The Churches of Christ Broadcast

Radio Sermons for the Kansas City Area

Station WREN (1250)
Lawrence, Kansas
Every Sunday 1:00 to 1:30 p.m.

A Series of 24 Sermons by
Robert H. Brumback, Evangelist
Kansas City Radio Singers in 1940’s

Front Row:
Robert Brumback, Verner Ellis, Norton Perry

Women’s Row:
Elizabeth Frazier, Betty (Swearingin) Gunn, Jody (Sigler) Willeford, Ruby Lee (Landes) Freeman, Betty White, Deloris (Roller) VanDeusen, Joyce Frazier, Mary Ray, Ellen (Frazier) Sears, Esther (Frazier) Rinkenbaugh, Imogene VanDeusen, Virginia Bushell, Shirley (VanDeusen) Davis, Edith Frazier, Lois Bratcher, Doris Henderson, Doris Ray

Back Row:
Ralph McGee, Ray Hiatt, Howard VanDeusen, Windell Sparks, Harold Henderson, Churchill Teghtmeyer, and Wilbur Davis
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Why I Believe the Bible to be the Word of God

The day in which we live is one of atheism and infidelity. Men, professing to be wise in the ways of the world, reject and scoff at the ways of the Lord. These onslaughts against God, against the Bible and against religion appear in magazines, newspapers and books. They are heard in the pulpit, over the radio, and are sometimes taught in the schoolroom.

No true believer in the Bible fears the efforts of its enemies to destroy it. That has been tried for almost two thousand years. The Bible has been the most hated and yet the best loved book in all the world. Those who fear God and believe in Christ love the Bible. Those whose lives are wrong hate it and do everything possible to destroy it. This hatred has been fierce and relentless, yet the Bible continues to stand. It teaches of one subject, Christ, it has one purpose, that is the salvation of the souls of men and women. For this reason it can not be destroyed.

"The word of the Lord endureth forever." THAT IS WHY I BELIEVE THE BIBLE TO BE THE WORD OF GOD.

The Bible claims to be the word of God. "The spirit of the Lord spoke by Me." It is the only book that claims to reveal the origin of the world, the origin of man, his duty and destiny, here and hereafter. The critics of the Bible say it is the product of man. If wicked men wrote the Bible to deceive, if it is the work of the liar, why does the thief, the drunkard and the liar hate it? Why isn't it found in the gambling den, in the road house and the booze joint? Why don't they use it to stimulate business.

They know that its teaching is against these things. That its influence is for good, not for evil. Therefore they want nothing to do with it. Every precept that is right, that is true, that is for the betterment of mankind had its origin in the Bible. For that reason the Apostle Paul said, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction and instruction in righteousness." THAT IS WHY I BELIEVE THE BIBLE TO BE THE WORD OF GOD.

It required more than fifteen hundred years to write the Bible. Its inspired writers came from every walk of life. Kings, herdsmen, scholars and fishermen contributed their part to this inspired volume. "Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." Where did these inspired men live? In Babylon, Assyria, Greece and
Rome. Some of the writers, though not living among these people, were under their influence and teaching. These nations were idol worshipers. If the Bible was the work of men, it would have been tinged with idolatry. Though produced in idolatrous nations, it teaches one God, one Christ, one spirit, one body, one organization of God's people. THAT IS WHY I BELIEVE THE BIBLE TO BE THE WORD OF GOD.

The fulfilled prophecies of the Bible prove that it is the word of God. The prophet Isaiah said that God was able to see the end from the beginning. The prophecies concerning the Jews arrest the attention of the student of the Bible. Moses, God's prophet, said they would be scattered among all people, from one end of the earth to the other. Wherever you go today, you will find the Jew. Why? Because the Bible says he will be among ALL people.

The Savior said of the Jew . . . "They shall fall by the edge of the sword and shall be led away captive into all nations." Wherever they are found today they are ridiculed, called Kikes, Sheenies, Ikes. Why, Because the Bible said they would be.

"Thou shall become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword among all nations whither the Lord shall lead thee." Deut. 28:37.

What man could have forseen that this nation would be oppressed, pillaged, and scattered among all other nations, yet be kept and marked out as a people of God? BECAUSE OF THE LITERAL FULFILLMENT OF THESE PROPHECIES I BELIEVE THE BIBLE TO BE THE WORD OF GOD.

One of the most remarkable prophecies found in the Bible, is that spoken against Tyre, by the prophet Ezekiel.

When Ezekiel said that Tyre should be destroyed, this city was a center of commerce and one of the most beautiful of the ancient world. The prophet said Tyre was to suffer double destruction, first by Nebuchadnezzar and then by a king of kings from the North. Nebuchadnezzar marched against Tyre and after a siege of thirteen years, destroyed the city, but not until after most of its people had retired to an island fortress a half mile from the shore.

Part of the prophecy was fulfilled but her "stones and her timbers" had not yet been "Laid in the midst of the waters." Two hundred, fifty years pass away, Alexander the Great, the king of kings comes from the North. He reduces that part of the city which had been rebuilt on the main land, but there in the ocean was the island city which he came to conquer. How could he do it? He built a roadway two hundred feet wide right to the walls of the island city. Over this he marched to victory. Where did he obtain the material? From the timbers and stones of the destroyed city. Thus was fulfilled Ezekiel's prophecy, "I will lay thy stones and thy timbers in the midst of the water". THAT IS WHY I BELIEVE THE BIBLE TO BE THE WORD OF GOD.
In the book of Joshua we read that the walls of Jericho fell down flat and the soldiers of Joshua "went every men straight before him" into the city. In 1929 the British School of Archaeology excavated the site of Jericho and found that the walls fell outward and down the hillside making it possible for the invaders to enter "Every man straight before him", just as the Bible records.

After the city was burnt with fire, Joshua pronounced a curse upon any one who would attempt to rebuild the city, saying the foundations would be laid with the death of his first born and the gates set up with the death of his youngest child. No one attempted to rebuild the city for more than five hundred years, then Heil, Bethelite, laid the foundation for the rebuilding of Jericho.

What happened? His first born son, Abiram died! When he hung the gates, his youngest son, Segub died! The city was destroyed and never rebuilt.

Isaiah, God's prophet, testified concerning the destruction of Babylon. "It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation." What happened? The city was destroyed! It was never rebuilt. To this day its site is not inhabited.

If the Bible is the work of men, why don't the God dishonoring, church ridiculing, Bible hating infidels prove it by building a city on the site of Jericho or Babylon? It cannot be done! THAT IS WHY I BELIEVE THE BIBLE TO BE THE WORD OF GOD.

Because of the nature of its teachings I believe the Bible to be of God. It is not a work on literature, yet it contains the greatest literature of all time. It is not a work on jurisprudence, yet it is a greater authority on law than Blackstone. It is not a work on science, yet when it touches upon the subject of science it does not make a mistake.

Job said the earth was turned as clay to the seal. Can modern science give us a better illustration of the earth rotating upon its axis than of the potter turning the vessel of clay upon his wheel?

Science knows today, that the sun has a circuit through the Heavens. Yet David was far ahead of the scientists of our day. In speaking of the sun, he said, "His going forth is from the end of the Heaven and His circuit from the ends of it".

Job anticipated the radio. He said, "Canst thou send lightnings that they may go and say unto Thee, here we are"?

The Bible says the stars of Heaven are innumerable. When Galileo turned his telescope upon the Heavens, he said, "The stars cannot be counted." Who first said that? God's word.

These reasons for believing the Bible to be the word of God are supported by sound reasoning and unquestionable facts. What more evidence do you need to convince you that the infinite power of God created the Bible. It IS His word. The first promise it contains is for the salvation of the soul. That is YOUR first need and that is YOUR last need. That salvation is provided through Christ.
Thanks be to God that man never sunk so low that Christ could not reach down and lift him up and set him free. He is the world's Saviour. The Apostle John tells us that he was manifested to take away our sin. God's plan to bring about a reconciliation between Himself and the sinners of the world was to send Christ to take away sin. The Bible tells us that it was necessary for Jesus to die. There was no other way, else when He prayed, "O, Father, if it be possible let this cup be removed," it would have been taken away.

If that could have been done, God would not have allowed Him to suffer. He would not have allowed them to spit in His face, He would not have allowed them to hurry Him along the road leading to Golgotha's brow, staggering under the weight of that Roman cross, beaten, bruised and exhausted. He would not have allowed them to pinion him to that cruel tree, there to suffer, bleed and die if there had been some other way to save the world. God's love for humanity was demonstrated in this.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him might not perish but have everlasting life."

If you are ever saved to enjoy that everlasting life, it will be by the precious blood of Jesus. He paid the price of redemption, but if you do not obey Him you will die in your sins.

In the book of Hebrews we read of Him, "Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered, and being made perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him.

He came to bring peace to the distressed, comfort to the bereaved, and forgiveness to sin sick souls. Have YOU sought in vain for these things? They can be found only in Christ and His church. A cordial welcome awaits you at the congregation whose address is given below.

Radio Sermon by Robert H. Brumback, Evangelist, Churches of Christ 3931 Harrison Street, Kansas City, Mo.

This is Number One of a series. Others supplied upon request.
Why I Believe Christ to be the Son of God

A DRIFT in the shark infested waters of the South Pacific Ocean, seven Americans of the U.S. Army Air Corps spent three weeks in rubber rafts. The sun beat down on them unmercifully as they were tossed about in the equatorial waters. By day the heat was unbearable, at night the cold numbed their bodies. Thirst, hunger, sharks, and the ever present shadow of death were their companions. For one of them it was a two fold adventure. An adventure in which he faced death, and an adventure in which he came to acknowledge there is a God, and to believe in His Son, Jesus Christ.

An agnostic when he entered service, this young man came to trust in God for deliverance, convinced that atheism was of no value there in the rubber raft, amid the white caps and the ever present sharks. Atheism—disbelief in God, rejection of Christ, exists only when men occupy positions of safety and security. That boy in the raft faced the reality of death. Under like conditions every doubter would believe in the Bible, in God, and in Jesus Christ.

Long ago Christ spoke to another doubter, saying, "Because thou hast seen Me, thou hast believed, blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed." Today we have the Bible to convince us of the reality and the divinity of Christ. He taught that all who do not believe on Him will be lost. "If ye believe not that I am He, ye shall die in your sins". There was never a saved person who did not get that salvation from Christ. Find a place where people have no love for their neighbors, where they are cruel, without honor, and I will show you a place where men and women despise the Bible and reject Christ. Find for me a place where men and women in general, are law abiding, good citizens, upright in their lives, and I will show you a place where the people are followers of Christ.

BECAUSE OF THE TRANSFORMING NATURE OF HIS TEACHINGS I BELIEVE CHRIST TO BE THE SON OF GOD.

His teaching appealed to the common people. They heard Him gladly. He told the sin sick multitudes that God loved humanity. Listen! "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven."
"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."
"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

To the publican and sinner, to the scarlet girl, to the man cast out of the synagogue, he told of God's love. His teaching reveals that the future is not black and hopeless for the human family, but bright with the promise of Heaven. The bad can be made good. Though man had
come short, transgressed the laws of God, Christ proclaimed the forgiveness of their sins. "For God so loved the world . . . ." Open the Bible, read the message for your self. It's for YOU!

This great teacher had sympathy and love for humanity. The people of other ages sat at the feet of Plato, Aristotle and Socrates, the world's greatest philosophers, yet when Christ began to speak, the world with one accord, testified, "Never man spake as this man" THAT IS WHY I BELIEVE CHRIST TO BE THE SON OF GOD.

One day an insurance man was interviewing a minister of the gospel. In the course of their conversation the salesman remarked that he was inclined to reject the Bible as the word of God. He was reminded of the many prophecies in the Old Testament which were fulfilled in the person of Christ. He contended that Christ planned his actions to fit the prophecies, to influence the Jews that He was the Messiah.

The minister then asked, "If that is so, how did Jesus arrange to be born in the very town, of the very family, and at the very time the prophets foretold?" "That, replied the doubter, was just a coincidence. When Jesus knew that He was born in Bethlehem, of the seed of David, He got the idea of claiming to be the Messiah."

"Very well, replied the preacher, now explain how Christ arranged to have two thieves crucified with Him in order to fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah that He would be numbered with the transgressors."

"While you are on the subject, tell me also how Jesus arranged with the chief priests to have Judas betray Him for thirty pieces of silver, tell me how He arranged for the Potters field to be bought with that money."

"Explain to me also, how Jesus, while hanging on the cross, persuaded the four Roman soldiers who crucified Him, to divide His garments among them, but to cast lots for the coat, as foretold by the Psalmist David. If your theory is true show why the soldiers decided NOT to break His legs, as they did the two thieves crucified with Him."

That salesman, like others who reject Christ as God's Son, had not considered these things. The only way they can be explained is that God foresaw them and Christ fulfilled them. THAT IS WHY I BELIEVE CHRIST TO BE THE SON OF GOD.

The last week of his life on earth, Jesus enters Jerusalem. The multitudes hail Him as the Messiah. "Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord". He made no effort to restrain those who proclaimed Him as King. In the temple He drove out those who bought and sold and overthrew the tables of the money changers, saying, "It is written, My Father's house shall be called a house of prayer, but ye have made it a den of thieves". This enraged the chief priests, leaders and rulers. They began to plot His death.

Judas, one of the twelve, came unto them asking, "What will ye give me and I will deliver Him unto you?" A literal fulfillment of the prophecy of David, "Mine own familiar friend hath lifted up his hand against me." All know the story of his betrayal. The day is spent in
Jerusalem, he weeps over the city, bids his disciples make ready the Passover, — the upper room — the last supper. Christ tells His disciples, “One of you shall betray me”. Judas was the last one to ask, “Lord, is it I”? Christ answers, “Thou hast said”.

He gives to Judas a morsel of bread and he departs. Christ and the eleven now leave the upper room and go to the garden, there He pours out His soul to God. “O, Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me, nevertheless not My will but Thine be done.”

The mob approaches, Christ speaks, “I am He Whom ye seek”, and the disciples forsook Him and fled. The prophet had said, “I will smite the shepherd and the flock will be scattered”. The prophecy was fulfilled to the letter! THAT IS WHY I BELIEVE CHRIST TO BE THE SON OF GOD.

The mob takes Him to the judges of Israel. Annas, the High Priest, is there. Approaching Christ, he demands, “Tell us whether Thou be the Christ, the Son of God”? Christ answers simply, “Thou hast said”. The High Priest rents His clothes, saying, “He hath spoken blasphemy, what think ye”? And they said, “He is worthy of death”.

He is sent to Pilate, to Herod, back to Pilate. Each trying to pass the blame to others, though the priests and the scribes had determined His death. Pilate, persuaded that Jesus is innocent, attempts to release Him. “What shall I do with Jesus”? The crowd, prompted by the rulers, cries for His blood. “Away with Him, crucify Him, crucify Him”.

Pilate takes Christ away from the crowd in an effort to get Him to talk. “Tell me, what hast Thou done”? What a travesty in the name of justice. A man condemned, the judge ready to pass on him the sentence of death, but before doing so, he asks “What did you do? Of what crime are you accused?”

Christ could have answered that question, but He did not. He could have said, “You ask what I have done. One day a man came unto Me, saying that his daughter was dead. I entered into his home, took her by the hand, lifted her up, restored her to that father, alive! One day near Jericho, two blind men called out, saying, “Have mercy on us, Thou son of David.” I gave them sight. They now see. All I have done is to heal the sick, open the eyes of the blind, comfort the broken hearted, and show men that God cares for them, that He sent Me to save them. That is all I have done”.

No wonder Luke wrote that “He went about doing good, healing those that were oppressed of the Devil.” THAT IS WHY I BELIEVE CHRIST TO BE THE SON OF GOD.

Pilate scourged Christ, then delivered Him into the hands of the Roman soldiers to be crucified. They clothed Him with purple, put a crown of thorns upon His head, smote Him, mocked Him, then led Him away to the agony and death of crucifixion. While He hung suspended upon that Roman cross, the sun refused to shine, the earth quaked, and the vail of the temple was rent in twain from top to bottom. The soldiers watching Jesus, said, “Truly, this man was the Son of God.”
“It is finished,” murmurs Jesus as He bows His head and surrenders His spirit. Tenderly His friends remove His body from the cross and consign it to the embrace of mother earth. But the grave cannot contain Him. On the third day He breaks the bonds of death and comes forth a victor over death, Hell, and the grave. The women, first to arrive at the tomb on that first day of the week, found no disorder. The linen clothes were folded together. An angel in bright apparel said, “He is not here, for He is risen”. Is it a fact? Did He really rise from the dead?

If He did not, what became of His body? If His enemies stole it they would have produced it, for they stopped short of nothing to discredit this story. If His disciples stole it they would have been preaching a lie and men do not die to support a lie. Men will die for the truth but NOT for a lie. For that truth James bowed his head to the glittering axe, Peter was crucified head downward, Paul suffered death outside the gates of Rome. The apostles gave their lives in support of the truth that they had seen Him alive after His burial. They sealed their testimony with their blood. The resurrection of Christ is the best established fact in history. He was seen alive, not once, not twice, but at least ten times, on one occasion, by more than five hundred people.

He left no colleges to propagate His ideas, but committed them to a few humble fishermen. He never wrote a sermon, He never published a book, but His doctrines have endured for two thousand years lifting men and women out of sin and restoring them to the favor of God. THAT IS WHY I BELIEVE CHRIST TO BE THE SON OF GOD.

The church for which Christ shed His blood exists on earth today. Its doctrine is the same as taught by the Apostles of our Lord. The congregation whose address appears below extends to you an invitation to attend its services.

Radio Sermon by Robert H. Brumback, Evangelist, Churches of Christ
3931 Harrison Street, Kansas City, Mo.

This is Number Two of a series. Others supplied upon request.
Why God Sent Christ Into the World

A sad condition is pictured in the closing scriptures of the Old Testament. Instead of relying on Him, God's chosen people were trusting in temporal things, making alliances with heathen nations and engaging in idol worship. God's prophets had warned them that His judgment would come upon them. When they failed to return to Him, they became a conquered, oppressed, and hated people. For 400 years, this had been their lot; such was to continue until the Sun of Righteousness should arise with healing in his wings.

In preparation for this, the angel Gabriel spoke to a quiet, devout, Jewish girl, who had been brought up with reverence for God and His Word. Betrothed to an humble carpenter, named Joseph, she was, no doubt, looking forward to her approaching marriage, when Gabriel informed her she was to be the mother of the promised Messiah. This information was also revealed to Joseph, by Gabriel. He was told to take unto him his wife; that the child she bore would be God's Son. What a great trust for husband and wife! The miraculous process by which this was brought about is beyond human explanation.

Joseph took Mary unto him, protected and cared for her, realizing the divinity of the child she was to bear. About this time, Caesar sent forth a decree that all the citizens of the Roman Empire were to be enrolled for taxation, and that each should go to their own city for this purpose. Since both Joseph and Mary were descendants of David, they went to Bethlehem. All the natives of that city had returned; crowded as it was, there was no room in the inn. Of necessity, they were forced to lodge in a stable and, there, Mary brought forth her child and laid him in a manger. The shepherds watching their flocks were informed by an angel that unto them there was born that day, in the city of David, a Savior who is Christ the Lord. Then the air was filled with the song of the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the Highest and on earth peace and good will toward men."

HERE IS WHY CHRIST CAME INTO THE WORLD: He came to bring peace. No wonder Isaiah called him the Prince of Peace. Oh, how the world needs his teachings today! What do we see when we look about us today? Robber nations pillaging, oppressing and exploiting the weak. What would end it? The teachings of Christ. The Lord of peace can only give peace when we heed His words. While His teachings were to provide spiritual peace between mankind and God, yet, when obeyed, they also provide temporal peace.
But, to return to the story, the shepherds left their flocks, came to Bethlehem, and found the Babe with Mary and Joseph. There came also the Magi of the east, who worshipped and gave gifts unto Him. Herod, troubled at hearing of a new-born King, made plans for His destruction. Fleeing into Egypt, there they remained until those who sought His life were dead. Then they returned to Palestine and dwelt in Nazareth. Here the Lord of glory spent His wondrous youth. Luke tells us that “the child waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom and the grace of God was upon Him.”

The next 18 years of the life of our Lord are not mentioned in the scriptures. Then at the age of 30 years, He came to John the Immerser and was baptized of him in Jordan. John said, “I have need to be baptized of Thee and comest Thou to me?” Christ said, “Suffer it to be so now to fulfill righteousness,” and he suffered Him. John came only to bear witness of Jesus. Of the condition of the world at Christ’s coming, it had been said, “The people which sat in darkness saw a great light and to them in the region and valley of death a great light is sprung up.” John said, Christ was “the true light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world.”

HERE IS WHY GOD SENT CHRIST INTO THE WORLD: THAT THE WORLD MIGHT HAVE LIGHT. Amid the darkness of that age, Christ was the one ray of hope, of light and help for mankind. Man, away from God was lost; if he could be brought back to God, he could be saved. Christ said to Nicodemus, “And this is the condemnation: that light is come into the world and men loved darkness, rather than light, because their deeds were evil.” Jesus Christ is the only true light this world has ever had. He is the light of the nations, as well as the light of your soul and mine. In a world of wretchedness, want, and crime, Jesus, alone, is the source of spiritual light.

Except men come to Him, they grope and grasp in vain to find relief from these deplorable conditions. On one occasion, Jesus said, “Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you, for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.” How we need His guidance, today! Without it, we do not know the way to life eternal.

With weary feet, the Savior of mankind continued to walk the paths of Galilee; talking with His disciples by the way, preaching the truths of the coming Kingdom. That he might strengthen their faith for the trying events which were to come, he took Peter, James and John into a remote spot in a mountain and, as he there prayed, His face was transfigured before them and there appeared unto them Moses and Elias, talking with Him. Quick to speak, Peter said, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us build three tabernacles, one for Thee, one for Moses and one for Elias. Even as he thus spoke, a cloud overshadowed them and a voice out of the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, hear Him.”
HERE IS WHY GOD SENT CHRIST INTO THE WORLD: THAT HE MIGHT BE HEARD. Here is the great need for the world of mankind today: TO HEAR CHRIST! Paul, in writing to the Hebrews, shows that Christ is our guide today: "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners, spoke unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son." The voice of God, then, is to come to the world through Christ. Then I have the right to speak, only as Christ speaks. I have the right to teach, only as Christ teaches. I have the right to lead, only as Christ leads. Here is the lesson the religious world needs to learn: To hear Christ, to let Him speak, and to follow where He leads.

