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"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

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No. 6

SOME THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

You should know that the church was-
First mentioned in the New Testament (Mt. 16:18; Rom. 16:16)
Built and paid for by Jesus Christ (Mt. 16:13-18; Acts 20:28)
Built on Christ as the only foundation (I Cor. 3:11)
Not built on Paul, Apollos, Cephas or any or any other man (I Cor. 1:12, 13)
Fully established on the first Pentecost after Christ arose from the dead (Lk. 24:49; Acts 1:8; Mk. 1:9; Acts 2)

You should know that Christ himself-
Loved the church (Eph. 5:25)
Bled for the church (Acts 2:28)
Established the church (Mt. 16:18)
Called the church His (Mt. 16:18)
Added people to the church (Acts 2:47)
Is the head of the church (Eph. 5:23; 4:4; 1:22, 23)
Will save the church (Eph. 5:23; 4:4; 1:22, 23)

You should know that in New Testament times there was-
One family of God (Eph. 3:15)
One kingdom of Christ (Col. 1:13, 14)
One body of Christ (Eph. 1:22, 23; 4:4)
One bride of Christ (Rom. 7:1-7; Eph. 5:22, 23)
One church of Christ (Mt. 16:18; Eph. 1:22, 23; 4:4)

You should know that in the New Testament, the church is called-
The temple of God (I Cor. 3:16)
The bride of Christ (Col. 1:24; Eph. 1:22, 23)
The kingdom of God's Son (Col. 1:13)
The house of God (I Tim. 3:15)
The church (Eph. 3:10)
The church of God (I Cor. 1:2)
The church of the firstborn (Heb. 12:23)
The church of the Lord (Acts 20:28)
The churches of Christ (Rom. 16:16)

You should know that members of the church are called -
Members (I Cor. 12:27)
Disciples (Acts 6:1)
Believers (Acts 5:14; II Cor. 6:15)
Saints (Acts 9:13; Rom. 1:7; Phil. 1:1)
Priests (I Pet. 2:9; Rev. 1:6)
Children (I Jn. 3:1, 2)
Christians (Acts 11:26; 26:28, 29; I Pet. 4:16)

You should know that permanent classes of servants in the church are-
Elders, who are bishops, overseers or pastors. Their duties are to oversee and feed the flock. (Acts 20:28; I Tim. 3:17; Tit. 1:5-9; I Pet. 5:1-4)
Deacons to serve the church (Acts 6:1-6; I Tim. 3:8-13)
Evangelists to preach God's word (Eph. 4:11; I Tim.; II Tim.; Tit.)
Teachers to teach God's word (Eph. 4:11; II Tim. 2:2; Heb. 6:11-14)

You should know that man did not-
Purpose the church (Eph. 3:10, 11)
Purchase the church (Acts 20:28)
Build the church (Mt. 16:18)
Name its people (Acts 11:26; Is. 62:2)
Add to the church (Acts 2:47)
Give the church its doctrine (II Jn. 9-11; Gal. 1:11)

You should know that the church and body of Christ are-
The same (Eph. 1:22, 23; Col. 1:18, 24)

You should know that in the church are-
Redemption (Eph. 1:7)
Forgiveness of sins (Col. 1:13, 14)
Sanctification (Eph. 5:25)
All spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:3)

You should know that in order to get into the church, you must-
Be saved, or forgiven of your sins (Acts

2:38, 47)

This takes place when-
You believe in Christ (Jn. 8:24; Acts 16:31; Heb. 11:6)
Repent of your sins (Lk. 13:3; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30)
Confess your faith in Christ (Mt. 10:32, 33; Rom. 10:10; Acts 8:37, 38)
And are baptized into Christ (Mt. 28:19; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; I Pet. 3:21; Gal. 3:26, 27)

You should know that baptism requires-
Water (Acts 10:47)
Much water (Jn. 3:23)
Going to the water (Acts 8:36; Mt. 3:5, 6)
Going into the water (Acts 8:38)
A burial (Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12)
A planting (Rom. 6:5)
A washing (Acts 22:16)
A birth (Jn. 3:5)
A raising out of the water (Col. 2:12)
A coming out of the water (Acts 8:39)

