters are simple. Let's find comfort in the simplicity of the Word and not let our human minds defeat us with over-analysis, biased justifications, or fear. Sometimes we just need to get out of our own heads, and if telling ourselves that the matter really is simple will help us do what is right, then let's do so.