Returning to Nazareth, on one occasion on the Sabbath, He stood up to read in the synagogue. They handed unto Him the scroll of the law. With the eyes of the congregation upon Him, with mingled thoughts of curiosity and wonder, they ask themselves, "What will He say'? Jesus unrolls the parchment and finds the place where it was written, "The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and the recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

HERE IS WHY GOD SENT INTO THE WORLD: To preach the gospel to the poor—despised and rejected by his own people, an outcast among them because of the nature of His teaching on this occasion, he escapes their plans to put Him to death. Back with his disciples, He spends some time near Tyre and Sidon, crosses over the sea of Galilee, and seeks quiet on the other side of the Jordan river. There, away from the crowds, surrounded only by His disciples, He purposes to reveal the plan of God for the salvation of mankind.

Near the coasts of Caesarea, Phillipi, He asks His disciples, "Whom do men say that I, the Son of Man, am"? And they answered, "Some say that thou art John the Baptist, some Elias, others Jeremias, or one of the prophets." Which answer is right, they do not know." "Whom say ye that I am"? Quickly, Peter answers, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God." After pronouncing a blessing upon Peter, Christ adds that upon this rock, the truth that He was the Christ, He would build His Church and all the forces of Hell would not prevent Him from so doing.

FOR THIS GOD SENT CHRIST INTO THE WORLD: To build His Church, to provide salvation for mankind. Shortly after this, He began to show His disciples that He should go to Jerusalem and there suffer death. And we read, "From that time henceforth, He set His face to go to Jerusalem." With His entry into the city, the people shout Hosanna, Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
THIS IS WHY GOD SENT CHRIST INTO THE WORLD: "For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." That church which He purchased with His own blood was built first in Jerusalem, according to divine plan, on the day of Pentecost. On that day, Peter said, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of your sins. The same chapter of the book of Acts of Apostles tells us the obedient were saved and added by the Lord to the Church. The New Testament teaches that salvation is in the church.

Paul said, "Therefore, I endure all things for the elects sake, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory." To be in Christ, is to be in His church. To be outside of the church, is to be outside of Christ. Since He purchased it with His blood, He owns it. Therefore, He states the terms of entrance, the conditions of salvation, and connects each of them with eternal life.

The man believing this message of salvation revealed in God's Word, repents of his sins, confesses Christ before men, and is now ready to obey the positive command of baptism, bringing about the remission of sins. Christ said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Mk. 16:16. To this Paul adds, "Therefore, we are buried with Him in baptism, that like as Christ was raised from the dead, by the glory of the Father, even so we also should be raised to walk in newness of life." Thus, you can't be saved in your sins, and you can't get rid of them without baptism; therefore, we read, "Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord. Obedience to these commands requires nothing more than Christ requires of you. Do these things, live in faithful obedience to His will, and you have the promise of Life Eternal.

Dear friend, are you ready to let Jesus lead you by His will? Are you willing to be ruled by His Word? Will you blend your efforts with ours upon the Bible? If such be your desire, the Church of Christ bids you welcome to her fellowship.

Radio Sermon by Robert H. Brumback, Evangelist, Churches of Christ
3931 Harrison Street, Kansas City, Mo.

This is Number Three of a series. Others supplied upon request.
Why the World Needs Jesus

Jesus is the central thought of the Christian system of religion. He was the only one who could bring reconciliation between God and man, ending the sin that separated man from his Maker. When the human family disobeyed God, they were severed from Him, "without God and without hope." The first need of man was to get back to God, to make peace with Him. Every sacrifice of the law of Moses pointed to the one perfect sacrifice, the Lamb of God, who was to take away the sins of the world. Jesus came then for the purpose of freeing man from the servitude of sin. Man, by his own efforts, was unable to do this.

True, some may try to explain away sin, but it is still here. It takes away from man his spiritual desires, corrupts homes and blasts lives. You find it everywhere. All the suffering, all the sorrow, all the war that exists in the world today, is the result of sin.

When Jesus came, He gave mankind a new hope. Sin could be blotted out. Atonement made for every wrong and every crime. His teachings were the wisest ever recorded on the scrolls of time. He lifted men out of degradation and led them back to God. He revealed another world not far away. He proclaimed, "He that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out." For three and a half years, He trod the paths of Galilee to restore man to God. The ministry of these years ended when He came for the last time to Jerusalem. There, He who came down from Heaven to lift fallen man, spilled His blood on Calvary's cross, died the death of condemnation. The price of man's redemption was paid. In His death, He drank the cup of wrath to its bitter dregs. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him might not perish but have everlasting life."

With His mission finished, He arose the third day, triumphant over the grave and ascended into heaven. The kingdom He established through His apostles spread its dominion over all the earth. He taught men how to live a life of faith; they learned of a place where we live anew, for, He said, "I go to prepare a place for you." The influence of His kingdom, the Church, was worldwide. Men became obedient to His will and to be a Christian was the highest honor of mankind. The Church, amid war, strife, and persecution, widened her influence; her borders extended over all the world and her people embraced those of every race and name. This was the age in which the gospel was in all the world and bearing fruit.
And then, men ceased to walk by faith. They forgot God and His word. They put Him out of their thoughts and closed the door of their hearts to the entreaties of the holy Nazarene. Then, a midnight of darkness came upon the world of mankind and for twelve hundred and sixty years, the human family groped in vain for the way back to God. With all of our boasted enlightenment, with our education and civilization, the human family, today, can not claim to have attained that goal without Jesus.

THAT IS WHY THE WORLD NEEDS JESUS.

Today, we are trying to weather the storm and shock of worldwide death. With its toll of bloodshed and death, dominates the world, because the Beast of Berlin rejected the teachings of Jesus of Judea. When this carnage ends, as it must end, no nation will care for the treaties that follow, if their hearts are controlled by lust and greed. Of this we are certain: that the world will look in vain for the end of these conditions until Jesus is given His rightful place in the world. We may make peace with other nations,—greater is our need for peace with God. Only then, can we find a solution for the difficulties and problems of our nation.

HOW THE WORLD NEEDS JESUS, TODAY!

He, alone, can save it from the strife that threatens to disrupt our moral fabric. The godlessness of American families, in the face of present conditions, sends the children out upon the streets to become the delinquent charges of the welfare courts. The youth of today do not know of the teachings of Jesus. We need to get back to Him and learn how to live. We have been so busy getting money, or success, that we have overlooked Jesus. Twenty-seven million of our young people did not enter a place of religious instruction last year. Thirteen million of this group are in their teens. They will be the fathers and mothers of this nation tomorrow. With this kind of a citizenship as a foundation, what will the next generation be like?

TRULY WE NEED JESUS!

Gone is the old fashioned American home where the word of God was read and the children taught its truths. Today, many homes do not have Bibles and the only time you hear the name of God and Christ is with profanity. The children think Jesus is just a name spoken in anger, instead of being the name of our Lord. More than seventy million of the people of our nation did not hear a sermon of any kind last year and four thousand, five hundred preachers gave up the ministry and went into secular business. Two hundred thousand children, in one of our states, do not have a place of worship or Bible instruction. Instead they listen to the philosophies of idle men, unsatisfying doctrine clothed only in cold, barren, lifeless words.
TRULY THE WORLD NEEDS JESUS!

The world will not be brought back to God, nor led to Jesus, until His precepts are again taught. Statistics show that last year some of the religious organizations of the United States lost more members than they gained throughout the nation. Why? Because when people go to church to hear the gospel, they hear, instead, the topics of the day discussed, decadent philosophies, and book reviews, rather than the teachings of the Saviour of men.

O, HOW MUCH THE WORLD NEEDS JESUS!

People go to church to hear the Bible taught and come away disappointed, disgusted and hungry for God's word and the teachings of Jesus. A life lived without His guidance produces a dwarfed, selfish soul.

HOW WE NEED TO HEAR JESUS TODAY!

He, alone, can redeem us from destruction. He, alone, can teach us God's ways. He, alone, can show us the way of salvation. Such is His work and mission. The lack of right teaching, of the right guidance, holds people back in the Christian life. Lacking the guidance of Jesus, they become loaded down with every form of worldliness. We fill our pockets with cards indicating membership in clubs and lodges and think that attendance upon these can be presented before God as a substitute for worship in His Church. You can't fill your mind with everything but the word of God, feed your soul on the husks of shallow and godless pleasures, and be spiritually warmed and filled. You can't sacrifice the spiritual for the carnal, in a vain endeavor to worship God and Mammon at the same time. If you do, you will lose out in the end; you will fall by the way. Jesus is the only one who ever lived a life of purity, the only one who could say, "Which of you layeth anything to my charge?" And all subsequent generations answer, "We find no fault in him at all."

He is the only one who ever carried the spotless purity of infancy through youth and manhood, the only one who has passed through life touching it at every point, then returning to His Father as pure as when He came. He teaches us purity of life. "Be ye holy, for I am holy."

HOW THE WORLD NEEDS THE PURITY OF JESUS.

My friends, let us recognize our need of Jesus. The greatest sinners are not those who know nothing about the gospel of Jesus, but those who, having heard it, refuse to heed its call. Better to have been born in a nation uncivilized and unlearned, than to have heard the gospel of the cross and then rejecting it, plunge into eternity without Jesus. Listen: the Jesus you reject, the Jesus you crucify, is your only hope. Never did the world need Him more.

Jesus is the Rock of Ages. The storms of 20 centuries have beaten upon him. Amid all the wreck and ruin of time He stands supreme, the same yesterday, today and forever. Men have thought they could hew down his cross, dethrone the Lord of Glory and substitute CULTURE for LOVE.
So today, the world abounds in bitterness; bitter trouble, bitter wrath, bitter hatred, bitter memories, and bitter spirits. Nothing can erase this bitterness but the Love of Jesus. O, how the world needs Him! He, alone, can fill the hearts of men with reverent consideration for their fellow men. The piteous and over-flowing sorrows of this age need Jesus. Never has there been so many broken hearts, so many weeping eyes, so many empty chairs, so many darkened homes. For all this heartache and sorrow, there is but one comfort: That is Jesus. Never has an age produced so much lawlessness and hatred as prevails just now. Human life is lightly regarded. The sacredness of marriage is ridiculed; family bonds are broken. The fountain from which flows all evil that afflicts man, springs out of the evil heart of man. Only the blood of the Crucified One can cleanse its thoughts and desires.

The question is often asked, "What is the greatest sin?" Some men count impurity the greatest, others suggest that dishonesty is the chiefest of all sins, but God’s word declares that the greatest of all sins is the rejection of Jesus. When YOU stand face to face with God, the supreme question will be, "What did you do with Jesus?" Upon your answer to it you will stand or fall at the judgment bar of God.

O, HOW WE NEED JESUS!

My unseen Friend, if you put Jesus out of your life, if you turn your back on Him, the time will come when you will need Him, the time of trouble, the time of sorrow and the time of death. Are you willing to let Jesus lead you out of the world of sin into the life of the people of God? Are you ready to hear His voice? Are you willing to obey His will? If so, His church bids you welcome to her holy fellowship.

Radio Sermon by Robert H. Brumbaek, Evangelist, Churches of Christ
3931 Harrison Street, Kansas City, Mo.

This is Number Four of a series. Others supplied upon request.
Why I Believe in the Church Christ Built

Two thousand years ago the world’s greatest teacher came to earth and lived among men to bring them back to God. After thirty years of preparation He quit the carpenter shop at Nazareth and began His ministry at Cana. Crowds gathered to hear Him because His teachings were for the humble, the poor, the oppressed. From a boat He would address the multitude on the shore. Sometimes He would resort to the mountains and there call the people unto Him. Because He was intimately acquainted with the farmer’s field, the fisherman’s net and the housewife’s mixing bowl, He used them as illustrations in His sermons.

He knew how to interest men, so the common people heard Him gladly, for never man spake as this man. One day, near the close of His work, He asks His disciples the opinion of men concerning Him. A second question brought the matter close home to them. “Whom do you say that I am”? Peter answers, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of God”. Upon that truth, Christ announced that He would build His church.

The weeks and the months roll by, all Palestine has heard His gospel, which promised salvation to those obedient to His will. The Scribes and Pharisees smart under His brief, vivid parables. The Sanhedrin is crumbling before His teaching. This must be stopped. Then came Gethsemane.

Peter, James, and John, left to watch, fall asleep while He prays. He chides, “What, could ye not watch with Me one hour”? The Roman soldiers, the leaders of the Jews, and the rabble with swords and staves, lead Him away. His disciples see Him led to judgment. They see Him crowned with thorns, arrayed in a scarlet robe, treated as a criminal, and then led to Golgotha to be crucified. Afar off, they see Him pinioned to the cross. The hours pass, the sun grows dark, the earth quakes, Jesus bows His head and surrenders His spirit. The disillusioned disciples see the centurion thrust his spear into the quivering flesh and wipe the blood from its blade. “Well, that is finished”, he says. Finished? It has just begun. By His death He purchased the church—built a kingdom greater than any on earth.

Three days later He breaks the bars of death. Soon all Jerusalem hears that He is risen from the dead. Fifty days from that time, Peter proclaims Him as the Messiah. To that little group of disciples there was added three thousand souls. From that time we see the church militant, going forth to conquer. The apostles have cast aside their timidity and in its place we see a religious fervor which amazes the
Jewish nation. On every occasion of public teaching they denounced the Jews as the murderers of the Righteous One. We read that "Believers were the more added to the Lord," to His church, to His kingdom. Why? Because that was the place of salvation. People could be saved only in it, then, they can be saved only in it, today. THAT IS WHY I BELIEVE IN THE CHURCH CHRIST BUILT.

The wave of opposition that was launched against the disciples caused only greater zeal, more willingness to bear reproach for His name. Less than forty years after Jesus was crucified the church was found in every corner of the then known world. History presents no equal to the rapid growth of the church in apostolic times. Cities of pagan worship and political influence heard the gospel. The religion of Christ was devoid of every thing that would attract, uncompromising in its opposition to pagan worship, demanding of its followers purity of life, consecration to Christ, meeting with persecution, yet moving on and on, until it came to influence the thoughts and actions of mankind. Here is the institution which Christ established for the salvation of the soul, the one agency through which the light of God's love shines upon the world.

Where is that church today? Is it revealed in some stately structure of brick and stone, with lofty spire, which the poor and common people hesitate to enter? Those who build such structures have yet to learn that God dwells not in temples made with hands, but is more interested in what takes place in worship than in the height of a spire or the ornateness of a structure. What do we see in churches of today? We see them bringing the fair name of Christ into disrepute by aiding and abetting Bingo Parties, gambling schemes and lotteries.

What a travesty in the name of religion! Does the church exist to tell what this or that great man said or wrote? Is its purpose to discuss current events, to give book reviews and special programs that appeal to the fleshy nature but leave the spiritual nature of man unsatisfied? Is this the purpose of the Church of the Living God?

Open God's word before you, read of the church in the New Testament. You will be convinced that the church of the Lord was not characterized by these things.

When Christ sent His disciples forth to preach, He gave them this command, "Teach them to observe ALL things that I have commanded you". Where in the New Testament do we read that the apostles taught the people of the Lord to do such things as these?

The Lord's Church was established for the spiritual welfare of man. This need must be first. Let us then forget about houses built for display, about dogmas, creeds, rituals, assessments and worldly entertainments in the church today and get back to worshipping the Lord in the beauty of holiness. People want to hear about Christ and the salvation He came to provide. Teachers and leaders of religious thought cannot say unto them, "Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled," and yet neglect to give them the things needful for the soul.
The world needs today to read God’s book, to get back to the religion of Christ, and to the purity of His church. Picture the simplicity of the church as it was in the days of the apostles. They met on the first day of the week, in some private home or some upper room. As they came together, there were no pealing notes of pipe organ nor sound of stringed instruments, for these things did not come into the worship until hundreds of years later. That Christian assembly sang praises to God, with the spirit and the understanding. Their prayers were part of their sacrifices. They had no creed, no church manual, but continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine. Elders, or bishops, qualified according to God’s word, supplied their spiritual food. As occasion demanded and ability enabled, others had a part in the edifying of the church. They observed the communion on the first day of every week. They contributed of their means as God had prospered them. No one had a right to tell another how much to give. This constituted the simple, yet impressive worship, of the early church. “What an odd worship”, you say. Yes, but it was pleasing to the Lord, because it was from the heart and we read that the hand of the Lord was with them. This was the Lord’s plan. Why should we not follow His plan today?

This was the age in which the church covered the earth as the waters cover the sea. In this time Christ’s Church was supreme. It was controlled by His law and at all times presented a united front against the devil. But today, those who profess to believe in Christ, divide their forces into groups and parties, and thus hinder the triumph of Christ’s gospel.

This lack of unity among good and religious people is more productive of infidelity than any other cause. Today men are awakening to this evil and crying for unity. We profess to believe in the same God, to accept the same Bible and to acknowledge the same Christ. Wouldn’t it be a wonderful thing if we could all unite in one church to oppose the devil? No kind of an excuse can be given today for the strife that separates disciples of Christ. There is no question about the early disciples of Christ belonging to one and the same body. They taught the same truth, believed the same doctrine, and worshipped the same God.

If we do the same things today, the same unity will exist now, that existed then. What was the basis of that unity? Simply the Apostles’ doctrine, the teachings of the New Testament. Christ’s Church provided salvation in the days of the Apostles, it is able to provide it today.

THAT IS WHY I BELIEVE IN THE CHURCH CHRIST BUILT.

Christ prayed that His people might be one. The testimony of His word stresses the unity of His followers. Paul admonished the church to stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.

The Lord never expected His church to be divided and subdivided into groups, parties, and factions for which there is no authority in His word. The need of the age is to get back to the religion of the Bible, to the unity, the peace and the harmony of Christ’s church.
Christ prayed for the unity of God's people saying, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on Me through their word, that they all may be one". What a force for good the Lord's people would present, working and praying together for unity, for oneness, speaking the same thing, walking by the same rule, being of one mind.

Such is the purpose of the Church of Christ. We dedicate our labors to bring about the answer to Christ's prayer for the unity of all true believers.

Are you dissatisfied with the churches of men? Come back to the Bible, take it as your guide, obey Christ's commands, be a member of His church. God gave His word to prove that Christ is His Son, but you must BELIEVE it, for Christ said, "If ye BELIEVE not that I am He ye shall die in your sins". God offers reconciliation, but man must REPENT, for Christ said, "Except ye REPENT ye shall all likewise perish".

God persuades us to accept His Son, but we must CONFESS Him before men, for Christ said, "Whosoever therefore shall CONFESS Me before men, him will I confess before My Father which is in Heaven". God promises salvation, but man must be BAPTIZED, for Christ said, "He that believeth and is BAPTIZED shall be saved." God provided the straight and narrow way which leads to life eternal, but you must walk therein. Will YOU do this?

The Church of Christ, whose address is given below extends an invitation to all thus minded. "Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts". Tomorrow may be too late.

Radio Sermon by Robert H. Brumback, Evangelist, Churches of Christ
3931 Harrison Street, Kansas City, Mo.
This is Number Five of a series. Others supplied upon request.

THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST BROADCAST

Station WREN (1250) ADDRESS:
Lawrence, Kansas 6847 Chestnut Ave.
Every Sunday 1:00 to 1:30 p.m.

For information about the CHURCHES OF CHRIST communicate with us.
The Church Christ Built

A close survey of present conditions reveals the world's need for the religion and teachings of Christ. In America the unrest and strife of an uncivil civilization is portrayed by the mad desire for carnal pleasure. Never in the history of the nation that had its beginning planned by the praying Pilgrims, has worldliness been so pronounced as at the present time. The forces of Satan carry their evil practices to all classes and conditions of mankind. Emphasis is placed upon evil and a premium upon carnality. There is a notable disrespect for things sacred, for things noble and good.

If this condition is to be ended, if the sanctity of the home is to be restored, if mankind is to be lifted out of the mire of sin, the religion of Christ and His Church will be the means by which it will be accomplished. With multitudes in a mad scramble, in frenzied activity, because of the demands of our present program, people have little time to devote to God and His word, to Christ and His Church.

Faced, as we are, with doubt and disbelief, with war and unrest on every hand, with many drifting away from that which is good and holy, there is still a way out. If people again pause to consider religion, if they turn from the babel of human philosophies, if they reject the devil and his devices and renounce their allegiance to lust and sin, it will be the teachings of Christ, the soul saving story of our Savior, that brought about the change.

It is the mission of Christ's Church to bring about that change, to call mankind back to God, back to the Bible, and back to Christ. About a year before his death Christ was near Caesarea Philippi. There he asked his disciples, "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John, the Baptist. Some, Elias, and others Jeremias or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, but whom say ye that I am? Peter answered, Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God. His reply to Peter was, Upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Two facts are here set forth by the statement of our Savior. First, that he would build the church, showing that it was not yet in existence. Second, that when built, it would be HIS church.
The thing that concerns us at this time is, when did he build it? Each of the Gospels close with the account of Christ's death on Golgotha's brow, without mention of the building of that spiritual organization. In the beginning of the Book of Acts of Apostles, we read that following the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, Peter began to speak, declaring the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.

Concerning those who heard and became obedient to the command of Peter, we read, "And they that gladly received his word were baptized, and the same day there was added unto them about three thousand souls. Added to them, the APOSTLES, because they were a part of the foundation of the church. This we learn from the words of the Apostle Paul in his letter to the Church at Ephesus. "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and of the household of God, and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone."

The last verse of the second chapter of Acts of Apostles tells us, "The Lord added to the church daily such as were being saved." The day of Pentecost then marks the beginning of the church. Some reject the truth here set forth, because, they say, Christ was not here on earth.

It was not necessary that He be here. All power in Heaven and in earth had been given into His hands, this He had transferred to His apostles, telling them, "Thus it is written and thus it behooved Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father unto you, but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high."

Why wait for power? Because the kingdom, the church, was to be established with power. Christ had said, "Verily, I say unto you, that there be some that stand here which shall not taste of death until they have seen the kingdom of God come with power."

Just prior to his ascension Christ said, "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and in Samaria and unto the uttermost parts of the earth." The church thus became a reality following the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.

The Apostles drop their fear and timidity, and from that time forward we see them moved by a religious fervor that amazes the Jewish nation. On every occasion of public teaching they denounced the crimes of those who murdered the Righteous One. The persecutions which came later, served only as a wind to scatter the seed of the kingdom for we read that they went every where preaching the Word.
Historians cite this fact as the reason for the spread of the gospel over the Roman Empire. Less than forty years after His death the Church of Christ had penetrated to every corner of the then known world. The simplicity of that religion did not appeal to the vulgar, it had no common ground with the philosophy of that age, suffering hatred, persecution, yet moving on and on, until it came at last to rule the hearts and deeds of mankind. The ONLY thing needed to reproduce that church in any community was the preaching of the gospel. When the seed was sown, the word of God, it always produced the same kind of a crop, Christians.