You should know that in baptism-
Sins are washed away (Acts 22:16)
You are saved from sins (I Pet. 3:21; Mk. 16:16)
You have remission of sins (Acts 2:38)
You get into Christ (Gal. 3:27)
You get into the church (Acts 2:37-47)
You put on Christ (Gal. 3:27)
You begin to walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:3-5)
You obey Christ (Acts 10:48; II Thes. 1:7, 8)

You should know that the faithful church-
Must worship in spirit and truth (Jn. 4:24)
Must meet upon the first day of the week (Acts 20:7; Heb. 10:25)
Must sing (not play) Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16)
Must pray (Acts 2:42; I Tim. 2:1, 2)
Must edify one another (I Cor. 14:15-27)
Must take the Lord's supper on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7; Heb. 10:26; I Cor. 11:20-32)
Must give of their means (I Cor. 16:1, 2; II Cor. 9:7)

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FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

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Eddy Gilpin EDITOR

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Some Things You Should Know About The Church of Christ*Continued from page 1*

You should know that the same church today-

- Is in your community
- Is not a denomination in any sense
- Is faithful to God's word
- Is ONE in fact and teaching
- Gains members by obedience to the gospel
- Has the same freedom from human power
- Has the same name for its members
- Has the same name for the church

IMPLICATION IS AS OLD AS METHUSELAH!

by Ron Gilbert

There are many today who attack the idea that the Bible teaches by implication. Some equate implication with private interpretation, which simply is not true. The question, "How does the Bible authorize?" seems to be causing many problems among Christians today. Some are trying to authorize that for which there is no authority. Still others are condemning faithful brethren who teach the truth concerning how the Bible authorizes. To illustrate this point, a book was written in 1987, entitled, The Wrath of Grapes, Drinking and the Church Divided. The author of this book set forth, "The purpose of this book is twofold: First, it presents reasons, backed by scripture, to uphold the thesis that the choice to use alcohol is allowable with the

Christian ethic..." This book attempts to justify social drinking from the scriptures, which simply can not be done. The reason for mentioning this book is to show how some feel and teach concerning how the Bible authorizes. On page 11 he states, "God gives every believer the freedom to do anything the Bible does not declare sinful." Then on page 13 he said, "Though everything not declared sinful in the scriptures is permissible or lawful, everything is not beneficial-either for the person who feels free to exercise liberty or for those who observe him exercising that prerogative..." Notice what was said. He believes that everything that the Bible does not declare sinful is permissible. It would seem that he is not alone in his thinking. Many seem eager to adopt this line of thinking when it comes to instrumental music and a host of other topics as well. This line of reasoning when carried to its end would accept anything as being right simply because there is no explicit scripture which condemns such. This idea is false. One must have authority for what is taught and practiced (Col. 3:17). An action or doctrine is not right because one can not find a scripture that says, "thou shall not." An action or doctrine is right because it is authorized in God's word. Then, it can be said to be by faith (Rom. 10:17). We are privileged and obligated to walk by faith (II Cor. 5:7). Many seem to believe that the Bible teaches by explicit statements only and not by implication. To say that the Bible teaches by implication is to say the Bible implies certain truths. The fact that the Bible teaches by implication is no new doctrine or idea. This truth, that is the Bible teaches by implication, is as old as Methuselah. It has been taught for many years by gospel preachers that the Bible teaches that Methuselah died in the year of the flood. Go back and read Genesis 1-9, you will not find it stated explicitly "Methuselah died in the year of the flood." But, does the Bible teach by implication that Methuselah died in the year of the flood? Let us go back to the book of Genesis and see!

