

5 Things the Church of Christ Will Never Do

The church of Christ wants to be a people who carefully follow God's Book for we know that only in that way can we honor the Lord and be pleasing in His sight (Revelation 22:14). With that in mind, there are some things that Christ's true church will never do.

1. The church of Christ will never tell you that man's way is as good as God's way. God's way is always best, every time! His wisdom is far greater than man's (1 Corinthians 1:25).
2. The church of Christ will never tell you that God accepts every kind of worship, so it does not matter how one worships. Jesus said that we must worship the Father in Spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24). Several Old Testament examples remind us that some worship does not please Jehovah (for instance, Cain's worship, Genesis 4; see also Leviticus 10).
3. The church of Christ will never tell you that since God is loving, we all have the right to live any way that we want. God is love (1 John 4:8), but the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). God is gracious, but He still expects us to practice self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).
4. The church of Christ will never make light of trying to do exactly what God tells us to do in the Bible. The Lord wants us to obey Him (Luke 6:46). Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15).
5. The church of Christ will never tell you that the way to receive the forgiveness of sins is to pray "The Sinner's Prayer." This is true because the Bible does not give this as the way of salvation. The book of Acts records the history and doctrine of the early church, and contains pattern cases of conversion. It records the conversions of thousands of people, yet no one was ever told to pray to get into the Christ. Instead, they heard, believed, and obeyed the gospel (Acts 2:38-18:8, etc.) That is what we intend to tell the people of our generation as well.



by Roger Campbell, Malaysia, from *House to House*

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This Sunday we'll continue with our series, "Now and Later" and talk about Heaven. I'm working on another series in the near future, "I'm Glad I'm a Christian". You can probably get the gist of the series from the title, but it will be something that I intend to not only be encouraging to all of us, but something you can invite your friends and family to, as well.



Park Linscomb, our minister

This Sunday evening at the building we'll enjoy our usual devotional and Bible study time. We'll be in 1 Thessalonians 5, if you'd like to read ahead and be thinking of questions and comments ahead of time. If you don't have a regular place to go for a spiritual uplift on Sunday evening, come to the church building at 6PM. We have a great time of building faith and fellowship.

Our Family

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."
1 Thessalonians 5:11 NIV

TEENS

Snow Tubing @ McIntyre -- Sat. Jan. 14. Meet at the church building at 2:30 pm. Wear warm clothes and plan to return about 6 pm. Parents must sign a waiver form. You can pick this up from the youth board. Cost: \$19.

Youth Rally Planning Meeting -- This Sun, Jan 15, we will have a brief meeting in the front of the auditorium after 1st service for anyone interested in volunteering for the youth rally.

Feast-Famine -- Fast from noon on Sat. to noon on Sunday while using the time for meals to meditate on the Scriptures (a list can be found in the lobby). This Sun. Jan. 15, we will have a "Break-Fast" meal, learn about hunger in Manchester, and the local pantry ministry. We will also kick off the Connexion Groups on this day.

FUSE -- Fri., Jan. 20. More info to come.

Monarchs Hockey Game -- Fri. Jan. 27. Meet at the church building at 6 pm. Let Preston know by Jan. 15 if you can go so we can order at the group rate. Cost: \$14 (\$11 for 12 and under).

Conway Youth Rally -- Feb. 24-26. Registration forms are on the youth board.

NOTE FROM THE ELDER'S

Are you growing spiritually or are you stuck? Read Psalm 32 and know that God wants you to experience the incredible joy of being completely forgiven of every sin! If you want to talk about where you are at in your walk, please see any one of us.



We will start using our paperless hymnal this Sunday!

If you need a copy of your contributions for taxes, Please let Tony Casella know.

Dick Potter got out of the hospital yesterday.

Susie Peacock is staying with her folks to help out until January 18th.

Congratulations to Lindsay Allen on graduating from UNH Manchester in Communications & Business.

Congratulations to Serena (Scarlett) Briarthorne on the birth of Alexander Orion Scarlett on Dec 30.

Darlene Chamberlain has started her virtual walk from Oregon to Alaska. (She is doing this by walking at work.) She plans to make it to Anchorage Alaska by 01/01/13

Did you know that there are handouts for kids in the foyer by the bulletins? Crayons and coloring books are also available on the foyer shelves to the left of the window.

New phone (cell) for Deniza Chase 603-591-3175

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



January 15 New Adult Sunday school classes start. "Christian Evidences" in the auditorium taught by Gerry Millette.
The Ladies class will resume downstairs.

January 15 Elder & Deacons Meeting 3:30

January 15 Third Sunday Potluck 5pm Devo led by the Merrimack small group

January 21 Singing Small Group at the Evans' 6pm dinner (rsvp) 7pm singing

February 19 Deacons annual status presentations

OPPORTUNITIES to SERVE

Visit those sick or shut in.

Cook for a Wednesday night supper.

The Pantry is in need of YOUR help. We get a lot of requests this time of year so please bring donations of food (Place in boxes under coat rack.) Cash donations can be given to the Skerrys.



January 18
Meal begins at 5:45
Pasta & Meat sauce
Salad, Bread
Dessert

The End of the World as We Know It

At the beginning of Sunday's sermon I mentioned that I had decided to skip the topic of the end of the world, even though it is a part of the study of the "end", and instead address it in the bulletin. I think it will be a better medium for this relatively short, but important, study.