Where ever people obeyed the Gospel, they were the Church in that particular community. Throughout the New Testament Scriptures we read of the simplicity of the worship of that divine organization. “They continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in the breaking of bread, and in prayer.” Here is a picture of the worship of the FIRST church. When the Church of Christ assembles on the first day of the week, they follow the apostles’ doctrine, their fellowship is the same. That simple worship centered around the Lord’s supper. Here there was no mystical consecration of the loaf, but the simple act of each partaking of that “one bread” which, typified the body of Christ, this was followed by the fruit of the vine, typical of His shed blood.

This church of which we read in the New Testament, gave as they were prospered, “not grudgingly or of necessity, for God loveth a cheerful giver.” Here is the divine pattern. Here is the practice of the Churches of Christ today. The prayers of the church were from the heart. They had no stereotyped forms to follow, but prayed in keeping with the apostles teaching, “with the spirit and the understanding.” In that worship they sang spiritual songs, the melody coming from the heart, as Paul taught to the Ephesian church, “Speaking to yourselves in Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.”

Thus we see that the worship was not marred by human inventions. They needed no organ, no fonts, no vestments. They were not dependent upon ministers, for as ability permitted and opportunity afforded, the members supplied the teaching, the instruction and the admonishing. The congregation in each community, with its elders and deacons, guided by the apostles doctrine, conducted its own business. There were no official boards, missionary organizations, synods or any other form of ecclesiastical government, created by uninspired men, to make creeds, rules and laws by which the church was to be controlled.

This was the household of faith, the building of God, the Church of Christ. All subsequent congregations of the church followed this divine pattern. In the beginning it preached the gospel as a means of adding to the church, commanding men to BELIEVE that Christ was God’s son, to REPENT of evil, to CONFESS Christ before men
and be BAPTIZED for the remission of sins. Obedience to these commands puts you in Christ's church today. That church is with us, in your community, preaching the same gospel, worshipping the same God, with one hope, the hope of life eternal, with one objective, the salvation of souls.

Any one who studies the New Testament will agree that the church built by The Savior and the apostles was the RIGHT church. The secret of its perpetuation was in the Word. Christ's church today still preaches the same word, tells people to do what the apostles told people to do. Today it has the same name, the same doctrine, the same worship that it had when first built in Jerusalem.

It is not a new religion, but that old religion which the world left so many, many years ago. The Church of Christ is not a denomination. It includes all who have been separated from the world by obedience to the will of God. It prays for unity upon the basis of the teachings of the New Testament, asking all to lay aside man made creeds, human names, and all things unauthorized by the Scriptures.

The time has come for a return to the word of God and to the church of His Son. Will you meet with us upon the Bible? Will you let God speak to you through His word? Will you be obedient to His will? For those who need the consolation and the friendship of Christ, for those who need his sheltering love, for those who will be obedient to the Saviour's message, the Church of Christ with wide open doors bids you welcome to her holy fellowship.

Radio Sermon by Robert H. Brumback, Evangelist, Churches of Christ
3931 Harrison Street, Kansas City, Mo.

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THE
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BROADCAST

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Lawrence, Kansas                              6847 Chestnut Ave.
Every Sunday 1:00 to 1:30 p.m.            Kansas City 5, Mo.

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communicate with us.
The Worship of Christ's Church

It is the nature of man to worship a Supreme Being. The poet reminds us that even the untutored man "sees God in the cloud and hears Him in the wind." It is as natural for man to seek one to worship as it is for him to breathe. Man may not always worship the true God, if he does, he may not do it in the right way,—but he will worship just the same.

Worship is an act of adoration. It is not just the outward performance of some certain act. True worship is something that takes place in the heart. The outward act only signifies what is in the heart. The knowledge of God and what He has done for us, prompts us to worship Him. For that which we do as worship to be acceptable in God's sight, it must be prompted by the right motive. To go through the outward act of worship and yet to have the mind elsewhere does not constitute real worship. Why? Because we do not have in mind the right object of worship.

It is possible for us to have the right motive prompting the worship and yet we may not worship God in the right way. Before any worship can be acceptable in God's sight, it must be offered in a way that will please Him. If a child is told to sweep a rug with a vacuum sweeper, it knows by the given instructions what will please the parent. As an obedient child, it follows the instructions. Should it sweep the rug with a broom, the thing required has been done,—the rug has been swept, but not in the right way. As a child knows what will please the parent, because of what has been said upon the subject, so also is it true that we only know what will please God as worship, by what He has said upon the subject.

To practice as worship anything not set forth in God's word, renders that worship vain. The Savior, in conversation with the woman at the well, said, "God is a spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth." The worship thus rendered is acceptable unto God. Real Christians are concerned ONLY that it please Him and that it is in harmony with His truth. It is natural to ask, "When did the Church of our Lord assemble for worship?" In the book of Acts of Apostles, we read, "Upon the first day of the week, the disciples came together to break bread." This scripture shows us that it was a regular custom for them to come together on the first day of the week. Here we establish the day upon which the church met for worship. The first day of the week. We read of the first Church of Christ in Jerusalem, that they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship and in breaking of bread and in prayers.
The Church was guided by the apostles' doctrine. Whatever the disciples did by their authority or command, was done by the authority or command of Christ. Luke 10:16—"He that heareth you, heareth me." The apostles' doctrine was Christ's doctrine. Under the phrase, "the apostles' doctrine," may be included the teaching, the admonishing or exhortation needed to encourage one another to good works.

Paul said to the church, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God before ordained that we should walk in them." Eph. 2:10. Thus the teaching delivered by the apostles, or sent by their epistles, was the basis of their admonitions and exhortations to faithfulness. Hence, Paul told the Church at Thessalonica, "Hold the traditions, (the teachings) which ye have been taught, whether by word or epistle." When he wrote to the Church in Rome, he said, "Ye are filled with all knowledge and able to edify one another." When that church gathered for worship, the teaching, the admonishing was in the hands of the male members of the congregation and the only ones excluded were those incapable of edifying. They were taught to have a part in the service because it contributed to their own spiritual growth and welfare. The membership of the church could not let this work be done by proxy because it provided the spiritual food and exercise necessary for spiritual growth.

The thought I would have you observe, is that every member had his work to do, his office to fill. For that reason, Paul said, "Of whom the whole body, fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, groweth into an holy temple of the Lord." Thus we have learned that when the Church assembled, they were guided by the apostles' doctrine. We read also that they continued in fellowship. The term signifies participation one with another: "If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, then we have fellowship one, with another and the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all sin." This same word describes the contribution as set forth in Paul's letter to the Church of Christ in the city of Rome: "For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem." Rom. 15:26. Fellowship thus shows participation in the needs and afflictions of others.

This is the reason the Apostle Paul said to the Church of Corinth, "Upon the first day of the week, let everyone of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him." This was the Lord's plan then: it is the Lord's plan today. Thus the small contribution, if given as the giver had been prospered, was just as acceptable as the greatest gift of the rich. The Church of Christ did not resort to any other means to raise money to carry its work. There were no suppers, no festivals, no shows, to raise finances to carry on the work of the Church then, neither are they used today in Christ's Church. Why?
First: Because the New Testament nowhere teaches us that this is the method the Lord would have us use.

Second: Because these things are not needed. Paul said, “The administration of this service, (to give as we have been prospered,) not only supplieth the wants of the saints but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God.” II Cor. 9:12. This very scripture reveals that this method will bountifully supply the financial needs of the Church without pledges, assessments, or dues. When you use these methods to raise money, the thing required has been partly done; you have raised money, but not in the way the Lord specified.

In the scriptures describing the worship of the Church, the phrases, the communion, the Lord’s table, and the breaking of bread, have references to one and the same thing. There is no need for confusion concerning the time this institution is to be observed.

We read that the Church at Jerusalem observed the breaking of bread. Other Churches of Christ had the same worship, followed the same pattern. When Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, he said, “For ye brethren became FOLLOWERS of the Churches of God, which in Judea are in Christ Jesus.” What do we see here? They followed the example of the Judean churches. Why? Because it was right. They were guided by the apostles’ doctrine. What the apostles taught one, they taught all. For Paul said, “As I have given order to the Churches of Galatia, even so do ye.” So, Luke, when describing the observance of the Lord’s supper, said, “Upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread.” This establishes the time when the Lord’s supper was observed in Apostolic days.

Since that time the Lord hasn’t changed his plan. There is no Apostolic example that it was ever observed on Thursday, on Friday, or on Saturday. Some observe this memorial once a month; some every three months and others once a year, asserting that it does not say they observed it the first day of EVERY week. No religious organization thinks of questioning the propriety of taking up a collection on the FIRST DAY of EVERY week, yet the same Bible that authorizes the collection every first day, authorizes the communion on every first day, for they were observed together by the Church, under the guidance of the apostles’ doctrine. Such was the practice of the Church of Christ when first established; such is the practice of the Church of Christ today. The communion is a great memorial, placed in the Church to enable us to remember Christ. Of it, He said, “This do in remembrance of me.” My brother, my sister, you cannot remember Christ as He would be remembered and absent yourself from worship and thus fail to do this in memory of Him who died that we might live. This eliminates using a radio sermon as an excuse to stay home.

Prayer is also a part of the worship. If it is to please the Father, it must be as He specifies. From the study of the New Tes-
tament, I am persuaded that the prayers in the worship of the Churches of Christ were characterized by their simplicity and should so be today.

The Churches of Christ believe that the righteous should pray to God at every opportunity. Because this has been forgotten, the nation, the family, and the home face a crisis. The need is to get back to God; back to His word and back to His Church.

The singing of the Church was a part of its teaching and admonishing, since Paul said, "Teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord." In the worship of the Church of Christ, the use of such songs and such melody is as old as the Church; but the use of instrumental music is not. The statement of the Apostle Paul, to the Colossian Church, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, with all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." This addressed to the church, shows how the worship was carried on in the Church.

The omission of musical instruments from the worship of the Church of Christ comes not from our own choice, neither is it prompted by a desire to be peculiar in this respect. It is wholly a matter of belief. The Churches of Christ believe that instrumental music should NOT be used in Divine services. A close study of the New Testament reveals the reason for its omission. God has not left us to do as we please in this matter, but through the inspired writings, He reveals what He desires in worship rendered to Him.

The Churches of Christ plead for the unity of all of God's children. This is possible on the basis of the teaching of the New Testament. Surely you want to accept the teachings of the Bible on these subjects. Obey His word; be what God wills for you to be—a Christian. To all who are thus minded, the Church of Christ with wide open doors, bids you welcome to her fellowship.

Radio Sermon by Robert H. Brumback, Evangelist, Churches of Christ
3931 Harrison Street, Kansas City, Mo.

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THE
CHURCHES OF CHRIST
BROADCAST

Station WREN (1250)
Lawrence, Kansas
Every Sunday 1:00 to 1:30 p.m.

For information about the CHURCHES OF CHRIST
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How to Become A Member of Christ’s Church

In a preceding lesson, we found that the Church, the place of salvation, was established by Christ. It is the ONE body of which we read in the New Testament. It is identified by Bible teaching, by a Bible name, and by a Bible worship. Today, many religious organizations exist in the world. The specific acts by which a person becomes a member of one of them will not make him a member of any other. God’s word alone, tells us how to become a member of the Church of Christ. We cannot join it. People enter it by having the Lord add them to it. He is its builder. Members are built into it as “lively stones.” “Ye also as lively stones are built up a spiritual house.” I Pet. 2:5.

The Lord, then, builds you into it. In the book of Acts of Apostles, we read: “The Lord added to the Church daily such as were being saved.” Since it is the Lord’s Church, He tells us the way to be added to it. When we do what He commands, He will add us to it. If I want to be added to the Church, I must become one of those who are saved, for such He adds to His church. Such is the teaching of God’s word. So, if I DO what Christ commands me to DO to be saved, I have the assurance that He will add me to the Church. I can learn what He commands from the New Testament. What then does the Lord require? This is a question of great importance. Christ names specific steps, or acts of obedience, and connects each of them with salvation. On one occasion, he said, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever [BELIEVETH] on Him might not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16. Here the promise of entering Heaven is based upon FAITH in Him. Since the Holy Spirit guided the apostles to teach the things Christ spoke to them, we may expect to find them teaching the importance of faith.

Christ also taught: “Except ye REPENT, ye shall all likewise perish.” Lk. 13:3. We learned from the Savior, as recorded by John’s gospel, that those who do not perish will have everlasting life. Here He teaches that [REPENTANCE] is a condition upon which we will enter Heaven. We must expect to find the apostles teaching the same thing. Our Savior again said, “Whosoever SHALL CONFESS me before men, him will I CONFESS, also, before my Father which is in heaven.” Matt. 10:32. To CONFESS Christ before men, brings the promise that He will confess you before the throne of God. If we want eternal life, salvation, here is a command to be obeyed.
The Lord said of baptism: “He that believeth and is BAPTIZED, shall be saved.” Here is a compound sentence in which each thought is of equal force. A father might say to his son, “You build a house and dig a well and you shall have the farm.” When does he get the farm? After he has built the house? No, not until he has dug the well. We may expect the teaching of the apostles to emphasize these things.

When sinners asked what to do to be saved, in the days of the apostles, they received definite information. They were not told to wait for faith; they were not told that God would save them without effort upon their part. They were TOLD what to DO and the Lord saved them. God saves us today the same way; so, if I DO today, the same things, obey the same commands, the Lord saves me the same way. Therefore, the word of God must be our guide. From it, alone, we can learn the will of the Lord.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter preached the first gospel sermon, proclaiming the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, declaring: “Let all the house of Israel know assuredly that this same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, is both Lord and Christ.” Those who heard were convinced of their sins, believing the testimony of Peter, that Christ was indeed the Son of God. But this belief, or faith, did not save them, as shown by the closing words of his sermon: “Save yourselves from this untoward generation.” Faith, alone, then, does not save. John’s gospel gives some information along this line. In speaking of Jesus, he said: “He came to His own and His own received Him not; but to as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the Sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.”

Believing that Christ was the Son of God, the Pentecostians cried out to Peter, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” This was evidence of their faith. What did He tell them to do? To pray? To wait until God gave them faith? No! None of these things. Hear his answer: “Repent and be baptized for the remission of your sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” How did Peter know what to tell them to do? The Savior had told him long before: “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.” The apostle Peter preached what Christ taught him to these people. When they heard his preaching, they obeyed the commands set forth and the Lord added them to His Church.

A young Pharisee, named Saul, learned of the progress of the disciples of Christ at Damascus and called upon the priests for authority to bind all that called upon the name of Christ. On the journey there, he was surrounded by a light above the brightness of the sun and a voice spoke to him, saying: “Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?” Saul asked, “Who art thou Lord?” and the Lord replied, “I am Jesus, whom thou persecutest.” Saul asked, “Lord, what will thou have me DO?” The Lord sent him into the city where he was to be told what he MUST DO. There he was three days without sight.
Neither did he eat nor drink. His faith is proven by his obedience to the command to go into the city, but the things that he MUST DO had not yet been taught him. That Saul repented of persecuting the Christians, in the three days that he was in the city, is evident, for he afterward taught that no one could come to God without repentance.

"The times of this ignorance, God winked at, but now commanded all men everywhere to repent." Acts 17:30. His prayer for three days did not save him. Why? Because praying for salvation is not a command of Jesus. Paul's prayer was for guidance. Ananias was SENT to him for that purpose, to guide him in the way of salvation. Ananias told him the things he must do. Certainly, he had to confess Christ, for he later taught: "With the heart man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." I would have you notice that Paul is a believer, but he is not yet justified, so the theory that a man is justified by faith only, is proven false. Ananias told him to "rise and be baptized and wash away thy sins." This was what he "must do." He did what Ananias commanded and the Lord received him.

Another case of conversion is revealed in the case of the jailor at Philippi. Paul and Silas had been cast into prison there because of their work. Their keeper had been charged to keep them safely. At midnight, Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises too God and there was a great earthquake and everyone's bands were loosed. The jailor drew his sword and was ready to kill himself when Paul said, "Do thyself no harm for we are all here." The jailor said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" Paul answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved and thy house." We read that they spoke unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house and he took them the same hour of the night and was baptized, he and all his, immediately.

The word of the Lord, which Paul preached, embraced repentance, for Paul taught that all men must repent. It included confession, for Paul said what you believe with the heart, you must confess with the mouth. With these commands, the jailor had to comply before he could be saved. Obedience to them saved his soul and the Lord added him to His church. The last part of this narrative states that the jailor rejoiced greatly, believing in God. Notice that the rejoicing is after he had been baptized, for God's word teaches that remission of sins comes in baptism, not before. In all cases of conversion, the procedure is the same; the gospel is preached, men believe, repent, confess their faith in Christ, and are baptized, receiving the remission of sins, the salvation of their souls.

Do you ask, "What about the new birth?" THIS IS IT. One does not enter the church unless he is born anew. The Savior said, "Except a man be born of the water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." To understand this scripture, let us remember that birth is not the beginning of life, but the coming forth into a new state in which life is to be enjoyed. Before there can be a birth, there must
be a begetting. This is the beginning of the life of one born. This distinction is often overlooked by those who confuse begetting with birth. How then are we begotten? Open your Bibles. Read the answer of James, “Of His own will begat he us by the word of truth.” Jas. 1:18. What did James mean? Simply that the person thus begotten heard the gospel. Paul taught the same truth. Listen: “In Christ thus I have begotten you, thru the Gospel.” I-Corinthians 4:15. The words of the Spirit entered the heart and there germinated. Here is the begetting. When and how does the new birth take place? To be born means to come out.

No one ever heard of a child being born of a mother smaller than itself. To be born of the water requires a larger body of water than the one baptized. This is accomplished when we are buried with Christ in baptism and rise to walk in newness of life. “If any man be IN CHRIST, he is a new creature.” He has been born anew, and you can’t get INTO Christ without baptism. Paul said, “For as many of us as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” Galatians 3:27. Here is the new birth: born of water after being begotten by the Spirit. By these acts, one becomes a member of the church. He doesn’t have to join it. He is born into it. You never had to JOIN your father’s family, because the moment your physical birth was completed, you were a member of it. In the same way, the moment your spiritual birth was completed, you were a member of your heavenly Father’s family. There is no New Testament example of anyone being converted to Christ and receiving remission of sins without conforming to this plan of salvation.

Are you willing to walk in the Lord’s way? Will YOU become a member of His Church thru obedience to these commands? Do this and you will have a place in that eternal home where love, joy, and peace abide for those who serve Him here below.

Radio Sermon by Robert H. Brumback, Evangelist, Churches of Christ 3931 Harrison Street, Kansas City, Mo.

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Why You Need the Church

Through all of the centuries of the Christian era, the church has been the one organization given for the salvation of mankind. It alone has carried aloft the light of God's love for humanity. It is often criticized and sometimes blamed for the very ills it came to cure. It is even blamed for the breakdown in present day civilization. Caustic charges are brought against it for its impotence and helplessness in certain spheres. Many individuals get a wrong view of the purpose of Christ's Church and think that it should control politics, settle wars and dictate to peace conferences.

This was not its purpose in the beginning, neither is this its purpose now. It exists alone for the salvation of the soul. Learning can blaze new trails of thought, new ideas can be promulgated through academic halls, but we must not expect the Church to fall in line. It exists, not for the advancement of science and learning, but for the welfare of the souls of men.

I am ready to admit that various groups of religious people suggest that its old truths, its old beliefs and its old worship must be discarded for the sake of progress. May I state that God is not interested in progress. He is the same yesterday, today and forever.

So with the Church established by His Son, Christ said of those who would be in it, "Teach them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." He left no plans for its improvement, for it is God's creation and we cannot improve upon it. It does not exist to provide entertainment for the world, but for spiritual needs of those who are its members.

Christians are always interested in the welfare of the community, supporting all civic improvements, but these things are not the purpose for which the Lord's Church exists. Its purpose is not to promote cooking classes, to sell hamburgers, oyster stews or mid-week dinners. There are organizations that meet the needs of the human family along these lines. The Church exists for something higher. It is set for the salvation of mankind. Its work is to feed men with the bread of spiritual truth from Heaven and to satisfy their thirst with the water of life. It exists only to proclaim the plan of redemption. Christ came to seek and save that which was lost. When I speak of the Church, I have in mind the One Body of Christ, which He purchased with His blood.

We are surrounded today by religious confusion. Scores of religious institutions make up Christendom. Amid this confusion I
would direct your minds back to God's word. In it there must be the pattern of the church as it was established by the Savior of man. From that pattern we dare not deviate.

Even as Moses was commanded of God to make all things according to the pattern shown in the mount, so must we, if we would be the Lord's church, have all things shown in the pattern, The New Testament. That Church, Christ's Church, was made as He wanted it, for the Spirit guided apostles taught all things commanded by Christ.

If we follow the teachings of the New Testament as a guide, we will be able to reproduce the church in faith and practice. Why should we not do today exactly what the church did in the beginning. It was established by the Apostles, in the city of Jerusalem, on the day of Pentecost. Under their guidance the disciples continued to sing, pray, teach, commune and contribute. What more does the Church need today? They were known as Christians. Why should we not be so named today? This organization was known simply as The Church of Christ. Why should we not continue to thus honor Him?

They were guided by the Apostles' doctrine, the teachings of the New Testament. Isn't it just as profitable today as when first given for the guidance of God's children? This body of believers was under the guidance of the overseers, the bishops, the elders, for these names all refer to the same men. Each congregation was ruled by a plurality of elders, scripturally qualified, selected by the Church.

Why should it not so be today? On the first day of the week they met to remember Him, to sing psalms, and hymns. That simple worship was not accompanied by musical instruments for these were left out of the worship of the Lord's Church. Why then, should we use them today?

The plea of the Church of Christ today is for these same things, for that love that prompted their work and worship and for that unity that conquered the world. Only those connected with that church were saved, for He is the Savior of the body. Religious teachers sometime tell us that the church is not necessary for salvation. To teach that it is not, is to teach that you can spend your life out of the church, and still go to Heaven after the judgment. This teaching strikes at the very purpose for which the Church exists. If I can be saved out of the Church then Christ died in vain, for He bought it with His blood.

Those depending upon morality alone for salvation cannot be interested in church life, so with a heart that is hardened against the Divine word there is no chance for it to save their souls. Morality alone will keep you out of jail but it won't keep you out of hell. All who believe it will are lost, because the saved are in the church. "The Lord added to the church daily such as were being saved." This scripture clearly shows the saved are in the Church. The Scriptures are an infallible guide upon this subject. THEY ANSWER THE QUESTION AS TO WHY WE NEED THE CHURCH.
When Paul wrote to the Church at Ephesus, he said this, "The Gentiles are fellow heirs and of the same body and partakers of his promise in Christ by the Gospel." Eph. 3:6. When Paul spoke of the body he referred to the Church. Here the fellow heirs, members of the body and partakers of the promise refer to Jew and Gentile as subjects of the gospel, because they became members of the body through it.

