



## *Chalmette Church of Christ*

*March 22nd, 2015*

"Be Ye Followers Of Me, Even As I Am Of Christ"

James Fisher

In First Corinthians 11:1, Paul said, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." To be a follower of Paul is to be a follower of Christ as the above verse teaches. Is it possible then to be a follower of Paul and also a follower of modern religious institutions? If so, then of what denomination was Paul? As the text explicitly states, Paul was a follower of Christ. Jesus was not a Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Catholic, or any other man-made religious name found in the yellow pages of the phone book.

Jesus was not a part of any denomination or sectarian group. As a follower of Christ, neither was Paul. If Christians are to follow 1 Corinthians 11:1, then we cannot be a follower of Paul and of these man-made institutions at the same time. They were non-existent in Paul's day. Even if they did exist, he would have certainly condemned them because they were not established by Christ (Gal. 1:6-7).

"...The disciples were called Christians first in Antioch" (Acts 11:26). They were not known by sectarian names. Those who obey the Lord today are still called Christians because in this name only is God glorified (John 13:31). All other names and titles only serve to dishonor Christ (1 Cor. 3:3-4). Peter exhorts, "Yet if any man suffer as a Christian let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God on this behalf" (1 Peter 4:16). It is not possible to glorify God in denominational names and titles. That is why Peter could say to the Jews, "Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

The Bible teaches the church had its beginning in Jerusalem on the first Pentecost following the resurrection of Jesus. However, God did not see fit to call the church the "Pentecostal Church."

The Bible teaches water baptism in many places, yet nothing is said concerning a Baptist Church. That came about by man's own wisdom (Rom. 1:22).

Paul explains in Romans 10:17 that "faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God." In verse 14 he asks, "How shall they hear without a preacher?" Preaching is the means by which God makes the Gospel known to men (1 Cor. 1:18-21; Rom. 1:16). The church is to spread the gospel by this method, but the church of the Bible is not known as the "Methodist Church."

In the giving of the great commission (Mark 16:15), Christ shows that the church will be universal, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." However no command can be found to refer to the church as the "Catholic Church."

These various names and titles are not the will of God. If they were, one would have no difficulty whatever locating them in the Bible, as the Bible is the expressed Will of God (2 Peter 1:3). Paul says it is by the scriptures "that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Since these names and titles are absent from the scriptures, they are not good works. Lest we forget, it was Christ's blood that purchased the church (Acts 20:28) and it belongs exclusively to him. Paul affirms this when he penned, "The churches of Christ salute you" (Rom. 16:16).

Paul was a follower of Christ and a member of his church as the Bible teaches. All the saved are added to the church by the Lord himself. If you have obeyed the Gospel (2 Thess. 1:8; John 8:24; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:37; Acts 22:16), then you were added by the Lord to his church (Acts 2:47) and not to a denomination.

There is one body (Eph. 4:4). The body is the church (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18,24). The body is of Christ (Col. 2:17). Christ is not divided (1 Cor. 1:13). It is amazing how some people can get 500 churches out of these few verses of scripture. Christians cannot be followers of Christ and be divided. Paul writes, "Let there be no divisions among you" (1 Cor. 1:10). To be divided is to disobey Christ. The Bible says Christ is the Savior of those who obey him (Heb. 5:9).

There are many thousands who have given up their allegiances with human organizations in favor of simple New Testament Christianity. Our faith lies in the power and wisdom of God as expressed in his Word and not in the wisdom of men as expressed in their divisions. Paul makes this clear when he says, "That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God" (1 Cor. 2:5). The church exists only inasmuch as the pattern exists. If one departs from the original pattern, then one has departed from the Lord's church. This pattern is clearly revealed in the New Testament. Would the apostles or any Christian of the first century recognize denominational churches today? No, they would not. My friend, accept no substitutes! These institutions are not the church of the Bible. Common logic alone proves this fact. These institutions never even existed when the New Testament was written. They had their beginning at the wrong places, at the wrong times and by the wrong persons.

The church of Christ is the only religious institution today that is molded exclusively after the original church in both doctrine and practice. If it is not in the scriptures, one will not find it in the church of Christ. To follow Christ is to follow his church as Paul was a follower of Christ and his church. Peter declared, "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God" (1 Peter 4:11). This timeless command of our Lord is the highest rule for all lovers of the truth of God's word (John 17:17).

# Bible Wordsearch

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward, backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.