In Genesis 5:25, Methuselah was 187 years when Lamech, his son, was born. In Genesis 5:28-29, Lamech was 182 when his son Noah was born. Therefore, Methuselah was 187 years older than his son Lamech, and Lamech was 182 years older than his son Noah. The Bible teaches then by implication that Methuselah was 187 + 182 or 369 years older than

Noah. In Genesis 7:11, the Bible says that in the 600th year of Noah's life the flood began. If the Bible teaches that Methuselah was 369 years older than Noah, and that Noah was 600 years old when the flood came, then the Bible teaches, by implication, that Methuselah was 369 + 600 or 969 years old when the flood came. Genesis 5:27, explicitly states Methuselah was 969 at his death. However, Genesis 5:25, 5:28, 29, 7:11 implicitly teach Methuselah died in the year of the flood.

Those who attack the use of implication simply do not understand how the Bible authorizes. Let those who equate implication with private interpretation and opinions argue that one can not really know that Methuselah died in the year of the flood. Implication is as old, yea older than Methuselah. The ability to reason correctly comes from God.

God has given us His word and demands that we reason correctly concerning it and warns in His word, He will punish man eternally for failing to reason correctly concerning His word.

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A man who regards reputation as worth more than character is a coward. Reputation is what the world says of us; character is what God knows us to be. Many guard well their reputations, but care little for their characters, while the former we leave behind us at death and the latter goes with us to the judgment bar of God. If one's character is right, it will not matter in the judgment day what his reputation was.

Since, then, it is not reputation, but character, that goes with us, a man who strives to build reputation, to the neglect of character, is a coward.

-J.T. Poe

A smile is a light in the window of your face that shows your heart is at home.

It is good to have money and the things money can buy, but it is good also to check up once in a while and make sure we have not lost the things that money cannot buy.

A New Testament Principle Explained By Old Testament Example

by David E. Armstrong

"...There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he should pray for it"

(I John 5:16)

A Review of I John

In I John 5:16, we find a passage of scripture that has caused no small problem among students of the Bible. It is one of the most difficult passages in the New Testament to understand. John writes through inspiration, "If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it."

John began this First Epistle by showing how we have and maintain our **fellowship with God** (1:1-10). In the second chapter he says of some, "**They went out from us...**" (2:19). And in the third chapter he describes what sin is, "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law, for sin is the transgression of the law...He that **committeth** sin, is of the Devil..." (1:4, 8). The word "committeth" in the Greek means a continuing action. So, those who **keep on committing sin** are of the Devil! Then in chapter four, John, speaking of Love, how God loves us and how we must love God and our fellowman, says, "Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world." (4:17). And then in chapter five we are commanded by God not to pray for brethren who sin unto death.

The Old Testament Is Our Example I Cor. 10:6

The Book of Jeremiah

Jeremiah is known as "the weeping prophet." He shed many tears over the sins of his people and that he prayed for them often we do not question. Jeremiah also teaches us that just being "religious" and "going to worship service" does not put one in "fellowship" with God. "Stand ye in the gates of the Lord's house, and proclaim these words of the Lord, all ye of Judea, that enter in at these gates to **worship the Lord**. Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, **amend your ways and your doings**, and I will cause you to dwell in this place." (Jer. 7:2, 3).

Judah, As Israel, Had Forsaken God Jer. 1:16

Recall that John began his epistle by showing how we enjoy fellowship with God. Then, in chapter two he declared that some had departed from this fellowship! Here, Jeremiah is told by God, "And I will utter my judgments against them touching all their wickedness, **who have forsaken me**, and have burned incense unto other gods, and worshipped the works of their own hands." (Jer. 1:16). In essence they had forsaken their fellowship with God. Let us observe how God directs Jeremiah to deal with these rebellious "brethren" and see through Jeremiah the principle carried over into I John 5:16. Principles, like God, never change. They are as true today as when they were first set forth. So let us go to the Old Testament, and see how God dealt with His people in this manner under the Old law.

God Called For Their Return To The Old Paths Jer. 6:16, 17

"Thus saith the Lord, stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, wherein is the good way, and walk therein...But they said, **we will not walk therein**. Also I set watchmen over you, saying, 'Hearken to the sound of the trumpet.' But they said, **'We will not hearken'**." God would have those who have forsaken the fellowship they once had with God to return. And He expects His "Watchmen" to sound the **WARNING** (See Gal. 6:1). Yes, I have an obligation to my erring brethren to call for them to "...Hearken to the sound of the trumpet..."