Notice Paul declares they are fellow heirs. Of what? Of the Promise of God. "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made, He saith not, and to seeds as of many, but as of one, and to thy seed, which is Christ" Gal. 3:16. Paul explains then, "If you are Christ's, then are ye Abrahams seed, and heirs according to the promise."

In the letter Paul wrote to both Jews and Gentiles at Rome he said, "The Spirit beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God, if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ if so be that we suffer with him that we may be glorified with Him." Notice the phrase, "children of God" and the promise that they are to be glorified with Him. Here Paul clearly indicates that the ones to be glorified are God's children or family. Again Paul said "Having abolished in His flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances, for to make in Himself one new man, so making peace, and that He might reconcile both (Jew and Gentile) unto God in ONE BODY, by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby. "Ephesians 2:15, 16. Reconciliation takes place in the one body, and that is the Church. "For He is the head of the body, the Church." So if you want to be reconciled to God, you must be in the church for that is where reconciliation exists between man and God.

**HERE IS WHY YOU NEED THE CHURCH**

You can't be saved without it, Paul said, "He is the Savior of the Body." If you want Christ to be your Savior, you must be in the body, or the Church.

Many sincere people get the idea that the church cannot save. They believe in God, acknowledge that Christ was His Son, live good moral lives, and because of these things, expect to obtain life eternal without the church.

**THIS IS WHY YOU NEED THE CHURCH**

Salvation is not in the world, it is in the Church, but it is conditional. The condition being a life of purity after you have come into the church. True you will be tempted, you will be tried, but you will not fall, if your trust is in Him.

In the strait and narrow way that leads to life eternal you will have burdens, crosses heavy to bear, but Christ will be there to ease the load. "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. You need the Church because it is the place of safety. Affliction and sorrow may come, but they cannot harm if you are God's child. He will enable you to over come. He gives to you this promise. "He that overcometh shall be clothed in white."
Yes, when these things come you need the church. When trouble comes, when you are helpless and can do nothing for yourself, God is with you. He clears the way. Underneath you are the everlasting arms to support you. “As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about His people.”

YES, YOU NEED THE CHURCH

More people are starved spiritually, in our nation today than ever before, and this spiritual impoverishment is more dangerous to civilization that the hunger of human bodies. The world of mankind does not today need a new revelation from God, for the Bible is still the word of the Lord. We need only to get back to its guidance.

The world does not need a new faith, but we do need to get back to the one faith of the Scriptures.

The world does not need a new religion, it has too many already. It needs only to get back to the religion of Christ.

The world does not need a modern church but it does need to get back to the simplicity and purity of that one church established by the Savior of men.

You need that church to live by, you will need it, too, when you come to die. When everything is going smoothly, you are inclined to say, “I don’t need the Church.” But some day a change will come, some day your heart will be broken, some day your eyes will be blinded by bitter tears, some day death will enter your circle.

Then you will realize that the God you have neglected, the Bible you have ignored, the Christ you have rejected and the Church you have refused, mean something when trouble comes. Only God and His word, Christ and His Church can support and strengthen you in the hour of trial.

YES, YOU NEED THE CHURCH

Will you not heed the gospel call? Come to the service of the Church of Christ. Hear again the old, old story in its purity and simplicity. Believe His word, obey His will and He will save your soul. In His church you can labor as He bids you in His word.

YES, YOU NEED THE CHURCH

Radio Sermon by Robert H. Brumback, Evangelist, Churches of Christ
3931 Harrison Street, Kansas City, Mo.

This is Number Nine of a series. Others supplied upon request.
The Responsibility of Parents

From a great many sources, we are hearing that the youth of America are perdition bound and traveling at a dizzy rate of speed. We seldom open our newspaper, or pick up a magazine, without having our attention called to delinquent boys and girls. Those editors and writers, who are seriously concerned with the moral welfare of our nation, are alarmed over what they see and hear.

The youth of today present a problem because, in most instances, the parents have neglected their duty. They have shifted the responsibility of training youth to others. They entrust their mental education to the school teacher; for their physical education, they are sent to the play-ground director or to the summer camp; their social education is received from the streets and the screen, but their spiritual education has been forgotten.

The greatest moral and spiritual responsibility resting upon parents, is to teach their children those nobler and higher principles of righteousness, justice, truth and love. These things are the foundation upon which real citizenship rests. Civilization is not built upon temporal, material success, alone, but upon character,—moral responsibility. Education is greatly to be desired, but it, alone, will not furnish the elements that produce character. Only as spiritual ideals create the right atmosphere, can character be developed.

If fathers and mothers, today, do not cease their carousing and lawlessness, and give to youth an example of decent living, what will become of the nation? Blanket indictments are brought against young people from seventeen to twenty-one. They are revealed by the daily paper, by leaders in public opinion, by preachers and teachers, as a lawless group turned loose for destruction. Only recently, attention was called to desecrated cemeteries, wrecked churches, and the destruction of public property. When those responsible for these crimes of violence were brought before the authorities and questioned as to why they did it, the reply was, "I don't know." Whose is the responsibility? We cannot lay the offenses upon youth ALONE. We cannot say they are uncontrollable, selfish, and demoralized.

If a boy, or a girl, is properly trained in the home, through childhood, they do not become delinquent, they do not change from good to bad, just because they have reached seventeen. At the age of seventeen they are the product of the training they have received in the years up to that time. There are fathers who do not take time to visit with their boy between the ages of ten to seventeen, but who
are compelled later to visit him in the jail or reformatory. The fault
does not lie with those alone between the years of seventeen to twenty-one. It rests in part upon those between the years of thirty-five
and sixty. If you fathers and mothers violate the laws, your children
will do the same. If you older folk ridicule religion,—young
people, taking you for example, will do the same. If parents wink at
infractions of law, boys and girls will follow that example and learn
how to “get by” with disobedience. Youth follows closely in the
steps of parents and others of mature years, with whom they are
in daily contact. If they, the older ones, are coarse in their conver-
sation, wicked in their conduct, loose in their morals, young peo-
ple are led to go and do likewise.

If young people of today are to be delivered from the dangerous
road downward, PARENTS must FIRST reform their ways, gain
back the confidence and respect of their children, and thus again es-
ablish a basis of proper control over them. I recently read of a
young man who had little use for religion, who said he would NEVER
have. A friend asked him why. The young man answered that sev-
eral years before, he had accompanied his father to town with a
load of hogs. When the buyer weighed them, the boy was on the
wagon. When the hogs were unloaded, and the empty wagon
weighed, the boy was not on it. So, the father received pay for a
hundred and ten pounds of hog that was not there. Arriving home,
he boasted how he had sold the boy along with the hogs and got paid
for him. The son was old enough to know that was dishonest. He
thought, if that is a sample of religion, I want none of it. That
father simply sold the soul of his son for $11.00.

Parental example must be changed, putrid literature must be
banished from the home, conversation must center around someth-
ing other than scandal. Home must be something more than a place
where the family sleeps and changes clothes. The young people of
the home must be made to realize there is more to life than unes-
corted rides, late suppers, all-night dances, smutty stories, and de-
bauchery. Surely this will be difficult. It will require patience,
ceaseless efforts, and, above all else, the example of right conduct
on the part of you parents. However unwelcome the truth may be,
facts show that the faults and vices of youth are largely copied
faults and vices. Who is responsible for it? The parents, the fathers,
the mothers, who are indifferent to that which the child, that God
has entrusted into their care, reads, hears, or sees.

From all corners of the nation come reports of the delinquency
of this age. Without a doubt, the needs of our war programs, with
father, possibly, called to the front, with mother giving her time and
efforts to the defense plant,—without doubt, these conditions produce
in part the neglect of the young in the home; but this is not the sole
cause of delinquency. We must look to other causes. The sophisti-
cation of this age is produced to a large degree by what the young
people see on the screen and hear. This influence, exerted over
America, drives out the source of spiritual strength and plagues the nation with an immoral pagan spirit. Our literature has become so corrupt that it is barred from the U. S. Mails. A large percentage of magazines are nothing but rot and slush, improper, immoral, suggestive stories, edited by those who would bring humanity down to the level of animalism and reconstruct society on the level of the pigsty.

To this end, sin is given a build-up and a glamorous background. Young people, inexperienced in the ways of the world, attracted by what they see and read, get a lurid view of crime and immorality. Marriage is ridiculed; illicit love is encouraged, and religion treated as a joke. Who is responsible for it? THE PARENTS WHO ALLOW THEIR BOYS AND GIRLS TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE THINGS and read that type of literature. Only the other day, I read that a part of the phonographic records now being put out, have a nice song on one side and a dirty vulgar ditty on the other; and some parents let these things come into their homes. Suppression and eradication of these things could be brought about if parents in thirty million homes, professing to be Christian, had the love for God’s word and the faith in Christ they ought to have.

Indifference to these things, to fill your homes with wicked literature and filthy songs, is enmity against God and Christ. You wonder why your boy and your girl are not interested in religion. I’ll tell you why: YOU never interested them in Christ and God. Your neglect in these things, killed the influence that might have led them to the Savior. We do not have the right to consider the delinquency of youth,—until we consider the delinquency of parents. If the young people of our nation knew how to be more careful in the selection of parents, it would do much to solve the problem of youth. If we consider THEIR lawlessness, let us also consider the lawlessness of parents. Right home life is one of the safeguards for children and, to provide this, the parent must be forever on the job. A careful survey indicates that about seventy-five percent of the parents are asleep at the switch. They complain about the children not obeying them, when they never taught them the principles of obedience. We need to return to the old days when parents laid down the law,—and enforced it, with the house-slipper. The wise man who penned Proverbs said: “He that spareth the rod, hateth his son.”

Let our young people be taught obedience and right thinking by example, as well as by preaching. It is for us to do our part. We must provide the right training in the right way. There is, in America today, an army of twenty-eight million boys and girls who are not interested in religion. Here is a challenge for Christian parents. Over fifteen million of our boys and girls lack training in Bible truths. If this produces delinquency, lawlessness, and crime, whose is the responsibility? Parents are charged with this neglect.
Where should they receive the word of Life? First in the home. But we look to the home and what do we find? The old family Bible, with its record, is gone; gone also is the father who gathered his flock about him and read from its pages. No longer do fathers and mothers read from its pages. No longer do fathers and mothers take the children to church on Lord’s Day morning, as did our foreparents who built the nation. The Bible has been sent to the attic or basement. Father is occupied with other things. The children have been sent to the movies to get them out of the way. No wonder an army of millions of boys and girls, unchurched, without Bible instruction, present a problem. From this class, court records reveal, are recruited our criminals, the unreached, the uncarred for army of youth. What shall we do for them? Continue to neglect, to ignore, to disregard them? O, no! Let’s give them something to live by, let’s give them the Bible. Let’s give them something to die by: the religion of the Savior of the world.

Parents, you are responsible before God. If you parents want to end their delinquency, you better end yours. If you want them to know something of God’s word, you better get busy with it yourself. If you want your boy and girl to live for Jesus, you better set the example. Father, Mother, are you away from God? Won’t you come back to Him? Won’t you live for Christ? He has provided His church as a place of salvation. Her wide open doors are ever ready to receive those obedient to His will. God is waiting. Christ is calling. Won’t you come?

Radio Sermon by Robert H. Brumbaugh, Evangelist, Church of Christ 3931 Harrison Street, Kansas City, Mo.

This is Number Ten of a series. Others supplied upon request.
How to Understand the Bible

The Bible is a best seller, widely read and circulated, but by some, little understood. To such it is just another book. Some say the more they read it, the less they understand it, the more confused they become about God, about Christ, and the purpose for which He came into the world. Others say they never read it because they can't understand it. It will be my purpose to give you a few suggestions for a better understanding of this book. This book reveals the complete will of God to the human family. It contains ALL that is necessary for us to know of things that are spiritual. Peter reminds us that God has given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness.

About forty men wrote the Bible. All of them were servants of God in some phase of His work. We read "For the prophesy came not in old time by the will of men, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.” As spokesmen for God, what they said or wrote was regarded as equally binding. Now we call your attention to these two parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament. Moses, who wrote the first five books of the Old Testament, lived about twenty-five hundred years after creation. In that primitive age God overlooked many things that He would not now permit. Just as an earthly father overlooks some things that a child might do, because he is trying to teach the child a lesson at a time, so also did God, our heavenly Father, overlook some of the mistakes of His children. Paul tells us, “The times of this ignorance God winked at, but now commands all men everywhere to repent.” Acts 17:30.

The time came when God chose a people and separated them from all others by the law which He gave to them. This people, the children of Israel, received that law through Moses at Mount Sinai. To it, God's other servants added their record in history, psalms and prophecy.

If you would understand the Old Testament, remember that we as Gentiles were never under that law, for it was given ONLY to the Jews. It is never said to have been given to the Gentile people. Some might ask "Don't you believe the Old Testament?” Certainly I do, I believe also the statement of Paul, telling why it was given. "Whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.” Romans 15:4.
The books of the Old Testament then show us examples of God's dealings with His people and serve to prompt us to profit by their mistakes. If you would understand the Old Testament, do not read it haphazardly, here and then there. If you want to understand it, study it a book at a time, keeping before you the general plan of why it was written and to whom.

You will find that the books of law give us an insight on the books of history. These lay a foundation for the Psalms and the prophetical books which follow. These books reveal to us God's mercy, portray to us His wisdom, manifest to us His divine power and foreknowledge, for in them He declares the end from the beginning. To follow some suggested plan of reading first in one book, then in another, does not make Bible students and will confuse, rather than enable you to understand the great plan that God is setting before us.

As you progress through the prophetical books of the Old Testament, you will see that their purpose is to teach us first about God and then about Christ and His Church. These books reveal there is one God, that He had one people, who served Him by one law. Here we learn that He is long suffering, for He said, "All day long have I stretched forth my hands to a disobedient and gainsaying people." Here we learn that He is merciful, for we read, "When they had wrought great provocations, Thou in Thy manifold mercies forsook them not." Here we learn of God's love, for in His love and pity, "He redeemed His people and carried them all the days of old." Here also we learn of His severity and justice—"Justice and judgment are the habitation of Thy throne." Thus by the lessons of the Old Testament does God teach us that He alone is God, and beside Him there is no other. People often ask me, "Well, what part of the Bible tells me what the Lord wants me to do NOW? Can I find it in Psalms, is it in the prophecies of Isaiah or incorporated in the law of Moses?"

Paul in speaking of that part of the Bible in which these books are found, said, "He taketh away the first that He might establish the second by WHICH WILL we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ, once and for all." This shows that sanctification, justification, redemption or salvation is in that part of God's word which tells of Jesus Christ. Do not search the Old Testament for the plan of salvation. It is NOT revealed there, except in promise and these promises all centered in Christ.

We are now prepared with the foundation to consider some of the facts of the New Testament. Here we learn of Christ. That He is God's Son! Can this be true? Born in a stable, cradled in a manger, and yet He is the Son of the Highest? Such was the humble beginning of the earth-life of our Lord. Thirty years of His life was spent in preparation for the great work He had to do, then His ministry begins at Cana, in Galilee, to extend over all Palestine. He drew to Himself a group of followers with the simple promise, "I will make you fishers of men." The synagogue was filled when He preached. On
every occasion the people flocked to hear Him because He had love for humanity, the common people. He brought God near to man. He came to gather up the broken fragments of humanity and blend them into a peculiar people, zealous of good works. He knew the human heart was hungry and He came to supply that need. He came to make the poor, rich, the suffering, well, and the sinful, clean. He was interested in the average man.

For Him the tax collector closed his door, the farmer left his field and the fisherman deserted his nets. He was one of them. Three years of ministry—then came Gethsemane, the Savior’s agony, the sleep-weary disciples, the rebuke, “Could you not watch with me one hour.”

The mock trial, the false accusations, the mob shouting, “Crucify Him, Crucify Him,” all culminating in His agony on Calvary’s brow. God turns away His face from that scene of suffering, Jesus cries—“It is finished.” What? The law was finished, the temple worship was finished, the last sacrificial offering for sins has been made, the plan of redemption IS finished.

Thus He died for our sins and was raised for our justification, declared to be the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead. Why recount all of this? “These things are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that believing ye might have life through His name.” Such is the testimony of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John—all tell the same story. All tell what we must believe to be saved, that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. These books are the foundation for understanding the New Testament.

With the ascension the purpose changes. The book of Acts of the Apostles gives a graphic picture of that occasion. Christ goes home to glory. Now what must we understand? What Christ wants us to do, for He said, “Teach all nations, teach them to observe (or do) whatsoever I have commanded you.” The apostles began to teach THESE THINGS on the day of Pentecost—the day on which the church had its beginning.

The book of Acts of Apostles gives the account of the conversion of thousands who became His followers, who did what He commanded. Here is a point to be remembered if you would understand the New Testament. The book of Acts tells you what you MUST DO to be saved, to get into the church. Here people were taught to believe on Christ, to repent of past sins, to confess Christ before men, and be baptized for the remission of their sins. You may not understand everything that is in the Bible, but you can understand what God wants you to do to be saved and don’t expect God to save you until you do it.

Did the apostles form this plan of salvation? No! Christ had taught these very things and given to the Apostles the promise that the Holy Spirit would bring all things to their remembrances and guide them into all truth. This book, Acts of Apostles, specifically
sets forth the steps of salvation. Thus far we have covered five books of the New Testament leaving twenty-two books not discussed. Twenty-one of these books contain such thoughts as this—"Provide things honest in the sight of all men." "Flee fornication." "Let us not be weary in well doing for in due season we shall reap if we faint not." "Put away lying, speak every man the truth with his neighbor." "Do all things without murmuring and disputing." "Put off anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy." "Pray without ceasing." Are these instructions for the sinner? No, these letters are written to Christians, telling them HOW TO LIVE in the church if they would be saved. Keep this fact in mind to understand the purpose of all the books of the New Testament from Romans to Jude.

Should you read something you cannot understand at first, go back and re-read it, notice when it was written, whether under the law of Moses or under the law of Christ, whether before Christ died on the cross or after He died, whether before the church was established or after it was established. This will help you in gaining an understanding of God's word.

This leaves us one book, the book of Revelation, written in symbols and signs. In it we have a prophetic picture of the church, of its enemies and of Christ in His triumph and glorification. It gives us a picture of the celestial city—the home of the saved. Christ is its light. He said, "I go to prepare a place for you." This book tells about that place. God has made it beautiful. Its walls are of jasper, its gates of pearls, its streets of gold. This is the place where there remaineth a rest for the people of God. There will be no pain and suffering there, for God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying nor any more pain.

Do you ask, "How can I make sure of that place?"

Believe in Christ, obey His commands, live as He bids, and you have the promise of life eternal.

Radio Sermon by Robert H. Brumback, Evangelist, Churches of Christ
3931 Harrison Street, Kansas City, Mo.

This is Number Eleven of a series. Others supplied upon request.
God’s Plan of Redemption

This subject is one of prime importance to every one interested in the salvation of their soul.

The Bible, as the word of the Lord, reveals that back in the beginning of time, Satan tempted the human family and because they yielded, sin came into the world. God gave to Adam and Eve everything necessary to their welfare and said, “Thou shalt not eat of the tree of knowledge.” This was God’s law to the human family for He had told them not to do a specific thing. But Satan tried to make Mother Eve believe that she had misunderstood God, for he said, “God doth know that you shall not surely die.” He intimated that God was not telling the truth. Eve ate and gave it to Adam and thus humanity was plunged into a world of sin. Since the beginning of time Satan has thus lied to the human family. That is why the Savior said, “He is a liar from the beginning.” He knows how to deceive the family of man and has used a lie from creation. Death was unknown to the human family, but they must have understood that it had some bearing on their relationship with God. God has said, “In the day thou eatest thereof, thou shall surely die,” and that is what happened. Sin separated them from God and physical death followed.

In the cool of the day, God walks through the garden, and Adam, conscious of that sin, hides himself from God. God calls, “Adam, Adam, where art thou?” Adam answers, “I was afraid and so I hid myself.” God knew the reason for that fear. He asks, “Hast thou eaten of the tree of knowledge of good and evil?” And Adam, like a guilty child, shifts the blame to another, “The woman Thou gavest me, she gave to me and I did eat.” The tendency in life is to try to cover up sin. Adam and Eve had been clothed with the purity of God, but when they sinned they lost this purity and they knew it. Instead of looking to God for help, they hid in the bushes. Death then became the penalty for sin. “In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread till thou return unto the ground; for out of it was thou taken; for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.”

The first blood that was shed, was shed because of sin, for God took the skins of animals and made them garments. From that time on the shedding of blood became a type of the covering for sin, the first assurance of the blood to be shed on Calvary for man’s redemption. The Bible is God’s message to show us how the human family can come back to Him. By disobedience, man placed himself under the dominion of Satan, forfeited life and inherited death. From this state God purposes to redeem man by separating him from sin. The very word, “redeem,” implies a plan by which this is to be brought about, and a Redeemer who can put the plan into action. From that time God gave to the human family a law of animal sacrifice and offerings for sin. These only took away the remembrance of the sins
and at stated times the offerings had to be made again and again. Paul in writing to the Hebrews shows us the reason for this, "For it is not possible for the blood of bulls and of goats to take away sin." They served only to remind the family of man of his need for redemption. Always the blood of the sacrifice pointed to the one perfect sacrifice who was to take away the sins of the world.

When God was ready to deliver His people from the bondage of Egypt, each family was told to kill a lamb and sprinkle its blood upon the door posts. The Lord's promise was, "When I see the blood, I will pass over you." The Egyptians may have laughed and ridiculed the Hebrews as the lambs were slain and the blood sprinkled on the door posts, but that night while the Egyptians slept, the death angel struck the first born in every home where there was no blood.

Shortly after their deliverance from the servitude of Pharoah, God gave to His people a code of laws regulating these offerings for sin. They stipulated that on the day of atonement, when the sacrifice was made for the people, all sins were then forgotten, to be remembered no more until the day of atonement the following year. This law continued until Christ Jesus, as the perfect sacrifice, shed His blood for the redemption of mankind.