More puzzles at:  
[biblewordgames.com](http://biblewordgames.com)

N	I	A	R	P	R	O	P	H	E	T	S	Y	D	H
O	L	E	M	R	A	C	O	W	A	T	E	R	U	E
H	E	A	B	R	A	H	A	M	N	U	H	N	O	V
S	A	C	R	I	F	I	C	E	S	A	D	V	L	A
I	P	E	U	B	S	L	M	A	W	R	T	O	C	C
K	E	E	R	T	U	D	E	R	E	H	T	A	G	J
N	D	O	P	N	N	R	K	D	R	E	S	S	E	D
F	O	R	S	A	K	E	N	Y	E	O	U	Z	T	O
K	R	R	M	V	C	N	I	T	T	E	I	I	O	
H	U	M	O	R	O	S	V	S	H	B	S	R	R	L
L	O	R	D	E	L	O	E	L	E	A	R	S	I	B
C	F	N	G	S	L	E	S	L	A	V	J	J	P	A
U	Y	E	N	R	U	O	J	C	D	A	O	I	S	H
G	I	N	I	O	B	A	D	I	A	H	B	R	L	A
M	O	C	K	E	D	G	T	R	E	N	C	H	G	E

- ABRAHAM
- AHAB
- BAAL
- BLOOD
- BROOK
- BULLOCK
- BURNT
- CARMEL
- CAVE
- CHILDREN
- CLOUD
- CUT
- DRESSED
- ELJAH
- ESCAPE
- FORSAKEN
- FOUR
- GATHERED
- GROVES
- COMMANDMENTS
- ANSWERETH
- HUNDRED
- ISAAC
- ISRAEL
- JEZEBEL
- JOURNEY
- KINGDOM
- KISHON
- KNIVES
- LEAPED
- LORD
- MOCKED
- OBADIAH
- PROPHETS
- RAIN
- SACRIFICE
- SERVANT
- SPIRIT
- TRENCH
- WATER

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

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Psalm 9

# News & Notes

- Mark will be making his annual trip to Budapest this year and will be leaving on May 21st and returning on June 8th. Keep him in your prayers during his time of travel for a safe trip there and back.
- Please keep Glenn Darby in your prayers at this time. He is the neighbor of Claudia and Anthony. His cancer has returned.
- On April 18th, there will be a bridal shower for Chanel Long & Nicklas Smith at 1:30 at the building. All ladies are invited. Chanel & Nicklas are registered at Target & Bed Bath & Beyond.
- Vacation Bible School will be on June 15-18. Brandon Britton and his crew will be coming down to help us conduct our VBS this year. This is his 3rd time helping us!
- Our Spring Gospel Meeting will be on April 5-9. Mark Reynolds will be our guest speaker! Make plans to attend each night and also invite others.
- The MSOP Lectureship will begin on March 29th. Mark and several others will be leaving on Monday, March 30th. If you would like to go, please see Mark for more details.
- Please keep Alice Riley, Margo Rodney, and Malcolm Vazquez in your prayers at this time as they are each battling different illnesses.
- Please keep Evangeline in your prayers at this time. She is the great granddaughter of Mary Desambourg. She is 3 years old and was diagnosed with a brain tumor.
- Please keep John & Bessy Hulsey in your prayers at this time. Bessy was diagnosed with cancer recently.

## March Birthdays & Anniversaries

22-Anthony Smith

### April Birthdays

3-Emily Snyder

11-Bill Green

14-Scott Russell

22-Linda Swanner

28-Nappi Whitley



# Prayer List



**Alice Riley  
Clifford Markum  
Sherry Towle  
Margo Rodney  
Ella Gillard  
Krisztian Montague  
Addrean Jenkins  
Gloria Smiles  
Joel James  
Ryker Amaya  
Gary Huettmann  
Carol Calix  
Marie Pennington**

**\*All of our brethren scattered across  
the United States & our troops in  
Iraq**



**Chalmette Church of Christ  
200 De La Ronde  
Chalmette, LA 70043  
504-279-9438**

Services of The Church  
Sunday

Bible Classes 9:00 am

AM Worship 10:00 am

PM Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 pm

#### Elders

Mark Lance 504-250-8492

J. V. Russell 504-277-0251

Charles Whitley 504-277-4717

Butch Snyder 504-682-0051

#### Evangelist

Mark Lance 504-250-8492

[gospelpr@cox.net](mailto:gospelpr@cox.net)

#### Deacons

Scott Russell 504-232-4120

Wayne Schulz 504-392-3999

Mike Swanner 504-271-2465

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