As we've studied, no one knows when the end will really occur. Despite the hype about the end of the world as predicted by the Mayan calendar (and now I hear, it is claimed, was also predicted by Nostradamus), their prophecies will prove false — Matthew 24:36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone." But as scary a thought as the end of the world may be, there are actually some who actually "anxiously long" for it.

*"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For **the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.** And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body." Romans 8:18-23, NASB*

The world that fell into death and corruption at the fall of man has been anxiously awaiting the day when the curse would be reversed — the end of the world as we know it, the day of "our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body", also known as the resurrection! Along with the change of our mortal bodies (1 Corinthians 15:52 "...and we **will be changed.**") even the world around us will be changed:

*"THEY WILL PERISH, BUT YOU REMAIN; AND THEY ALL WILL BECOME OLD LIKE A GARMENT, AND LIKE A MANTLE YOU WILL ROLL THEM UP; **LIKE A GARMENT THEY WILL ALSO BE CHANGED.** BUT YOU ARE THE SAME, AND YOUR YEARS WILL NOT COME TO AN END."* Hebrews 1:11, 12, NASB

This change involves, much like our own death, a destruction of what we know, like these sample passages tell us...

- Revelation 21:1 "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for **the first heaven and the first earth passed away**, and there is no longer any sea."
- 2 Peter 3:7 "But by His word **the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire**, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men."
- 2 Peter 3:12 "looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the **heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!**"

Of course, some religious groups believe that the present heaven and earth will remain. They will cite Psalm 78:69, Psalm 105:5, and Ecclesiastes 1:4, which use the Hebrew word "olam", usually translated "eternal". But "olam" doesn't always mean eternal. Sometimes it means something like "continual" — as in Aaron's priesthood being "olam", or the Passover to be celebrated "olam". And since we are told in the New Testament that the heavens and earth will pass away, we can know how "olam" in Psalm 78:69, Psalm 105:5, and Ecclesiastes 1:4 should be understood.

But the destroyed heavens and earth will be replaced by a new heaven and a new earth: Revelation 21:1 "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea." There are two words for "new" in Greek. One means new in time (not old), and the other means new in kind (not the same). The new heavens and the new earth will be a new kind of heavens and earth — like our resurrection bodies. Indeed our new kind of bodies will need a new kind of place to be. The old heavens and earth must flee from the presence of God (Rev. 20:11) like our physical bodies die in the full glory of God (Exo. 33:20). But the new heavens and earth, like our resurrection bodies can withstand the full glory of God.

Bottom line: we will not inherit this earth — no matter how much material the Jehovah's Witnesses leave on your doorstep! More importantly, nothing here, not your dearest possession, will last. So let us "...look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal." (2 Corinthians 4:18, NASB)

THE MANCHESTER CHURCH OF CHRIST "WE ARE HERE & WE CARE" JANUARY II, 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8 Happy Anniversary Walter & Marcia Franklin	9 Monday Night for the Master 6pm dinner	10	11	12 Happy Birthday Penny Ranger Barbara Steffensen	13 Happy Birthday Priscilla Jones	14
15 Third Sunday Potluck 5pm Devo led by Merrimack small group Elders & Deacons meeting 3:30 New adult Sunday School classes start Happy Birthday to Nicole Mosier & Tom Allen Happy Anniversary Heidi Huddleston & Greg DePerry	16	17	18	19 Happy Birthday Susie Peacock	20 Happy Birthday Colby Chaffin Happy Anniversary Doug & Linda Paul	21 Singing Small Group at Evans 6pm dinner rsvp 7pm singing Happy Birthday Aaron Abood
22	23 Happy Birthday Emilee Kerrins	24	25	26 Happy Birthday Jacob Devoe	27 Happy Birthday Dayne Dumas	28
29	30	31 Happy Birthday Linda Linscomb	1	2 Happy Birthday Mike Mosier	3 Happy Birthday Krystal Roukey	4

8:30	WORSHIP LEADERS	11:00	Stats Sunday morning attendance:.....120 Sunday morning contribution.\$3056.75 Weekly budget.....\$3710.00 Pantry served 2 families this week.
Doug Paul	Songs	Rick Gordon	
Doug Paul	Closing Prayer	David Skerry	
James Cryan	Scripture	Peter Steffensen	
Fred Hillhouse	Lord's supper	Gary Diaz	
Doug Paul	Coordinator	Ken Simon	
Eve: 3rd Sunday	Songs	Wed 18: Stuart Peacock	

The Manchester church of Christ

603.623.5559 mht_church@comcast.net

Elders' Link: January

Lee Davis 547-8876 leeadavis73@comcast.net

Larry Glass 887-1741 larrycalling@yahoo.com

If you have any concerns that the elders should be aware of, or need to speak with them, please contact Larry or Lee this month.

Deacons

Finance: Tony Casella

Small Groups: Stuart Peacock

Education: Doug Paul

Maintenance: Peter Steffensen

Our Worship Services

Sunday AM: 8:30 & 11:00

Bible Class: 10:00

Sunday PM: 6:00

Small Groups:

West Side: 5PM at Doug Paul's house

Merrimack: 5:30PM, contact Stuart Peacock

Wednesday PM Devotional/Bible Classes: 7:00

Contact David Skerry with Benevolence/Pantry needs.