Christ, as God's Son, was free from the stain of sin, hence He could die to redeem man from his sins. Paul said, "For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin condemned sin in the flesh." Romans 8:3. Having no penalty resting upon Him, Christ could taste of death for every man. So to become the Redeemer of the world, He had to be clothed with flesh, subject to the sufferings and temptations of the human family. There was no other way for man to be saved. Paul shows us "That God commendeth His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Sometimes sincere people get a wrong impression of what happened there in Eden, and think that Adam's sin made sinners of them. God's prophet plainly tells us, "The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father." Ezekiel 18:20. Sin is a transgression of the law and until I transgress God's law, I am not guilty of sin. Paul said, "Know ye not that to whom ye yield yourselves as servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey, whether of sin unto death or of obedience unto righteousness." Romans 6:16. When a child arrives at the age where it knows right from wrong, then it becomes either the servant of God or Satan. I say to you on the authority of God's word, that your sin, and your sin alone, stands between you and God. Sin had its origin in Eden, but it is foolish for us to use that sin as an excuse for ours. You cannot prevent others from sinning, but their sins do not affect you and your relation to God. And whether you spend eternity saved or lost, depends not on what Adam did, but on what YOU DO. You alone are responsible to God, to Him you must answer for the sins you commit and the deeds you do.
When the fullness of time was come God sent forth His Son to redeem us from the curse of the law. On Calvary's summit transpired the greatest tragedy ever enacted. The cruelty of man, the power of Satan, and the love of God were all revealed there. There Christ died for our sins. He died to redeem us. Peter tells us, "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed by silver and gold, but by the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ."

The thing that interests us is this, Christ shed his blood for the sins of the world. How do I get the benefit of that shed blood, how am I redeemed by it? So long as man is in sin, he is lost. God's Son came to seek and to save the lost. Christ came to redeem man by His blood. "In whom we have redemption through His blood even the forgiveness of our sins." Ephesians 1:7. Then it is by his blood we have redemption, "for by His blood He entered in once into the holy place having obtained eternal redemption for us."

The point for us to discover is where and when do we receive the benefit of that blood. The writer of the Book of Hebrews shows that the sacrifice of Christ was for all time, "and for this cause He is the mediator for the New Testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance." In this same book we read that Christ is the author of eternal salvation to all that obey Him.

Then redemption comes through obeying what He requires or doing what He says. Salvation is wholly dependent upon man. God has done His part, He sent Christ into the world. Christ has done His part, He shed His blood for our sins. Now man must do his part if he wants the benefit of what God and Christ have done. Then if I want redemption, it is a matter of doing what Christ commands.

While Christ was on earth He taught His disciples those commands telling them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel." A careful analysis of the preaching of that gospel reveals that when it was preached men believed, repented, openly acknowledged Christ, and were baptized for the remission of sins. These things are clearly taught and set forth in the preaching of the gospel as recorded in the Book of Acts.

The first thing produced by that preaching was faith. We read "Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ unto them. When they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." Acts 8: verses 5 and 12. The first thing God requires of men is faith, for, "without faith it is impossible to please Him." Hebrews 11:6.

Repentance follow faith. This is a change of actions or a turning from sin coupled with sorrow for sins. The man hearing the gospel, the fact that Christ is the Son of God, believes that story and turns from evil that he might get back to God. Before repentance, he is going in the direction of Satan, obedient to his will. When he repents, he turns his back on Satan and starts toward God and right,

An indication of one’s purpose to live for Christ is the confession you make of Him before men. This is the highest privilege of mankind. If we believe that Christ is God’s Son we should not be ashamed to own Him before men. To offer excuses, to try to cover your sins, to depend upon morality will condemn your soul. Will you confess Christ? Your salvation is dependent upon it. Christ said, “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess before my Father which is in Heaven.” Matthew 10:32. All of these steps are unto righteousness, but they alone do not bring you into righteousness. From God’s word we learn that “With the heart man believeth UNTO righteousness.” “Then hath God also granted to the Gentiles repentance UNTO life.” “With the mouth confession is made UNTO salvation.” These three steps lead us unto life, unto righteousness, unto salvation, but not INTO it.

Paul said that salvation is IN Christ—then if we want that salvation we must be in Christ. How do we get there? The Scriptures answer this question. “For as many of us as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” Baptism puts you in Christ. Redemption is IN Christ Jesus. In baptism we come into contact with His blood. Christ shed His blood in His death, and Paul tells us, “Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death.” We come into contact with His blood in baptism, because it is a figure of His death. In the act of obedience we received the remission of our sins. Ananias said, “Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins.”

My friend, have you met with these conditions? Here is God’s plan of redemption, here is the way outlined in His word, here is the way to save your soul. Believe His truth, obey His will and the promise of life eternal is yours.

Radio Sermon by Robert H. Brumback, Evangelist, Churches of Christ
3931 Harrison Street, Kansas City, Mo.
This is Number Twelve of a series. Others supplied upon request.

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Is Faith Sufficient to Save?

Faith is defined in God's word as "The substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." It is revealed as the product of God's written word. "Many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of His disciples which are not written in this book, but there are written that ye might believe, and that believing ye might have life through His name." John 20:30, 31.

It is universally agreed that faith is necessary for salvation, but THAT is as far as unity prevails upon this subject. Some assert that it ALONE is sufficient to provide salvation, that it is a condition easily met, while others stress that its importance shows that it must ever be a part of obedience. The world accepts what God has said upon the importance of faith, why can't it take what that same word says upon the necessity of faith, the way faith is produced and its purpose? We do not get the will of God upon any subject by isolating one verse of Scripture and stressing it to the exclusion of all other verses upon that subject.

We read that without faith it is impossible to please God, since it is essential in pleasing God, then everyone should want to know how to obtain it, that they might please Him. You do not have to wade through some philosophical discussion before you can understand faith and how it is obtained. Paul informs us, "So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God." Romans 10:17. This establishes the fact that faith is the belief of testimony—the acceptance of what was said upon the subject. Where testimony or instruction begins, there faith can begin; and where testimony or instruction ends, there faith must of necessity end—because there is nothing to produce it.

The faith that saves is produced by testimony. What kind of testimony? That which comes from God's word. It directs and commands, and our faith is shown by our obedience.

In the wonderful chapter on faith, the eleventh of Hebrews, we read, "By faith Noah prepared an ark to the saving of his family." God gave him commands, instructions for the preparation of the ark. Noah obeyed in everything. "Thus did Noah according to all that God commanded him." Gen. 6:22. Here was faith shown by obedience. So throughout the Old Testament, every case of faith shows absolute obedience. In every case where God blessed His people on account of their faith, before the blessing came, some deed of action showed they accepted the commands. The things they did were deeds of faith.

The things God required of them, He does not require of us. We are not called upon to build an ark, to sacrifice bulls and goats, or offer up a burnt offering. He now requires belief in His Son. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him might not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16.
The stain of sin had been upon the world for four thousand years, all that man was able to do would not take away that sin. If he is to be saved, he must be saved by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. No other sacrifice can redeem man. He alone was sinless and could offer Himself as a sacrifice for our sin. That is why Christ came into the world, that is why He bore the hatred, the scoffing, and the mistreatment of the world, to redeem your soul and mine. We did not hear the angels announce His birth, we did not hear God claim His as His Son, we did not hear Him as He healed the halt by saying, “Arise.” But because these things are recorded in God’s word we believe. The teachings of the Scriptures produce faith that He was God’s Son. We did not see Him betrayed into the hands of sinful men, we did not see Him led away to judgment, we did not hear His persecutors say, “If you let this man go you are not Caesar’s friend, whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar.” And Pilate fearful lest this word should be carried to Rome, delivered Jesus to the fanatical mob controlled by the priests and Sanhedrin. Pilate had faith that Jesus was innocent—“I find no fault in Him.” Will that faith save Him at judgment? No! Why! Because HE DID NOTHING about it. Word, too, came from his troubled wife, “Have nothing to do with this just man, for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of Him.” When Pilate appeared with Jesus the last time, he showed his faith in Him. “What shall I do with Jesus which is called Christ,” and they said He should be killed. Again Pilate’s faith in Christ is shown, he calls for a basin of water, washes his hands and says, “I am free from the blood of this just person, see ye to it,” and then he let them spit in His face, press the crown of thorns upon His tender brow, scourge Him, burden Him with that cross, and drive Him along the Way of Sorrows to the scene of death. Pilate had faith that Christ was the Son of God, and you tell me that faith alone is sufficient to justify a man in the sight of God? I do not believe it, neither does the Bible teach it. James said, “Even so faith, if it hath not works is dead, being alone.”

Those at the death of Christ said, “Truly this man was the Son of God.” They were convinced that Jesus was God’s Son. Their doubting has ended, uncertainty is swept away. Will they be saved? No! Because that faith was not coupled with works. I would have you to understand that Christ died to save sinners, that He died to redeem mankind. You may believe that He was divine, but that is not enough. Nobody believes in the divinity of Christ more than the devils. You may believe that you are away from God, that He warns of a hell and offers you heaven, you may admit that Christ is the way of life, that neither is there salvation in any other, but it will not save your soul if you do NOTHING about it. This popular doctrine that you can kneel wherever you are and say, “Lord, Lord,” and that Jesus will save your soul is not based on God’s word. The Savior said, “Not everyone that saith unto me Lord, Lord,”
enter into the kingdom of Heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in Heaven."

We did not witness the death, burial and resurrection of Christ but through God’s word we know it transpired. We know that on the third day He broke the power of death and conquered the grave. Paul tells us that He was “declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness by His resurrection from the dead.” Here He ended the bondage of Satan for those who believe and obey Him.

This is the gospel of our redemption by which we are saved. Paul again in speaking of it said it was “made known to all nations for the obedience of faith.” Faith, then, is something you obey. Then when you have faith you have to obey the gospel if you want the benefit of that faith. We may say we have faith, but before we are blessed on account of that faith, it must prompt us to action, it must lead us to obedience.

Whatever commandments Christ gave to us must be obeyed for, “Blessed are they that do His commandments that they may have a right to the tree of life and enter in through the gates into the city.” It takes obedience to ALL of the commands of Christ to obtain that eternal life. In the great commission, as recorded by Mark, Christ said, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel, he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.” Luke records that He said, “Thus it is written and thus it behooved Christ to suffer and to rise again the third day from the dead and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations beginning at Jerusalem.” Matthew says, “Go ye therefore and teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” What is here set forth? That people are to believe, repent, and be baptized, and that obedience to these commands brings remission of sins.

On the day of Pentecost the apostles clearly demonstrated that they knew what Christ meant. The preaching began at Jerusalem. Here Peter informed those who came together that they had murdered the Lord of glory—“Therefore let all the house of Israel know that this same Jesus whom ye have crucified is both Lord and Christ.” Did they deny it or did they believe it? Certainly, they believed it, but that belief did not save, for we read, “With many other words did he exhort them saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.” They asked what would take away their sin and Peter said, “Repent and be baptized for the remission of sins.”

Again when Peter preached this gospel to the Gentiles, he said, “God put no difference between us and them purifying their hearts by faith.” Acts 15:9. How did faith bring purification? Peter said on this same occasion, “whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins.” Christ said that repentance and remission of sins was to be preached in His name, and at Jerusalem Peter proclaimed
baptism for the remission of sins. What is here set forth? The truth that belief, repentance, and baptism are necessary for the remission of sins.

Peter said God put no difference between Jew and Gentile so far as the gospel was concerned, so what is required of one is required of all. Repentance is an act that shows faith, likewise is this true of confession, and of baptism. Each is an act of faith. Christ commanded faith for He said, “If ye believe not that I am He ye shall die in your sins.” He commanded repentance, for He said, “Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish.” He commanded confession, for He said, “whosoever will confess me before men, him will I confess before my Father in Heaven.” It is Christ’s business to save your soul, it’s your business to let Him do it His way. He does not promise to do it by faith alone.

Break away from Satan, take Christ as your Savior, obey His will, and He will forgive your sins and you can live in the smile of God’s presence, in communion with Christ and in fellowship with His church.

God is calling, Christ invites, do not delay!

Radio Sermon by Robert H. Brumback, Evangelist, Churches of Christ
3931 Harrison Street, Kansas City, Mo.
This is Number Thirteen of a series. Others supplied upon request.
What Is Repentance?

The subject of repentance is not a popular one, but it is an important one. Not many preachers speak on it. Perhaps that fact contributes to the great need for repentance today. God called upon the nation of Israel to repent, and when they refused His warnings, punishment came upon them. I wonder how He looks upon our Christ-neglecting and sin-loving nation today. We have need for repentance. As a nation, we need to repent of the drunkenness, of the lawlessness and of the lewdness that exists on every hand. We have degenerated into a nation of sin-loving people, enjoying the prosperity for which others have worked. Our thinking habits have changed, some have discarded their religious habits; others have lost God and are not much disturbed about it. Our old beliefs and lofty ideals are going. No human voice calls up to repentance, but certainly we should remember that “righteousness exalteth a nation but sin is a reproach unto any people.” We must regain our moral heritage. We MUST refresh our souls from the wells of spiritual truth and fix God’s moral laws again in our minds. Not alone does our nation need repentance but individuals need it as well.

God always punishes sin and brings it to judgment and we shall not escape if we do not repent. We have many cases of repentance recorded in the Old Testament scriptures, showing a turning from sin, disclosing to us the meaning of repentance. It is not our purpose to deal with these, but rather to consider the subject as set forth in the New Testament. The word “repentance,” indicates a change of mind, accompanied by sorrow for sin, leading an amended and corrected life. This is the kind of repentance with which we are concerned. Because repentance occupies a place of importance in God’s plan of redemption, it is worthy of our notice. In dealing with the subject, the New Testament makes it so plain that no one should misunderstand the nature of repentance. John’s preaching was for the purpose of calling the Jews to repentance, to get them to turn back to God. As evidence of the sincerity of their repentance, they were admonished to bring forth fruits, or works, worthy of repentance.

The Savior shows the meaning of the word as used by Him. “A certain man had two sons, and he came to the first and said: ‘Son, go work today in my vineyard.’ He answered and said, ‘I will not,’ but, afterward, he repented and went.” Here was a change of mind,
an act by which the attitude and conduct were completely reversed. This shows the son believed he was wrong, and believing that, he changed his mind and went. So it is with true repentance; there first must be the recognition of sin, for a man cannot repent of sin until he knows that he is guilty of sin. Until one knows that he has violated God's will, that he has done wrong, he cannot change his attitude.

Sin is a transgression of God's law. Before a man can be sorry for sin, he must believe that he has broken God's law and is, of course, a sinner. Until a man turns from sin, with sorrow for the sins that are past, and a firm resolve to not again be guilty, he hasn't repented. Repentance is, therefore, a turning from sin. The Savior said, “Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” Luke 13:3. Here the Savior makes it clear that all who do not repent will perish. Repentance is not just sorrow for sin, it is a change of mind resulting in a change of life, produced when faith or belief is strong enough to bring thoughts, actions, and conduct, into harmony with God's word. As evidence of this, Paul said, “For Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of, but the sorrow of the world worketh death.” 2 Cor., 7:10.

Godly sorrow produces repentance, but the sorrow of the world, to be sorrow without reformation of life, produces death. By way of illustrating, suppose a man filches a sum of money from a bank. Thinking he might be caught, he places all of his property in another's name so he could not be forced to make restitution. When he is apprehended, he says he is sorry. Sorry for what? That he has committed a crime? No! Because his plans show there is to be no attempt at restitution. He is simply sorry he was caught. Plenty of people will be sorry when they are “caught” at the day of judgment. They will weep, but it will just be fear that produced the tears. Many people become religious when they know the devil is waiting for them, that the gates of hell will open to take them in. Real repentance shows a reformation of life. To fail to reform and restore, is to fail to repent. If a man gives up only part of his sins, and holds on to the rest, there is no repentance.

Ezekiel shows the nature of repentance: “Repent and turn yourselves from all of your transgressions, so iniquity shall not be your ruin.” Ezekiel 18:30. Unless a man quits sin, his word that he has repented carries but little weight. Many people know that they are sinners, that the sins they commit are God-dishonoring and soul-condemning, but they WON'T repent. They will not give it up. We have numerous examples in the Bible of people being convinced of their sins, yet they would not give them up, so they did not repent. Perhaps the most notable of these is that of Drusilla and Felix.

Paul had been made a prisoner and delivered before Felix to
be tried. He sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith of Christ. Here was a man who was indeed in need of repentance, one of the most wicked rulers of Judea, a licentious man who had persuaded Drusilla to leave her husband. If ever anyone had cause for repentance, certainly Felix and Drusilla did. Paul did not mince his words before them; he did not soft-soap the gospel. That is one of the troubles in the world today, too many preachers are afraid to condemn sin, too many are in the pulpits who preach an easy gospel,—easy on the devil. The devil is always pleased with that type of preaching and he will send the people around to pat them on the back and tell them what great preachers they are. Let preachers faithfully condemn sin, whether among those who profess to be the people of God, or in the wicked world about him, and it will bring about repentance. Preachers must preach against sin, if they are to save souls, and that is what Paul preached. He preached of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come.

Paul might have been released by telling this lecherous old king what a great ruler he was, but Paul was not a trimmer, he had the spiritual backbone to give him a message of the real gospel of Christ. Paul preached of righteousness, purity of life, of temperance, control of body, and of judgment to come for those who refuse these things. Felix trembled, knowing the certainty of meeting his sins in the day of judgment. “Go thy way,” he said, “and when I have a more convenient season, I’ll call for you.” The convenient time NEVER came; it is never convenient for men and women to give up sin. It was not convenient for him to give up a wicked career. So, Felix did not repent. To some, this is an unwelcome subject, but the soul’s salvation depends upon it.

Thus, repentance will bring reformation of life, a change of purpose and a turning from all evil. Some have suggested that repentance must precede faith, but this cannot be, for faith is that which leads to repentance, the belief of God’s goodness is revealed in His word. Rom. 2:4. There are revealed in the word two things that bring about repentance: God’s goodness and the coming of the day of judgment. If a man does not believe in God’s goodness nor the day of judgment, how could he be expected to repent? Paul spoke of the judgment as one of the things that would induce repentance; “The times of this ignorance God winked at but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent because He hath appointed a day in which He will judge the world.” Acts 17:30, 31.

God’s word thus reveals the judgment as a motive to induce man to repent, to show the punishment that comes upon those who face God unprepared. Others ask, “Did not Christ say, “Repent ye and believe the gospel?” Yes, Christ was speaking to the Jews. They were already believers in the true God, but they had left the law of
Moses so Christ is urging them to turn to God and believe the gospel when it was proclaimed. The Savior told His disciples, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel; he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.” Why state belief first? Because Paul said, “He that cometh to God must believe that He is and that He is a re­ rew arder of them that diligently seek Him.”

Numerous accounts show that His apostles commanded faith first. We read that Phillip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ and when they BELIEVED, they were baptized, both men and women. We read that many of the Corinthians, hearing, BELIEVED and were baptized, and again, “Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house.” These scriptures show faith, or belief, must come first. Repentance thus follows in the gospel order. True repentance will bring a reformation of life, a change of purpose and a turning from evil. Peter tells us, “The Lord is not slack concerning His promises as some men count slackness, but is long suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

The heavenly Father wants ALL to come to repentance, wants every sinner to have the opportunity to be saved. We do not know when the day of judgment is coming, it may be next month, next week, it might be tomorrow. At that time, Christ will claim His own. Where will you stand? With the saved or lost? Will you not believe God’s work, repent of your wrongs, confess Christ before men and be buried with Christ in baptism for the remission of your sins? This saves your soul and puts you in His church, in His kingdom. Faithfully serve Him there and, in the day of eternal rewards, Christ will say, “Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.”

Radio Sermon by Robert H. Brumback, Evangelist, Churches of Christ
This is Number Fourteen of a series. Others supplied upon request.
3931 Harrison Street, Kansas City, Mo.

THE
CHURCHES OF CHRIST
BROADCAST

Station WREN (1250)  ADDRESS: 
Lawrence, Kansas  6847 Chestnut Ave.
Every Sunday 1:00 to 1:30 p.m.  Kansas City 5, Mo.
For information about the CHURCHES OF CHRIST
communicate with us.
The Confession the Lord Requires

The things that are recorded in the New Testament concerning Christ are for the definite purpose of making believers. They were written to convince the world of one fact; that Christ is the Son of God. This one fact makes possible the plan of redemption. Since man could not save himself from the consequence of sin, his hope must center in Christ. He alone, is able to save. For this purpose, He calls man from the sin and suffering of this present imperfect world and points Him to a prepared place of purity and peace. Because of the trust and confidence of the Christian in the promises of his Savior, though disappointment and death are his lot here, yet he looks not on these things but toward the eternal home that lies beyond the cold confines of the tomb.

To convince the world that Christ is His Son, God has given us an abundance of evidence. At the very beginning of His ministry, God attested this fact, for at His baptism, He said, “This is my beloved Son.” We hear Nicodemus say, “No man can do the things Thou doest, except God be with Him.” The sincere faith of Martha prompted her to say, “I believe that Thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.” This confession of Christ is one thing that God will require of all the human family. Those believing this NOW, must believe it with all the heart. To secretly hold that conviction is not enough, as is indicated in John’s gospel. There we read, “Nevertheless, among the chief rulers, also, many believed on Him, but because of the Pharisees, they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue, for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.”

The faith, or belief, that Christ is the Son of God, must be strong enough to cause one to accept Him as the author of eternal salvation and to so acknowledge Him before men. It must prompt us to follow wherever He might lead. Those who reject Christ NOW, will come to a future time when God will wring that confession from them. When time shall be brought to an end, and all the world of mankind judged for the deeds that have been done, then those who have rejected Christ HERE, will be forced to confess Him at the very gates of Hell.
Thus God gives us a choice in making the confession; we may confess Him now, surrounded by friends who rejoice with us, to know of our obedience to His will. Postponing that confession NOW, God will compel those who rejected Christ in this life to accept Him when they stand at the gates of Hell. But that acceptance will come too late. There is a story of a young man who was saved from certain death by a prominent lawyer. Their ways and their stations in life became far removed from each other. The lawyer prospered and, because of his integrity and justice, was elected as judge over the district in which he lived. The young man through the years drifted into bad company, became of law-breaker and eventually committed a crime punishable by death. He was tried, found guilty, and brought before the judge to hear his sentence. The jurist asked if he had anything to say before the sentence was imposed. That boy had not forgotten the face of the man to whom he owed his life. He recalled the incident to the memory of the judge, thinking possibly he would commute the punishment. "Yes," replied the judge, "I remember, I did save your life, then, but I am your judge now, and I sentence you to death."

Christ is your Savior NOW, but the time will come when He will be your judge, and what He does with you THEN, depends on what you do with Him NOW. "Wherefore God hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in Heaven and things in earth and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God, the Father." Philippians 2:9, 11. God's word does not leave us in doubt about how to confess Christ. Even in the preparatory work of Christ, the importance of confession is shown.

When questioned as to the opinions of men concerning Jesus, Peter said, "Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God." Here is the simple confession God requires. This is not the formula of men, for it did not originate with them. We are not to confess Christ according to the tenets of men, we are not to confess how we feel, neither are we to confess that we believe that God has pardoned our sins. God's word reveals to us how that confession was made. Because of its simplicity, it is strange that any would refuse to so acknowledge Christ, knowing the shortness of life and the certainty of death.