They Trusted In Lying Words That Could Not Profit (Jer. 7:8-10)

"Behold, ye in lying words, that cannot profit. Will ye steal, murder, commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not; and come and stand before me in this house, which is called by name, and say, 'We are delivered to do all these abominations?'" These are those who declared, "...We will not walk therein...We will not hearken." But observe, friends, **they were still going to "worship" in God's temple!** Let us all take this to heart and examine whether we be in the faith of not (2 Cor. 13:5).

Jeremiah Told Not To Pray For Them Jer. 7:16

"Therefore, pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor **prayer for**

them..." Why would God command His prophet Jeremiah, the "Weeping Prophet", who had shed many tears over Judah's sins, "**...NEITHER LIFT UP CRY NOR PRAYER FOR THEM...?**" The very people God loved, redeemed and had fellowship with, He now commands His faithful not even to pray for them. Why? "...Neither make intercession to me, **for I will not hear them.**" (v.16b). Here God says He will not hear "**thee**" Jeremiah. Listen again to the beloved John, "...There is a sin unto death, I say not that he should pray for it."

Judah Was Turned Back To Their Fathers' Iniquities Jer. 11:10

"They are turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers, which **refused to hear my words...**" John writes, "They went out from us..." (I John 2:19). Again God declares to Jeremiah, "Therefore, **pray not thou for this people...** for I will not hear them in the time that they cry unto me for their trouble." (Jer. 11:14). There is a time when God will not even hear those who would call upon Him for help. Those who do not seek to walk in God's ways have no right to seek His blessings.

Not To Pray For Them For Their Good Jer. 14:11

"Then said the Lord unto me, Pray not for them for their good." God says there is a time when our refusal to pray for those who have forsaken God might be for their good! Where are the wise men among us who will learn this lesson?

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*If you your lips would keep from slips
Five things observe with care:
Of whom you speak, to whom you speak,
And how and when and where.
If you your ears would save from jeers,
These things keep kindly hid:
Myself and I, and mine and my,
And how I do and did.*

*To know the purpose of your work
adds force to your efforts.*

*Most of the stumbling blocks people
complain about are under their hats.*

*You probably would not worry about
what people think of you if you knew how
seldom they really do.*

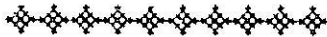
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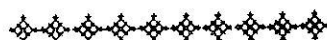
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Are All The Children In?

*I think oftimes as the night draws nigh
 Of an old house on the hill,
 Of a yard all wide and blossom-starred
 Where the children played at will.
 And when the night at last came down,
 Hushing the merry din,
 Mother would look around and ask,
 "Are all the children in?"
 'Tis many and many a year since then,
 And the old house on the hill
 No longer echoes to childish feet,
 And the yard is still, so still.
 But I see it all as the shadows creep,
 And though many the years have been,
 Even now, I can hear my mother ask,
 "Are all the children in?"
 I wonder if, when the shadows fall
 On the last short, earthly day,
 When we say goodbye to the world
 outside,
 All tired with our childish play,
 When we step out into that Other Land
 Where mother so long has been,
 Will we hear her ask, as we did of old,
 "Are all the children in?"*

-Author Unknown



THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

1. The Bible is its only guide (Romans 1:16; I Thess. 2:13).
2. Wears a Biblical Name (Romans 16:16).
3. Established at the right place (Isaiah 2:2,3; Acts 2).
4. Established at the right time (Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2).
5. Established on the right person (Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:36).
6. Saved are in it (Ephesians 5:23; Acts 2:47).
7. Its members are enrolled in heaven (Hebrews 12:23).
8. Membership in it is obtained by obedience to God's commands including baptism (Acts 2:41-47; I Corinthians 12:13).

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

1. Hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17; Acts 16:32).
2. Believing what is taught (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6).
3. Repentance (Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30).
4. Confession (Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 8:37).
5. Baptism (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; I Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3, 4).
6. After the above five steps, faithful Christian Living (I Peter 2:11, 12; Revelations 2:10).

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