



BIBLE TALK

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Question: What basically does the church of Christ teach?

Answer: First of all, let me make this observation. Do you not think the Lord would want us to have His will in mind anytime we are dealing with doctrine or practice? It is important to develop a "New Testament concept of the Lord's church." In other words, what does the New Testament instruct, require, or exemplify regarding the church which our Lord built? (2 Tim. 3:16-17). The following scriptural perspective must be observed, if it is to be done His way:

There is a plan of salvation Christ expects to be obeyed to be saved, consisting of faith in Christ (Jn. 8:24; Mk. 16:16); repentance of sins (Lk. 13:3; Acts 2:38); confession of faith in Christ (Matt. 10:32-33); and baptism for the remission of sins (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; I Pet. 3:21).

Worship consist of singing (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16); praying (Acts 2:42; study of God's word (2 Tim. 4:2-3; 1 Tim. 4:13; taking Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:23-30; Acts 20:7), giving (1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:7).

The organization of the church consists of Christ as head (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18); and each local congregation having elders as overseers and deacons as servants (1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11; Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:1-3).

It is expected by God that members of the church should live soberly, righteously, and godly while denying ungodliness and worldly lusts (Titus 2:11-12).

If we, or anyone else, were to depart from these simple guidelines, he will have to "preach another gospel" (Gal. 1:8-9), add to or take away from holy and divine scripture (Rev. 22:18-19), resulting in the suffering of consequences mentioned in context of the above cited scriptures. The wise man will hear, heed, and obey the scriptures and not the ideas of men. This article is heavy with scripture, but it would not be "Bible Talk" if not documented properly!

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