Throughout the New Testament, there is agreement upon the substance of this confession and how it should be made. Following the exposition of the prophecy of Isaiah, the Eunuch asked Phillip, "What doth hinder me to be baptized?" Philip answered, "If you
believe, you may." He did not say, "If you have had your sins for-
giver, you may," "If you have felt God's pardoning grace," neither
did he say, "If you understand that it is for the remission of sins." His
answer was, "If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest." One
is thus not required to understand everything that God does for us in
redemption. The simple statement, "I believe that Christ is the Son of
God," was sufficient evidence that he was a subject for baptism. Philip,
understanding the requirements of the gospel, proceeded to immerse
him.

Concerning the way in which people were to confess Christ, the
Scriptures give us all of the information we need. Paul said, "If
thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe
in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt
be saved, for with the heart man believeth unto righteousness and
with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Romans 10:9, 10.
Several important points are here revealed. We notice the confes-
sion is with the mouth, unto salvation. It is not made by raising the
hand, nor by singing a card. Paul shows that, like other primary
commands, it is unto salvation. It, alone, does not provide salvation,
but it leads in that direction. Faith is unto righteousness, it leads
unto righteousness, repentance is unto life. That is, it leads in that
direction and confession is unto salvation. These acts, alone, do
not provide eternal life.

This confession is wholly different from that formed by men
stating, "I believe that God, for Christ's sake, has pardoned my
sins." Such a statement is without New Testament example. There
is a wide difference between confessing that God for Christ's sake has
forgiven your sins and confessing Christ with the mouth unto sal-
vation. Pardon of sins rests with God and is conditional. The con-
ditions being obedience to all His commandments. We read,
"Blessed are they who do His commandments, that they may have
a right to the tree of life and enter in through the gates into the
city."

Jesus came into the world for one purpose and that was to save
people from their sins, to lead them from darkness to light. The
world must have the guidance that He, alone, can give. Sorrow, suf-
ferring and sadness exists everywhere. There is no hope of better
things apart from Him. Our self-complacency and spiritual pride
cannot provide the things we so sorely need today.

He, only, can shed light upon humanity's darkened pathway and
reveal the face of a loving Father, every ready to comfort and bless.
What we could not do for ourselves, He has done for us. He paid
the price of our redemption. He shed His blood that we might go
free. Will you let His message go unheeded? Will you refuse to let Him come into your heart? God is not willing to let you be lost. You alone, choose the place to which you will go. Why put Him off from day to day? Heed the gospel while God's mercy still lingers, while He still spares your life, lest you be eternally lost. You cannot be saved without confession. Christ has said, "Whosoever, therefore, shall confess me before men, Him will I confess before my Father which is in Heaven." Matt. 10:32.

To confess Christ shows that we purpose to depart from the old life and henceforth live the kind of a life He would have us live. This is our part in the salvation of our souls. Obedience to Christ is an orderly process and confession is one of the steps of that divine plan. By confessing Christ, we show to the world that we purpose to live for Jesus. Why men should be unwilling to confess Christ before men is hard to understand. When a young man is called to the service of his country, he puts on the uniform, takes the oath of allegiance, and lets them know where he stands. If a person becomes identified with some organization designed to promote the welfare of man, never does he hesitate to proclaim that fact by some sort of a pin or emblem. But the world has many who do not have the courage to show that they stand for Jesus Christ. This is one of the most important things of life. A person might believe in Christ, but, without confession, it will do him no good, because Paul places confession right by the side of faith and between a person and his salvation.

Here is the teaching of the New Testament on the subject of confessing Christ. The Churches of Christ believe in the confession taught in the New Testament. From the commands given to us there, we dare not deviate. Christ died to save your soul. The price of your redemption has been paid. All that He asks of you in return is that you believe that He is God's son, that you repent of your sins, confess Him before men and be buried with Him in baptism. If you obey these commands, the Lord will add you to His church. Live in faithful obedience to His will and you will inherit eternal life.

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ADDRESS:  
6847 Chestnut Ave.  
Kansas City 5, Mo.
The Baptism Taught
In the Bible

In introducing the subject of baptism, I am well aware of the fact that through the centuries there has been a long and bitter controversy upon this topic. The controversy still exists, and, doubtless will, until the end of time. May I assure you that I have nothing unkind to say to you sincere folk who may differ with me upon this topic, all that I ask is that you consider what I say in the light of God’s word.

When we wish authentic information upon some particular subject, we look it up in the dictionary, encyclopedia, or some textbook. There we find what human knowledge has to offer upon it. Naturally, then, when we come to consider a subject so vital as baptism, and its relation to the human soul, we should consult the supreme authority on the subject,—and that is the word of God. The New Testament makes a specialty of dealing with this subject. To its teachings we therefore appeal.

I do not intend to tell you what scholarly and pious men have said about baptism, for their thoughts have differed widely. Furthermore, the testimony of the scholarship of the world upon the etymology of the word, and its various meanings, will not be worth as much to us as the teaching that comes from an age in which there was no division and no controversy upon the subject. For this reason, I shall not refer to the meaning of the Greek words from which we get the words baptize and baptism, other than to say they are not translated but anglicized words. It is not necessary to be a Greek scholar before we can understand the meaning of these words and the design of the act. These things can be clearly understood from the teaching of the New Testament.

I know that this is not a popular subject but it is inseparably joined to salvation and salvation is for those who are lost. The Savior came to seek and to save the lost. If I can instruct, or enlighten upon this subject, and show why it must be obeyed, my purpose will have been achieved. The importance of this command is often ridiculed and minimized by those who forget that the Savior said, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.” Many, today, are placing their hope for eternal salvation upon their trust or belief in Christ, calling attention to the fact that “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him might not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Others are ready to tell us, “The Bible says, ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved’—and there is nothing there about baptism.” True, but the same book tells me in another place:
"Repent and be baptized" and there is nothing there about believing. This shows that we must take ALL of the teaching in the Scriptures upon any subject, to get the complete will of God. When Christ said, "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit," all of the disciples understood the thing that He commanded. There was no contention over the "mode" and "design." The apostles did baptize and we can learn from their language the way in which the act was performed and its purpose.

WHAT CONSTITUTES SCRIPTURAL BAPTISM? In the book of Acts of Apostles, we have the history of baptism. These cases, with the information supplied in the epistles, show what constitutes scriptural baptism. From a careful analysis of these cases, we learn that men and women were the subjects, that teaching preceded baptism, that those who believed the teaching were commanded to repent, that they confessed their faith in Christ, that in the performance of the act, they went down into the water, both he candidate and the administrator, that baptism was administered in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, that it was performed in the water, that Paul calls what transpired there a burial, likened it to a planting, and stated that it was similar to a resurrection and that obedience to this act took away sins. Any baptism, to be scriptural, to be in harmony with the New Testament, must have these elements. From a study of these facts, certainly we should be able to ascertain what took place.

ARE THERE "MODES" OF BAPTISM? There is a phrase that is used much in the religious world in connection with the subject of baptism and that is the term "mode." If there was such a thing as "mode" in the days of the apostles, certainly we would know of it NOW. The various accounts in the New Testament would tell us what "mode" was used. Because of the absence of this term, we know there was no such thing as "mode" in the days of the apostles. Baptism was performed in one way. In proof of this, we have Paul's words to the Ephesian church, "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, and ONE baptism." Ephesians 4:5, 6. This cannot refer to three kinds of baptism, sprinkling, pouring, and immersion. If one of these is indicated, the others are excluded.

WAS THE BAPTISM ADMINISTERED BY THE APOSTLES HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM? It is often asserted that these baptisms refer to Holy Spirit baptism. If this is true, then water baptism is eliminated. It will require but little time to get the right teaching on this phase of our subject. Christ commanded His apostles to go teach and baptize all nations. The apostles were, thus, to teach and baptize. They could not administer Holy Spirit baptism. That was a promise of the Savior. "Behold I send the promise of my Father unto you, but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on High." Luke 24:49. That promise was the baptism of the Holy Spirit, made to the apostles only. Listen:—"And being assembled together with them, commanded them that they
should not depart from Jerusalem but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith He, ye have heard of me; for John truly baptized with water, but ye, (the apostles) shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence." Acts 1:4, 5.

What was the purpose of Holy Spirit baptism? Notice: "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father shall send in my name, He shall teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you," John 15:26. This clearly shows that baptism, commanded by the apostles, WAS NOT Holy Spirit baptism. It was a promise, and you can't obey a promise. Holy Spirit baptism was always for a special purpose; its purpose was to inspire, so it could not be an act of obedience. No man was ever commanded to be baptized with the Holy Spirit. Paul shows there is ONE baptism and, in the same book, he calls it a washing of water by the word.

THE DESIGN OF BAPTISM. I would call your attention to the fact that in addition to many other blessings, baptism brings remission of sins, saves our souls, puts us into Christ or adds us to the Church. Hence, those who complied with this command are said to have rejoiced, as did the Philippian jailor, and the eunuch. His baptism is described in detail. We read that "They went down, both, into the water, both Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him." Acts 8:38.

Since Paul shows there is one baptism, all other cases of baptism must, of necessity, be like this. Paul's teaching agrees, for in writing to the church in Rome, he said, "Know ye not that so many of us as were baptized unto Christ, were baptized into His death, therefore, we are buried with Him, by baptism, into death, that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we, also, should walk in newness of life." Romans 6:3, 4. Notice that Paul includes himself in the word "we." What was true of the baptism of the Romans, was also true in the baptism of Paul. Paul was told to "Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins." That was also true of the baptism of the Romans, hence they were told to walk in newness of life. Combining the truth of Paul's statements, he shows its purpose is to wash away sins and also shows us that it was performed by being BURIED with Him in baptism.

BAPTISM PUTS A PERSON INTO CHRIST. "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Galatians 3:27. Before baptism, one is OUT of Christ; after baptism, he is IN Christ, and that is where salvation is found. "I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory." II Tim. 2:10. Thus, the scriptures show one to be IN Christ or OUT of Christ. By baptism we get into His death, thus, this act stands between the sinner and the blood of Christ. We go through a likeness of what Christ passed through in reality. We die to sin, Christ died for sin. We are buried in baptism, Christ was buried in the tomb. We are raised to walk in newness of life, Christ was raised to live anew. In baptism we have the reenactment of Calvary's tragedy, for it shows a death, burial and
resurrection. This calls for immersion. All New Testament teaching will harmonize upon this. When Paul wrote to the Colossians, he said, "Buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him, through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised Him from the dead." Colossians 2:12.

**CAN ONE BE SAVED WITHOUT BAPTISM?** Christ did not say—"He that believeth and is saved shall be baptized." He said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." When is he saved? After he believes? No! After he has been baptized. Concerning this, the apostle Peter said, "The longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is eight souls, were saved by water, the like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us, (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh but the answer of a good conscience toward God) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 3:21, 22.

This scripture shows that one cannot be saved without baptism. To be saved, you must be IN Christ and baptism is the act which puts you in Christ. Paul said, "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ." Galatians 3:27. My friend, if you believe that Christ is God's Son, turn from sin, confess Christ before men and are then buried with your Lord in baptism, no one can ever rightly question your act of obedience. That immersion constitutes scriptural baptism, and has never been called in question. People everywhere accept immersion as baptism. The controversy that has existed for centuries, over this subject, has not been over immersion, but over other forms that have been substituted as baptism.

The Churches of Christ believe in water baptism; the New Testament teaches it, therefore we believe in it. I am interested in this subject because it pertains to the salvation of your soul. Eternal salvation means entrance into heaven. God's redeemed will be there. There He shall wipe away all tears, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, nor any more pain, for the former things are passed away.

Do you want a part in that eternal home? Be obedient to Christ's will, live faithful unto death and He will save your soul. God is calling; Christ invites. Will you obey His will?

Radio Sermon by Robert H. Brumback, Evangelist, Churches of Christ 3931 Harrison Street, Kansas City, Mo.

This is Number Sixteen of a series. Others supplied upon request.
Salvation By Grace

The salvation of mankind is the result of the grace of God. Upon this truth the world of religious people agree. How the grace of God operates to bring salvation, upon this they disagree. It is easy to form theories of God's method of communicating that grace; with these theories we are not concerned; rather do we purpose to appeal to that which comes to us from the word of truth.

The question arises, "What is grace?" This may be answered by stating that it is the unmerited favor of God to the human family, that love of God for His children, extending from creation to eternity. That is grace. For a long period of time man had been alienated by disobedience. God's grace was needed to bring him back into favor. Paul shows the reality of God's grace in his letter to the church at Ephesus: "For by grace are ye saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2:8, 9.

Notice that Paul does not say we are saved by the grace of God alone—without effort upon our part. Such teaching would contradict his admonition to: "work out your own salvation, with fear and trembling." Neither does he tell us that our salvation is wholly dependent upon work, for that would be at variance with his statement that we are not saved alone, by works of righteousness "but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit." Both of these thoughts combine to reveal that God's part of grace is to provide the way, and man's part is to comply with the conditions set forth in that way. God's grace, that same unmerited favor that brought salvation, was also His gift to the Corinthians, to the Galatians, to the Thessalonians, and to all others of the human race.

Paul said to Titus—"The grace of God that bringeth salvation, hath appeared to all men, teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world. Titus 2:11, 12. This grace brings salvation and Paul says it has "appeared to all men." How has it appeared? To whom shall we go for an answer to this question? The widely differing doctrines and theories concerning grace cannot ALL be the teachings of God. There is but one source to which we can appeal for our guidance and that is to the inspired word of God. John's gospel tells us, "The law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." Grace, God's favor, appeared in the gift of Christ to redeem mankind.

While there was no one who possessed the ability to save, while humanity was in darkness, then the grace of God was extended to mankind, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16. Jesus left the courts of Heaven
to prepare a way by which mankind could be reconciled to God. His ministry was finished when He was taken, condemned, and crucified on the Roman cross. While He poured out His life's blood for sin, the sun veiled her rays of light and darkness prevailed upon the world of mankind. With that hopeless cry, "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me," the rocks parted asunder, the earth quaked and the veil of the temple was rent in twain. The verdict of the Roman centurion was: "Truly, this man was the Son of God."

Christ was buried in Joseph's new tomb, but it could not contain Him, for the third day an angel rolled away the stone and Christ, triumphant, came forth, victorious over death, hell, and the grave. The grace of God was now ready to be manifested to the world. Christ gave to His apostles the plan of redemption, telling them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature; he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Mark 16:15, 16. Previous to this time, such a proposition had never been known, but now, God has extended His favor to the human family and proposes to save them upon the terms of the gospel. Paul tells the Corinthians that it was that which saved: "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, wherein ye stand and by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I have preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain." I Corinthians 15:1, 2.

Does Paul contradict himself? He told the Ephesian brethren they were saved by grace. Now, he tells the Corinthian brethren they were saved by the gospel. Can this be true? Yes, because the grace of God and the gospel are one and the same thing. Listen: "None of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God." Acts 20:24.

When Paul preached the grace of God, His love in sending Christ to die for our sins, he preached the gospel, and when people obeyed the gospel they were saved. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation, to everyone that believeth, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Romans 1:16. One cannot doubt that the Ephesians were saved by grace, for the Scriptures so state, but do not conclude that they were saved by grace alone. "For by grace are ye saved, through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast." Salvation by grace is the subject under consideration, it is the gift of God. God provided it to us without cost. Faith is the means by which we receive the benefit of that salvation and it comes by hearing God's word. "So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God."

But faith, alone, is not sufficient for salvation, for in Paul's letter to Titus he said, "After the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the wash-
ing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit." The salva-
tion cannot be all of grace, since the mercy of God, the washing of
regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit enter into it. But
we must conclude that these, alone, enter into it, because there are
other factors contributing to salvation. Paul shows this to be true
when he told the Ephesian brethren, "In whom we have redemption
through His blood, even the forgiveness of our sins, according to the
riches of His grace." Ephesians 1:7. Certainly if redemption is
through his blood it is not of grace alone; indeed, it could not be,
for Paul said, "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall
be saved, but how shall they call upon Him in whom they have not
believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have
not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?" In what
way is it possible for a preacher to contribute to the salvation of
souls? The next verse tells us, by preaching the gospel. This agrees
with the teaching of Paul to the Corinthians: "For after that in the
wisdom of God, the world by wisdom knew not God, and it pleased
God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.” I
Cor. 1:21. Salvation is not brought about by grace, alone. God is
going to save them that believe. Faith then, has a part in bring-
ing about the salvation of mankind.

When Paul spoke to the Ephesian elders, he said, "I kept back
nothing that was profitable unto you.” Acts 20:20. In the twenty-
seventh verse of this same chapter, he tells them he has not shunned
to declare unto them the whole counsel of God. When Paul declared
the whole counsel of God unto them, what did he declare? Let us
search for the whole counsel, all that he declared unto them. We
begin with his visit to them for the first time and find him saying,
"John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto
the people that they should believe on him which come after him,
that is, on Christ Jesus.” Acts 19:4. Here we have Paul preaching
FAITH or belief in the gospel, which he was preaching to them.

But these are the people whom Paul said were saved by grace.
Then faith is a part of that salvation by grace. This forever con-
demns the idea of salvation by grace alone, for Paul shows that it
includes faith, but not faith alone. Paul said the things of this life
did not disturb him, that he hoped to finish the ministry which he
had received to testify the gospel of the grace of God. What else
is included in this? Since Paul taught that God commanded all men
everywhere to repent, we may expect to find him teaching repen-
tance. When Paul spoke of preaching the gospel of the grace of
God to the Ephesians, he said he testified both to the Jews and also
to the Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord
Jesus Christ.

Paul’s preaching was to the people who were saved by grace
and it included REPENTANCE, so we have FAITH and REPEN-
tANCE preached to the people who were saved by grace. But was
that all that Paul preached? No! He said that he kept back noth-
ing that was profitable unto them. The Savior commanded that
those who believed on Him should confess Him before men. The
Ephesians have believed and Paul said, "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Romans 10:9.

Paul preached this very thing to them, for in telling us what accompanied Paul's preaching there at Ephesus, Luke said, "Many came and confessed and showed their evil deeds." Acts 19:17, 18. Thus, they confessed Christ after believing on Him and they showed their evil deeds because they had no further use for them. These are the people Paul said were saved by grace and they had to confess Christ just like all others in the gospel age. So, here we have FAITH, REPENTANCE, and CONFESSION taught to the very people who were saved by grace. The necessary conclusion is that these are a part of the gospel of the grace of God.

What else did Paul preach to them in his ministry there? Luke says that when they heard his teaching "they were baptized in the name of Lord." Acts 19:6. Why were they baptized in the name of the Lord? That was the only way they could get into Christ. "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Galatians 3:27. Paul told the Ephesians that they were "sanctified and cleansed by the washing of water by the word." Certainly this is water baptism. So, the Ephesians were saved by the gospel of the grace of God, and in being saved by it, they BELIEVED, REPENTED, CONFESSIONED, and were BAPTIZED in the name of the Lord Jesus. Here is salvation by grace as taught in the Bible. Is it safe for you to expect salvation on anything less? Here is the way of salvation. Paul warned the elders of this very church that false teachers would arise speaking preverese things, to draw away disciples after them. The apostasy which corrupted the church, was caused by false teachers. The simplicity and purity of the gospel was changed and a midnight of darkness hid Christ's teachings from the world.

The Churches of Christ, today, seek to restore the simplicity and purity of the gospel. They accept everything bound upon the church by the Savior and the apostles and reject all unauthorized agencies and organizations. Will you stand with us upon the teachings of the New Testament? Will you obey the Savior's will and walk in His way? Do this and He will some day lead you to that eternal home where joy and bliss abide for the children of God.

Radio Sermon by Robert H. Brumback, Evangelist, Churches of Christ
3931 Harrison Street, Kansas City, Mo.
This is Number Seventeen of a series. Others supplied upon request.

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Have You Forgotten God?

The Psalmist said, "The wicked shall be turned into hell and all nations that forget God."

In this enlightened age some do not like to hear the word hell, but that does not blot it out of existence. Others tell us that this word means only the grave. If this were true, David would have remained silent, because he knew that the grave was the ultimate end for this body of clay.

I am persuaded that he had in mind the final punishment of those who forget that Jehovah is God.

The true purpose for which we live is that we might "Serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness, before Him all the days of our life."

Can it be that the things that have come upon us, have come because we have forgotten God?

Can it be that war is a retribution for our neglect and disobedience, the result of forgetting God?

A parent has two methods of teaching a child: the easy way if the child is willing to heed the parents' admonitions and suggestions in pointing out the right, and if the child refuses the parents' advice and instructions, then it must learn the hard way, the way of compulsion and punishment. God teaches the human family the same way. His people were told, "Choose ye this day whom ye will serve." He offers to us the same privilege. The part of wisdom urges us to choose the straight and narrow way, the easy way. Arguments are all in favor of this way. It is the way of purity and truth, of righteousness and devotion. It is revealed in His word, let us trust it for guidance, lest we forget God. Rejecting Him, we are forced to travel the way of compulsion and punishment. Our indifference to God, our self-complacency and neglect of recent years put us on the "hard way" road. The strife and carnage of war now press about us. Darkness shuts us in and anxiety obstructs our way.

We are perplexed in memory and tortured with uncertainty. "When will this terrible war end?" "Will my loved ones come home?" "Where is my boy?"

Dark clouds over-hang our horizon, too long have we neglected the Lord and trusted in ourselves. Now we walk blindly—bewildered, filled with doubt and fear because we have forgotten that "Thou
alone, O God, art the same and Thy years shall not fail.” When these troubles haunt and confuse, increasing life’s share of bewildements, when we need something to help us bear seemingly impossible burdens, look to God’s word, it keeps you in touch with Him. Neglecting it, you will forget God.

We need the companionship of God in the days through which we are passing. What can so strengthen us for that which lies ahead as to be able to walk and talk with God. Remember, Christian, that you are in the world, but you are not of the world, and you will die spiritually if you feed upon the world’s food. Feed your soul upon the word of God, live upon its promises. The Savior said, “This is that bread that cometh down from heaven that a man may eat thereof and not die.” It has been sent to strengthen us lest we forget God. To keep in touch with God, Paul told the Thessalonian Christians to “Pray without ceasing.” He did not mean for them to be always on their knees, but to be always in the spirit of devotion.

There is no diversity of opinion among real Christians as to the importance of prayer. It is to the spiritual nature what breath is to the body. Only when the Christian prays does he really live. Paul said, “In everything give thanks.”

There are times when we think of God’s goodness, His mercy and love, and this is easy for us, then the song is in the heart and his praise is upon our lips. It would then be difficult not to express our gratitude. The Psalmist said on such an occasion, “I will praise thee, O Lord, my God, with all my heart.” Psalms 86:12.

But there are other times when these circumstances do not prevail, when it is hard to bear the burdens, when it is difficult for our thanksgiving and praise to penetrate the gloom.

Lest we forget God, let us then trust with unshaken confidence in His watch care and love, knowing that “though the days are dreary and the long nights weary,” that He knows about us and that He is concerned with us every step of the way and every day of our lives. David said, “The righteous cry and the Lord heareth and delivereth them out of all their troubles.” Psalms 84:17.

God tells us about the difficulties that will beset us in the way of life. The world through which we pass offers vain and deluding pleasures, seeking after these things many fall by the way.

Lest we forget God, He would have us understand that He aids us when we need Him, smooths the way when the going is rough and provides the way of escape from the temptations the devil places before us. Peter tells us, “Your adversary, the devil, goeth about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” 1 Peter 5:8.

What is the Christian to do when he is tempted? Listen! “Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” “Be not overcome of evil but
overcome evil with good.” “Blessed is the man that endureth temptation for when he is tried he shall receive the crown of life.”

Fathers, Mothers, have you yielded to the inviting and alluring things with which the downward way abounds? Have you become more worldlike than Christlike? Have you forgotten God?

It isn’t alone the young who forget God, but often the father or mother who was once steadfast in the Christian life, who in youth bore the burden and heat of the day—but now in the evening tide of their life has allowed the pagan spirit of materialism to dry up the source of their spiritual strength. In too many communities worldly influences undermine the Christian liberty, culture and civilization which the pioneers planted in the land, and which our boys are seeking to protect and preserve in far flung battlefields. Shall we in indifference let these things swallow up the American way of life? Shall we let Satan’s influence undermine and destroy the moral character of our boys and girls at home?

Shall we forget God?

The battles yet to be fought, will not be fought alone by those in uniform. You, Fathers and Mothers, will have a part in them. When this bloodshed and strife ends, there will be spiritual battles to be fought, battles for Christian principles, for the preservation of ideals, of culture and purity—because the tendency will be to ignore these things, to break away from them. The plea of the soldier boy for the preservation of things spiritual, for the Church, for Christian influence and right living, shall not go unheeded. You parents need to gird yourself for that battle now.

The American way of life was established by hard work, industry, honesty and trust in God. The tendency is to revolt against these things today. Parents violate every known principle of right, and at the same time wonder why the younger generation is running hog-wild and showing no respect for our elders.

Listen parents, God gives you rules for training your children, you are told to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. You can’t do that if you are not in the nurture and admonition of the Lord yourself. God wants His truths in the hearts of you parents. Then you can provide the right atmosphere in the home and the example of a righteous life.

Fathers, Mothers, your parents taught you that it was wrong to use profanity, to not believe in God, to never go to church. What are you teaching your child? Is it idle talk, evil speaking and shady gossip, such as is heard in many homes today? Who is responsible for it? Parents who have forgotten God, who profess to be Christians, but never practice it.

Young people, let no one tell you the thoughts and problems of youth do not mix with religion—they do.
Religion steadies you, it enables you to work out the problems of life in the light of Christian principles.

The religion of the Savior develops for you a life of integrity, purity and sincerity. But do not think that you can live crookedly, satisfy the flesh and not forget God.

Though I will be charged by a liberal world with being too strict in doctrine, I still advise you to travel the way of the Savior. Be simple in your tastes, pure in your speech and temperate in your habits and God will bless you. I do not tell you, fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, that you will have no tribulations, no temptations, no sorrows, no trials in the Christian life. These things will some day come. There will be days when the heart is full of pain and your eyes will be blinded by bitter tears. There will be hours when the glory will fade out of your sky and the courage out of your heart, but do not forget God.

He will enable you to cast aside, to overcome the disappointments, to rise above them. Build into your life those fundamentals suggested by Paul—“whatever things are holy, just, pure, lovely, of good report, if there be any virtue and if there be any praise think on these things.”

O, precious soul, the message of life has been made ready for you. It offers salvation, guidance, refuge and rest. Accept it. Live for God, let him show you the way. Share your heart, your thoughts, your life with Him—Then you will not forget God.

Radio Sermon by Robert H. Brumback, Evangelist, Churches of Christ 3931 Harrison Street, Kansas City, Mo.
This is Number Eighteen of a series. Others supplied upon request.
The unity of God’s people is a subject of interest today. The oneness of those who profess to be the children of God would indeed do much to bring the world in subjection to the Savior of men. Within recent years several religious organizations have been working for a basis upon which several groups of similar belief and practice could unite. Newspapers call attention to their efforts and their leaders inform the world of the progress that has been made. But this is not something new. Such has always been the desire of the Churches of Christ. We plead for the unity of all who profess to be followers of the man of Galilee.

The question naturally arises, “Is it possible for ALL religious people to stand together?” Certainly it is possible. The Church was united in its beginning. There was but the one organization. The Scriptures set forth the unity—the oneness of the Lord’s people and indicate that such a condition is the only one acceptable to Him. On one occasion the Savior said, “Other sheep I have which are not of this fold, them also must I bring and there shall be one fold and one shepherd.”

Christ also prayed for the unity of His followers saying, “Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word that they may be one—that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.” John 17: 20, 21.

Certainly the Savior knew of the necessity for unity, by it the world would be convinced that He was God’s son. This unity prevailed in the church established by the Savior through the Apostles. This same unity that the Savior foresaw as being essential for the belief that He was God’s son, is just as important for us now, as when His church was first established. That Church continued steadfastly in the Apostles’ doctrine and as the good news was carried to other communities and believers were added to the Lord, they too, became subject to the apostles’ doctrine. So long as they were guided by it, all spoke the same thing and there was no division among them.

When Paul found a condition of discord among the disciples at Corinth, he said, “And I brethren could not speak unto you as unto spiritual but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ, I have fed you with milk and not with meat, for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able, for ye are yet carnal, for whereas there is among you, envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal and walk as men.” I. Cor. 1: 1, 3.
Paul thus shows any separation of God’s people to be wrong, even if it is not outward.

When Paul wrote to the Ephesians he called attention to the one body saying, “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.

In that one body, unity prevailed. This unity of God’s people is a condition that all sincere souls should desire. From the Apostles’ doctrine it is evident that obedience to the Gospel made Christians. “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. Romans 1:16. All Christians being followers of the one Christ were by obedience to His will, brought into the one body. “We have many members in one body.” Romans 12:4. There were not different kinds of Christians in Corinth, in Ephesus, or in Philippi, for Paul shows there was only one body. No one could be in the body and not be in the Church for the simple reason that the body and the church were the same. “And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning the first born from the dead that in all things He might have the preeminence.” Colossians 1:18.

Thus, the Scriptures teach unity, showing that all the early disciples were members of the same church, taught and believed the same doctrine, were of the same mind and judgment. So long as they were guided by the Apostles’ doctrine, all spoke the same thing and there were no divisions among them. This unity prevailed until after the death of all of the apostles.

Is it out of harmony with God’s word to plead for the same unity today?

This brings us to the discussion of the next phase of the subject, “What Created Division”?

The teachings of the inspired apostles were recognized as the source of authority in the beginning. The apostles imparted this teaching by letter and by word of the mouth, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Before they passed away, the Holy Spirit enabled them to write the New Testament Scriptures for the guidance of generations yet unborn.

Hence, after the death of the apostles, the church continued to recognize their authority as set forth in the New Testament Scriptures. From the beginning at Jerusalem the church grew and expanded until it covered the Roman world. Its growth was due to the spirit of unity that prevailed among the followers of Christ. But with the beginning of the next century the mystery of iniquity began to work. Men denied that Christ intended for His apostles to be the source of authority, here and there, aspiring men began to
set forth their opinions upon certain subjects. This was the age that produced the Gnostics, the Nestorians and many other sects. Sincere leaders in the church continued to uphold the writings of the inspired apostles as the only divine source of authority.

By the year 300 A. D. the authority of the inspired writers began to be questioned, a few years later their authority was rejected and men began to legislate and rule in their stead. The speculations of men led to doubts concerning the relationship between God and His Son. This resulted in a council being called at Nice in 325 A. D. by Constantine, the Great. Here three hundred and eighteen uninspired men relegated to the background all that had been recorded by the inspired apostles concerning the relationship between God and Christ and formulated the Nicean creed telling what they thought about the matter and what men should believe.

God never delegated to any man or set of men the right to legislate for the church in faith and doctrine. The Nicean council marks the beginning of the apostasy that ushered in the Dark Ages, in which time human laws took the place of divine laws and people forgot the word of God. From that day to this, the introduction of teachings not contained in the word of God has always brought division.

For a thousand years the knowledge of the truth was lost to mankind, then Martin Luther tried to restore the Word to the world. He saw more truth than his followers would accept. He took a long step out of apostasy but failed to restore the purity of the Church established by the Savior.

Other reformers followed, each trying to restore some part of the teachings of the New Testament, but overlooking the need for restoring ALL that the apostles taught. Around each of these reformers a group of people rallied and developed into a religious denomination, ruled by a creed.

Thus the Reformation laid the foundation for the divided and confused condition that prevails in the world today. Thus neglecting to return to the teachings of the apostles, men formed creeds, divided into groups, assumed names and forms of worship unknown to the practice of the early church. No teacher of the Bible contends that these various groups, called by different names, with various forms of worship, accepting doctrines that differ with all others, are produced by the one book, given by the one God, through His one Son. Here, my friends, is the thing that produces infidelity, aids the Devil and holds back the work of Christ.

The next thought for consideration is, How Can Unity Be Restored. Some have suggested that all groups come together and each drop some point of doctrine and thus they could stand united. No doubt this would produce a creed loose enough and elastic enough
to accommodate all faiths, but such a procedure would lack that unity for which Christ prayed and for which Paul was pleading. Church manuals and creeds could not possibly form an acceptable guide or standard for men, for they represent only the opinion of men upon religious subjects and have always produced division instead of creating unity.

As human productions no combination of them would satisfy all people, but all who want to be Christ's followers could accept what He has said through the apostles. The apostles' doctrine, as revealed in the New Testament, formed the basis of unity in the church. No one was ever required to believe more than the apostles taught. On their teaching the church stood united with ONE God and Father above all, with ONE Lord, Christ Jesus, with ONE Spirit, teaching ONE baptism, which put those obedient into ONE body, where they were governed by ONE rule. What more does the church need today? Upon these things the church can stand united today. The New Testament reveals the gospel preached by the apostles. The same gospel, preached again will produce Christians just as it did then. Christians, banded together, constitute the Church of Christ, guided by the apostles' doctrine, it has the same organization, the same worship as when first established by the apostles.

The Churches of Christ plead today for all to come to the Lord, to reject all creeds and be guided alone by His will, to do what He requires, to wear His name and thus stand united as the people of God, opposing all evil and promoting all good.

The Gospel calls you to obedience.

Christ's Church waits to welcome you—Come.

Radio Sermon by Robert H. Brumback, Evangelist, Churches of Christ
3931 Harrison Street, Kansas City, Mo.
This is Number Nineteen of a series. Others supplied upon request.

THE
CHURCHES OF CHRIST
BROADCAST

Station WREN (1250)          ADDRESS:
Lawrence, Kansas          6847 Chestnut Ave.
Every Sunday 1:00 to 1:30 p.m.  Kansas City 5, Mo.
For information about the CHURCHES OF CHRIST
What Is Wrong With America?

In the establishment of our beloved America, every act and every resolution was undertaken with the idea that God was working together with them. In the drafting of the Constitution, this idea was in the minds of those who produced and signed it. In the warfare that followed, the soil of America was drenched with the blood of thousands who believed in the watchcare of Almighty God. They fought, bled, and died that religious liberty and freedom might be the heritage of the people of this nation.

Rising from this foundation, our nation has grown from ocean to ocean and from the Great Lakes to the Gulf. We flatter ourselves that we have grown, multiplied, and advanced until we, today, stand as one of the greatest nations on the face of the earth. Our wealth is unlimited, our power cannot be measured, but, as a nation, we are forgetting the old-time elements of honesty and uprightness. The moral forces of America have gone asleep at the switch and have allowed the underworld and degenerates to take control without being molested. We readily oppose those who are our enemies beyond the limits of our nation, but these enemies are working within our borders.

They are irreligious, have little regard for the Star Spangled Banner, and none for Christian principles. The blackest crimes and the most gruesome deeds are tolerated. We have allowed them to exist until decency and self respect is almost gone. We have assumed that a nation can rest upon material things alone. We have drifted away from God and from His word. Statesmen and students of history agree that if a nation is to endure, it must advance along material, intellectual, and moral lines. Our material greatness is growing, our national resources are just beginning to be utilized and our educational system assures us that no one needs to be illiterate in this broad land of ours. But what of morals?

Whatever they may have been in the past, they have degenerated to an alarming extent today. Have you ever examined the literature that any boy or girl can buy at the corner drug store,
magazines that are published under the guise of humor, but filled with smutty stories and filthy jokes. Another group deals altogether with crime, giving the biography of criminals and colored accounts of their exploits. What would be the antidote for this kind of moral poison? Fill the minds of the youth with God’s eternal word and then these things will have little attraction for them. If America is to clamp down on crime, it must first control the sources of crime.

It is true that many fathers and mothers have less time for the training of our boys and girls, because of the nation’s needs. With this lack of parental training, the opportunity is presented to them to get the wrong slant on life and its meaning and responsibility. They are soon converted to a new order of things. This is the reason crime is on the increase in America. Modern inventions, which have brought to us unique educational opportunities, are perverted into agencies for portraying crime and marital difficulties. The achievements of science are thus turned into destructive agencies against America. Social conditions, too, give cause for great alarm. Families are loosening, divorce is more frequent. Pleasure-craving fathers and mothers are unable to implant in the minds of their children that purity, loyalty, and devotion to righteousness which were the ideals of our forefathers.

WHAT IS WRONG WITH AMERICA?

Today, in America, we are emphasizing the wrong things. Twenty per cent of our income is spent for luxuries, cosmetics, jewelry, soft drinks, races, and movies. Eight per cent is spent for crime, its prevention, detection and punishment. One and one-half per cent of our national income is spent for education in grade, high, normal, and professional schools, while only three-fourths of one per cent is spent in promoting religion. The contrast between these items of the great American budget is tragic. Thus, we appease our own appetites and whims while service to God languishes.

In a recent Sunday survey, it was found that forty churches had only seven thousand people present, while forty theaters in the same city had more than forty thousand in attendance. Thus, mankind robs God of the sanctification of one day out of seven. What is the result? Many, not having their minds renewed with moral aspirations, drift into the path of sin. That is what is wrong with America.

America needs, more than anything else in this pleasure-mad, commercialized, sin-loving age, a new conviction of sin. The old-time preacher used to preach it, but let a preacher begin to preach against sin now, let him speak out against evil, let him condemn
the wrongs that abound on every hand, and many will rise and say, "We don't want it and we won't have it."

WHAT IS WRONG WITH AMERICA?

Look at our homes and you will see. Since the birth of civilization the home has been exalted as an influence for good and right. Without homes no nation can be great. When the home begins to crumble, the very foundation of our national structure begins to decay. The old-time home, with its training of children, has almost vanished. We emphasize money, wealth, and possessions until our children think these are the only things worth while. The old-time home, where the children were trained in the Bible, has almost vanished. No longer do parents think about these things. A home today where family prayers are held is a rarity. People are not living in their homes today. The old family fireside has disappeared. Home has become just a place to sleep and to change clothes.

Parents seem not to have time to teach their children morals and the sacredness of law and the rights of others. These things are undermining the very foundation of home life and that is what is wrong with America. There was a time when people read the Bible in their homes—but they don't do it now. There is an urgent need for a religious awakening. Unless Christianity finds a place in our every-day affairs, unless we combine it with citizenship, our nation is headed for ruin. Only our Heavenly Father, and the teachings of His Son, can save us from the chaos toward which we are slowly but surely moving.

The average American family, with no church affiliation, gives very little consideration to God. If there is a Bible in such a home, it lies untouched, undusted, and unread, and the occupants rush merrily on to hell.

WHAT IS WRONG WITH AMERICA?

There is little Christian influence in America today. Our literature finds but little room for the teachings of the lowly Nazarene. Our home life is concerned with everything else but Christian principles. How can these evils be remedied?

We must begin in the home to free ourselves of the moral leprosy that has fastened itself upon the nation. Of the increase of lawlessness and covetousness, and the diminishing power of religion and parental control, God's Word says this: "This know, also, that in the last days perilous times shall come; for men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, Incontinent, fierce, despisers of those
that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.” II Tim. 3:1-4.

You, fathers and mothers, hold within your grasp the power that controls these evils. The welfare of the nation rests upon the coming generation. Devote part of your time to teaching them the Bible. Restore it to its rightful place in the home and watch for the reformation that it will accomplish in the life of the nation and its people. There is no substitute for the Word of God.

Without a doubt, we have been sowing the seeds of ruin. The sins and signs of the time would indicate that the devil has been having his way. The present distress should awaken us to our need of Jesus. He is the world’s only hope. He has waited long, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. We have thought that we were on the way to prosperity and happiness, but somehow, we have missed the way. We have given pleasure and ambition a chance and found they do not satisfy. Let us turn to Christ and His word. Look to it for guidance; obey its commands; live as it instructs and God will save your soul.

Radio Sermon by Robert H. Brumback, Evangelist, Churches of Christ
3931 Harrison Street, Kansas City, Mo.

This is Number Twenty of a series. Others supplied upon request.
In a previous lesson we outlined to you the great need for a reformation upon the part of all who are seriously concerned with the interests of our country. This reformation will not be brought about, alone, by the efforts of leaders in educational realms, neither will it be brought about, alone, by the efforts of those who are religiously inclined. If this reformation is affected, it will be by the efforts of the average American citizen working through God-ordained channels, through the home and through the church.

True progress upon the part of any nation must be in every line of activity, materially, mentally, and morally. The progress of our nation along commercial lines and in the realm of education has been all that could be desired, but it is universally admitted that we are declining morally. Conditions around us reveal an increase in the tension of living, and frequent and grave outbursts of lawlessness, an increase in divorces, a weakening of a sense of personal responsibility, and a breaking down of faith in humanity. With these conditions facing us, it is apparent that we are living in a pleasure-loving age, where moral standards are low and getting lower, where it seems that everyone is intent on getting everything he can of the material things around him, with the least possible effort, and where real worth among men and women is not honored as it should be.

Serious-minded folk realize that our national morals are slipping and are urging schools to give more attention to moral training. However much emphasis is placed on moral training in the schools, it cannot take the place of moral training in the home. Paul said children are first to learn to show piety at home. Again he admonished fathers to bring their children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Are these things being portrayed in the homes of today? Not that you can notice. The spirit of the age seems to be away from the fundamental truths that are the basis of a real home life. Picture the condition of the average American home today. Fathers and mothers strive to lay up treasure that others will consume after they have gone into eternity where they have laid up nothing at all.

Paul charges us not to trust in the uncertainty of these things, but rather in the living God: “But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil, which while some coveted after, they
have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, 0, Man of God, flee these things and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.” I-Tim. 6:9, 11. Man may provide for himself and his family a comfortable home, with easy chairs, a well-filled book case, a radio, and all other comforts, but unless he has provided room for moral and spiritual guidance, for God, and His word, and for the fellowship of His Son, he has missed something vitally important. A man may succeed in his life work, attain comparative wealth, have a devoted family, and yet be groping for that without which life cannot be complete.

This picture can be duplicated over and over again and all because we have put the emphasis on the wrong things. We have called for efficiency, for great material achievements, we have bowed to the God of the world and have been content to leave the God of Heaven out of our lives. We have allowed ourselves to become involved in the great maze of factories, railroads, and skyscrapers that we have built, in the broad acres, the cattle and the crops with which we have surrounded ourselves, and have forgotten the God of love from whom we have received these things. Well has the poet said, “’Til fares the land, to—hastening ills a prey, where wealth accumulates and morals decay.”

The ideal home is not of necessity a mansion with velvet carpets on the floor and fine furniture in the rooms. It may be only a modest abode, but if fidelity and cheerfulness, hope and love are rooted there, it may truly be called a real home. Home is one of the most sacred institutions in the world and yet there are many who have never known its real meaning. Thousands of children are born in hospitals, cared for by a nurse maid, play upon the streets, grow to maturity, are married while in an office, work by day and dance by night, spend their Sundays at theaters and finally pass from view, swallowed up in the way of the world, strangers to God and Home.

Home can be made the most glorious place this side of heaven or it can become the most damnable place this side of hell. The religion of Christ must have a place in the home, it must be first. It is impossible to maintain a home life with high ideals without spiritual interests. Every home needs the counsel of God’s word. The Bible, carefully and thoughtfully read, will avert many troubles and solve many problems. How many homes there are today in which no Bible is found nor literature pertaining to God’s word, but an abundance of magazines devoted to crime and immorality. A home might just as well have a sewer emptying into it as to have the literature of the underworld pouring its filth into it each week. The American home is suffering to an unspeakable extent because of these things.

WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE HOME? Of prime importance to the home of today is the need for better parenthood. The stress of modern life handicaps the parent in this tremendous task. Chil-
dren in America are actually starving for the "bread of life," and it is sad to contemplate that so many parents do not seem to care. Two-thirds of the children of America never study the Bible. They will be the lawmakers, the administrators of our government and the citizens of the next generation. If we want to save America, we must start with our boys and girls.

Of the boys and girls who come before the juvenile courts, only three per cent of them had religious training. In other words, the gospel, which is "the power of God unto salvation," restrains ninety-seven per cent of the boys and girls who receive its teachings, from a life of sin. Fathers, mothers, what better investment can you make in the future of your boy or girl? Who is responsible that only one-third of the boys and girls of our nation receive Bible teaching? Whose responsibility is it that most of them never have a chance to be saved? Can this be charged against the infidels, the agnostics and the modernists? No! God doesn't expect them to be concerned with the moral welfare of our children. Can we place the blame for these conditions upon the children themselves? Indeed, we cannot! They are only the victims of parental unconcern and sin.

It is the proud boast of most parents that they propose to give their children a better start in life than they themselves had. I question whether that is the wise thing. Was not the discipline of the parents of the past generation more likely to develop real character? If we accomplish everything for our children, is it any wonder they fail in the development of individuality? Our children belong to God. They are to be trained in body, mind, and morals. "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6. And, again: "And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4. Many parents overlook these admonitions of the Lord, hence do not train their children as God wills. With these truths before us, we can see the importance of care and purpose in the study of the Bible. Let us begin this teaching in the home and back it up with a godly example.

A noted judge had two sons, one was godly in life, the other reckless. One day the father had a talk with the latter son. "Henry," he said, "why is it you and John are so different? You both have the same father, the same mother, and have grown up in the same home. Your brother is a good boy and never gives us any trouble, while you are giving us trouble all of the time. Why this difference?" And Henry replied, "Well, it is this way, Dad, John does what you tell him and I do what you do."

WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE HOME? Can we admire the ideals and examples modern parents present to their children? Not long ago, the welfare director of one of our midwestern cities said, "If fathers and mothers do not cease their carousing and set an example of decent living to boys and girls, God pity the country when the next generation takes hold of affairs."
WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE HOME? Parental authority must be re-established, not alone the authority of the rod, but the authority of right action. If we are to make men and women out of boys and girls, WE must set the example before them in our personal lives. There is not enough seriousness of example in the average home. Fathers and mothers play around so much that they neglect the children. In the city, bridge, dancing, and golf demand so much attention that no time is left for the children in the home. If the boys and girls of rural life have parents who think only of the pigs, pullets, and profits, they will feed upon a mental diet of wrong influences.

To lessen these things we must get back to the old-fashioned verities of life, to the home with its old-fashioned fireside teaching, with reverence for God and His word and His Church. We need today the old-time American home, with its religious atmosphere, with its love for the Bible, with its obedience for God’s commands, with its family prayers led by a spiritually-minded father and mother. Life would be cheerless and meaningless if there was not given to us a picture of another home, unruffled and unmarred by the imperfections of this life. Home and heaven are not far separated. Home is just the ground floor, heaven is the upper story. Wearied with the tasks of life, if we are obedient to God’s will, we shall some day climb the stairs to rest in the presence of God.

Where does THIS day in the journey of life find you? Are you walking the straight and narrow way that leads to the home in glory, or are you strolling in the broad and easy way that ends in black despair? Which will be your destination? Where will you spend eternity? Christ calls you by His gospel. Obey His will, enter His Church, and He will claim you as His own.

Radio Sermon by Robert H. Brumback, Evangelist, Churches of Christ
3931 Harrison Street, Kansas City, Mo.
This is Number Twenty-one of a series. Others supplied upon request.

THE
CHURCHES OF CHRIST
BROADCAST
Station WREN (1250)  ADDRESS:
Lawrence, Kansas 6847 Chestnut Ave.
Every Sunday 1:00 to 1:30 p.m. Kansas City 5, Mo.
For information about the CHURCHES OF CHRIST
What Is Wrong With the Churches?

Everyone knows that the churches of Christiandom are failing to meet present day needs. Multitudes tell us that they get nothing out of the services, that they fail to receive from the church the spiritual strength they need.

People are bewildered, they look to the church for spiritual guidance and fail to find it. They wait for a message from the teachings of the Savior of men but fail to receive it.

For this reason there are twenty-five thousand deserted churches in America. These churches died a spiritual death because they lost the message of the Master, because there was no growth, no development.

The Church in the days of the apostles existed for the purpose of making Christians, building character, teaching what Christ taught and caring for the distressed. Churches of today have become no more than amusement halls. Preachers are side-stepping the issue that confront them, lulling their listeners into false security, sugar-coating the gospel, preaching on general principles, telling their audience they would let them make the application, a thing they could not and would not do.

Preachers ought to proclaim the Christianity that Christ gave to the world, for this goody-goody preaching will not save the church from the spirit of the world that has crept into it.

We today face a crisis, never were men more apprehensive of the future than now.

Statesmen, leaders of thought and students of history see nothing ahead but ruin, for this follows when we discount and reject spiritual truths.

There is no stability anywhere and the rising tide of lawlessness reveals that we have nothing whereof to boast. Religious people are not dishonest, they desire to serve the Lord, but many of them overlook the fact that true service to God must be in accord with his word. "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God, if any man minister let him do it as of the ability which God giveth." I Peter 4:11.
WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE CHURCHES?

Less and less have they lifted their voices against sin, less and less have they pledged for reformation of life. To make a large showing they adopt the easy method of obtaining members, without regard to stability and moral character.

I read of a church in which membership was obtained by a telephone call—"Bill Blank says he would like to be a member of the church," and his name is placed on the membership list.

There was no understanding of the meaning of the church, no change of heart, no reformation of life. No wonder the churches are so like the world.

The gospel of Christ is kept in the background and a lot of pretty phrases and empty talk about love and humanity and brotherhood are handed out to a people who are literally starving for the gospel. Today, people "join" this church or that church for social, political or business reasons. Where is the expression, "join the church", found in the Bible? It is not there. The teaching of God's word is that the Lord adds you to the church by obedience to the gospel of Christ. "The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." Acts 2:47.

Fifty years ago preachers proclaimed that Christian character was necessary for church membership, but today it is no longer considered essential for fellowship. Preachers have preached that which is not the truth of the gospel and have led men to think it was the gospel which they were preaching. The failure of that invented gospel to reform, to convert and to save has been charged up to the true gospel which has been forgotten and cast aside.

Paul said, "Though we or an angel from heaven preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached, let him be accursed." Galatians 1:8.

Never was the gospel more needed, never was there a more glorious opportunity for the churches of Christendom to come back to the Bible than now. This is the day of their opportunity—but never was the religious world in general, less alive to their opportunity, than it is at present. Instead of leading the way in righteousness, churches are lagging behind and are themselves infected with sin.

Recently a bishop of one of the largest religious organizations said, "Today, religious people do much that is wrong and yet never lose their religion. Dancing, gambling and carousing is prevalent among practically all churches and the preacher does not dare to say a word against it." Truly the old adage says "where the dollar rules the pulpit the devil rules the pew."
The common conclusion seems to be that whatever the laws of the land tolerate is all right for those who profess to be Christians and that whatsoever is not forbidden in so many words is allowed. Fairs, festivals and entertainments enter into church activities. The excuse for them is that they bring out "the full membership of the church and are expedients in doing the work of the Lord."

The Lord did not establish His church to entertain, but to teach principles of truth, to save souls and encourage men and women, to live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world. To depart from the simplicity of the New Testament teaching, either in work or worship, is to open the door for every false way. Those who do these things may be honest and sincere in their desire to serve the Lord and may think they have taken the best method of doing so, but they have overlooked the fact that true service to God must be in accord with His word.

The Savior said, "God is a spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth." John 4:23.

With deep concern we view the strife and alienation among professed Christians today, caused chiefly by the doctrines and commandments of men. The Savior pointed out, "In vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men." Paul shows that God's word is sufficient as a guide, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect thoroughly furnished unto all good works." If we are guided by this teaching, we know that the remedy for these things, for religious evil, for our failures, does not lie in the formation of societies, associations, Bible colleges and things of like nature. The church of the Lord functioned without these things and conquered the world. The remedy for the neglect of the church today, lies in a RETURN to the teachings of the Lord, the guidance of the Scriptures and a whole-hearted acceptance of Jesus Christ as head over all things to the Church.

Jesus came to lead men to God by obedience to His will. If we ignore His will and are guided by creeds and opinions is it possible to be "joined together in the same mind and the same judgment."

Preachers are largely responsible for the divisions that exist in the religious world, and yet they say they advocate the union of all of God's people and are working and praying for it.

One thing alone will bring about that union—"If any man speak let him speak as the oracles of God." If all of the religious world would do this it would bring about a revision of the vocabulary of the religious world. It would eliminate such terms as "getting religion." for religion is something you do and not something you "get." To speak as God's word would eliminate the use of "Rev-
"Holy and reverend is thy name." Again we read, "My glory will I not give to another." Let all come to the teaching of God's word in this respect. The only message that can possibly meet the needs of today is to plead for a complete return to the teachings of the Lord. There are thousands of church members who are going to perdition because they have substituted religious activity for Christianity, they have become religious but not righteous, morality takes the place of spirituality and church relation takes the place of salvation.

To correct those things that are wrong with the churches, all religious organizations must return to the standard of the apostles' doctrine. Those who obeyed the gospel in the days of the apostles were added to the church. Throughout the teachings of the New Testament, the church was warned against division and exhorted to be of the same mind and judgment.

Paul taught there is but one body and shows that one body to be the church. Wherever the gospel was preached that church was produced. It is in your midst today preaching that same gospel, guided by the apostles' doctrine, wearing the same name.

The Churches of Christ plead for unity upon the basis of the teachings of the New Testament.

Upon the apostles' doctrine all religious people can unite without sacrifice of any truth or principle of truth. Are you willing to stand with us upon the Bible? Will you accept the guidance of His word? If this is your desire, be obedient to Christ's will, obey His commands and He will add you to His church. There you can labor as He bids and obtain the reward of eternal life.

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THE
CHURCHES OF CHRIST
BROADCAST

Station WREN (1250)
Lawrence, Kansas
Every Sunday 1:00 to 1:30 p.m.
For information about the CHURCHES OF CHRIST
How All Churches Could Unite

A short while before the death of Christ, He told His disciples that He would build His church and the powers of hell would not prevent it.

After He arose from the grave He told them to tarry in the city of Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on high.

On the day of Pentecost they were endued with that power, the Holy Spirit, they proclaimed the gospel and the church became an accomplished fact, being built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ as the chief cornerstone. To this foundation three thousand were added that day by obedience to the will of the Lord, for we read that He “added to the church daily such as should be saved.” From that time the church grew rapidly, soon numbering multiplied thousands. When persecution scattered the church, the gospel spread over all Palestine, then over the Roman world, bringing all into subjection to the cross of Christ, making them members of the one body, the Church established by Christ. That was the fold of which He spoke, saying, “Other sheep I have which are not of this fold, them also must I bring and they shall hear my voice, and there shall be one fold and one shepherd.” John 10:16.

How altogether different is the condition that prevails at the present time. We have about two hundred and fifty distinct denominations in the United States today.

Get this picture—two hundred and fifty separate denominations existing for the purpose of teaching the Christianity of Christ. The world is called upon to believe that all of these organizations compose the Church of Christ and that they are all preaching one Christianity. Christ said, “I am the way, the truth and the life.” Is Christianity less effective today then when first established, that we must have two hundred and fifty ways to convert men, the thing that Christ did through ONE Church?

No one is so foolish as to contend that there are two hundred and fifty different kinds of Christianity. If Christ established only one religion, who established the others?

Was Christ so weak as a teacher that we must create two hundred and fifty churches to tell what He taught in the ONE Church He Built?

To contend that these denominational differences are necessary, for the promulgation of the gospel, is just another way of contending
that we are wiser than the One who gave us one kind of Christianity taught in one church, as revealed in the one Bible. All religious people profess to be guided by the one Bible, to believe in the one God and in one Christ. Does this Bible create and perpetuate all of these religious organizations, churches or denominations that separate and divide the people of God? My religious friend, here is the thing that produces infidelity.

Any student of the Scriptures knows that the Savior prayed for the unity of his followers, saying, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word, that they all may be one." John 17:20.

Christ never authorized the divided and warring factions of the religious world. They are foreign in principle to that oneness He taught, and which the apostles emphasized.

Concerning unity Paul said, "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." I Corinthians 1:10. If God's word thus teaches unity to religious people, and unity does not prevail, it necessarily follows that someone has a teaching which is not of God's world. All churches of the religious world cannot be right, differing as they do in doctrine, practice, and worship. Thoughtful men of all religious faiths are now awake to the evils of division. They see the need for unity, but they do not know how to attain it. No informed person, professing to believe in Christ and His word, contends that division is beneficial to the cause of Christ. They know it divides their forces, squanders millions and pleases the devil. There is a way to overcome this, and that is by a return to the teachings of the New Testament.

First—Let everything we do religiously be based upon faith and not upon opinion. Faith comes to us from God's word, in it we read that Paul preached to the disciples. We believe that because it is in God's word. But the question is asked, "What was his subject?" If I say that he preached on communion and you say that he preached on baptism, we are expressing our opinions and they will divide us, because no words tell us the sermon subject.

This is the way the religious world became divided, not over what is written in the word but over opinions. All churches can unite on what is written in the New Testament for the apostles' doctrine, their teaching, kept them united in ONE body so long as they followed it. If all churches accept God's word today, the same unity will now prevail that prevailed then.

Second—If all churches are to unite, the doctrines and commandments of men, all creeds, disciplines and confessions of faith must be surrendered. No one of them could possibly form the foundation upon which all churches could unite, for one church would contend for their creed and another for their discipline and division would still prevail. But all could reject these arrangements of men and
unite on the word of God as a sufficient guide in religious matters. By it all questions could be settled, by it all teaching could be measured, for, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." 2nd Tim. 3:16, 17. Surely then, our love for the heavenly Father's word and for the souls of men, should prompt us to renounce all human creeds and adopt a standard that can be accepted by all.

Third—If all churches were to unite, what would the organization be called? It could not be called Martin's church because the creed that perpetuated it has been rejected. It could not be called Henry's church or John's church for the creeds which produced these denominations have been cast aside.

Whose teachings do they propose to follow? Christ's teaching. If the teaching of various men produced the various churches, is it not true that the teaching of Christ will produce His church? If it is His, it is called by His name. Thus all churches could unite upon the name, Church of Christ. This name is Scriptural, for the church was called this name. "The Churches of Christ salute you." Romans 16:16.

Fourth—All churches could unite if they gave up names which divide and used only the name by which Christ's people were called when the church was established. Listen to Paul, "Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am Paul, and I am of Apollos, and I of Cephas, and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you or were you baptized in the name of Paul?" 1 Corinthians 1:12, 13. These people were calling themselves by the names of men instead of the name of Christ. Let all people then, drop names which divide today, which suggest some particular act, some doctrinal practice or some certain group by which the church is governed, and as individuals accept a name through which we can glorify God. "If any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this behalf." 1 Peter 4:16.

Paul taught the Lord's people not to wear human names. You cannot create a sect or denomination and obey His teaching. Obedience to God's word will end denominations and make it possible for all churches to unite.

Fifth—All churches can accept the "one baptism" preached by the Apostle Paul. All can unite on this because it comes to us from God's word. Some may have an "opinion" that it is right to practice the sprinkling or the pouring of water upon individuals for baptism, but the Bible plainly tells us that baptism is a burial. "Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism." Romans 6:3.

Let all cease to teach that which contradicts God's word. Quit preaching there are three baptisms and accept the "one baptism" the washing of water authorized by the word. All churches admit immersion to be Scriptural. Upon it all churches could unite.
Sixth—God's word authorizes His people to worship Him. The Savior pointed out that it must be in spirit and in truth, with the right spirit and according to truth. All churches could unite on a worship such as the church had in the beginning. This would eliminate instrumental music since it is without apostolic command or example. Paul in writing to the Ephesian Church said this, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." Ephesians 5:19.

To whom is this worship rendered? To the Lord. Since this is true, let us make the melody in the way He specifies, in the heart. This is Scriptural, for thus the Church worshipped God in the apostolic age.

All churches can unite today if they will accept these things. With one God, one Christ, one Spirit, one faith, one baptism and one hope taught in the Bible, what kind of an excuse can be offered for the creeds and churches that divide the followers of Christ.

All Churches can unite if they will renounce and surrender all human arrangements and come back to the word of God. Such is the plea of the Churches of Christ. They exist in every community where people are guided alone by God's word. They are not held together by associations or conferences but are bound together in the unity of the Spirit by the word of God. Christ's Church in the beginning had no organizations of a benevolent, educational or missionary nature through which to accomplish any part of their work. Neither do the Churches of Christ need them today. We acknowledge that the state does an excellent job of educating the young people of our nation in temporal things, and in harmony with God's word, the Churches of Christ claim the right of instructing all in spiritual matters without resorting to unauthorized means.

For this reason too, the Churches of Christ have no robed choirs, no instrumental music—no formal prayers, no ritualistic worship and no titled pastors.

There was no provision in the simplicity of Christ's church for these things in the beginning, neither are they needed today. It was God's divine plan to leave them out, why should we put them in today? Here is the divine basis for the unity of all religious people. Will you meet with us upon the Bible? If this is your desire, be obedient to Christ's will, labor in His kingdom and He will save your soul.

Radio Sermon by Robert H. Brumback, Evangelist, Churches of Christ
3931 Harrison Street, Kansas City, Mo.

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ADDRESS:
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What America Needs
Today!

More and more, people are recognizing that the things to which so many turn today cannot bring satisfaction. Many turn to social functions, to pleasure resorts and amusement places to try to find something that satisfies or takes away the unrest that besets the soul and troubles the mind. When these fail to take away their unrest, some turn to the uncertainties of human philosophies, overlooking the help that is to be found in God and His Word, and in Christ and His church.

The failure of millions to recognize their spiritual need is the most alarming fact that confronts those at home today. The boys engaged in fighting this bloodiest of all wars are more dependent upon God. They readily acknowledge there are no atheists in the fox-holes on the battle fields.

It is not my purpose to draw a pessimistic picture of conditions, but only to present the facts that we may begin on the home front to correct the conditions into which we have been slowly drifting. For centuries, civilization and enlightenment have been held up as the remedy for the world’s evils, for its wretchedness and its crime. The recent backward tendencies of highly civilized nations in assuming that might makes right, have set men wondering if civilization without God can cure the world’s ills? The commandments of God form the bedrock of all moral and economic principles. No civilization has ever stood or will ever stand unless it is built on the foundation of God’s eternal truth. The breakdown in modern civilization is due, first and last, to the surrender of the ideals and warnings that have come to us through the commandments of God.

Paul gave a picture of the world’s condition at the present time when he said, “For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing and their eyes they have closed.” Acts 26:27. Men and women of this age have resented being told of their sin and warned of impending doom. Like Jehokim, of old, they have endeavored by various means to rid themselves of the warning voice. Today, in spite of these examples of national deterioration, men are still turning deaf ears to the warnings of the Bible against moral corruption, desecration of the Lord’s Day and widespread lawlessness.
We consider our nation great, but the TRUE greatness of a nation is not to be measured by its material achievements, commercial growth or even its successful wars. These are only temporal things. The lessons of God’s punishment of the nations of the past should convince us that only leadership in MORAL and SPIRITUAL things can leave behind us those things that shall endure for other generations.

We are especially exhorted against having our hopes set upon the uncertainty of riches, rather than on God who gives us all things to enjoy. America, today, needs to stop in her headlong rush, learn to curb her ceaseless commercial chatter and remember that Greece and Rome perished because they built upon pleasure, pride, and power. The need of our country today is to lift the level of character and to develop that virtue and integrity that is so needed to strengthen the moral bulwarks of our nation.

How can these things be accomplished? Only through the agencies by which God has ordained that they should be accomplished and that is through the home and through the church. Upon the sanctity of the home depends to a great extent, the strength of a nation. Sad it is that we are developing a civilization which has houses but not homes, for a home is a place where purity, peace and children dwell. The religion of Christ is to be spread through the home as well as through the church, but if the training of the younger generation is neglected, as it is today, for what purpose then does the home exist? In the so-called Christian home of today, the most important question is not, “What is the subject for Bible study,” or, “How about our lesson for Lord’s Day,” but, rather, “What shall we do,” or “Where are we going tonight?” Can it be with this indifference to His cause and this affection for the world, that we expect to become the people of the Lord, separated unto Him for good works?

What kind of a home should a Christian home be? Above all, it should be a place for the training of children in the right way. When Paul wrote to the young man Timothy, he said, “From a child thou hast known the holy scriptures which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.” II Timothy 2:15. Here is a New Testament example of the proper training of the young. Where was this Christian character developed? At the theater, at some booze joint, or pool hall? No! This character was developed in the home under the tutelage of the mother and the grandmother.

We look upon the degeneracy of this age and offer as an excuse the fact that times have changed. Yes, times have changed, we are not living as close to God as we did in days that are past, times have changed, but God has not changed, He is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and demands of Christians a portion of their time and efforts. When we consider the lawlessness of the age and measure it by the light of God’s eternal word, it is easy to determine that it
is an age dedicated to the world, to the flesh, and the devil.

And yet, some would have you believe the world is getting better. Listen to Paul: "Let no man deceive you by any means, for that day shall not come except there come a falling away first." II Thessalonians 2:3. Paul tells us the last days will be a time of wide-spread apostasy. God has punished every age of civilization which has endeavored to live without Him. Today the earth is filled with violence. Selfishness, and a disregard for the rights of others are outstanding characteristics.

America, the richest, the most powerful nation on the face of the earth, is fast becoming a godless nation. Fifty per cent of our families are unchurched; only one child of every four has an intelligent conception of the teachings of God's word. We are courting the hand of the atheist and the infidel. Let us remember that there is nothing so deadly as the absence of religion in a community or nation. "As righteousness tendeth unto life, so he that pursueth evil, pursueth it to his own death." Proverbs 11:19. Germany will lose the war because she tried to get rid of God. Discard the Bible, ignore God's holy laws, junk his teachings and what have we left? Nothing but a scaffold upon which to hang civilization.

This nation faces ruin if we forget God as those nations of the past. Here is our need, the great spiritual need of God. America needs to be reconsecrated to the religious reverence that was apparent in the early days of our republic, for no government can be wholly just which has not in some way a treaty with Almighty God. When God's people forgot Him, He gave them a remedy for their neglect: "Thus saith the Lord, stand ye in the ways and see and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein and ye shall find rest for your souls." There is the remedy, but, as a nation, we are far from the old paths which were the ideals of our forefathers. That is why we are afflicted with corrupt politics, slums, poverty, and crime waves.

If we are to improve, we must get rid of corruption, fraud and venality. The power and worship of the almighty dollar will not accomplish this. What then is the remedy? Jesus Christ is the world's only hope. He alone can rid the world of the moral corruption that has fastened itself upon civilization. His teachings, alone, can end covetousness, lawlessness, and licentiousness. His word, alone, can become the guiding influence that will purify the nation and protect the home. The foundations of national glory are rooted in the homes of the people. They remain unshaken only when the life of the nation is lived in obedience to the will of God. May God help us to get rid of the doubt that fills our hearts today and get back to His word. May we again give it the place in our national life to which it is entitled. Here is the need of our nation, today.
“So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth, it shall not return unto me void but shall accomplish that which I please and prosper in the thing whereunto I have sent it.” Isaiah 55:11. God designed that His Word should be a potent influence in the HOME, in the CHURCH, and in the NATION. If that institution, the great American home, is to endure, it must have the light of God’s word. If the church is to endure, it must be obedient to that word. If America is to endure, we must get back to the commandments of the living God. Here is the need of our nation today. We must get back to the faith or our forefathers. We must get back to the cornerstone of our freedom. We must get back to the Word of God.

Dear Friend, where do you stand today? Are you a stranger to God and His Word, to Christ and His Church? Accept Christ as your Savior, obey His commandments and thus become a member of His Church. This is your need today.

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