Your Bible

Friend, have you picked up your Bible lately and read it? It will benefit you greatly if you do. Have you thought about the great things your Bible can do for you if you will just read it and apply it?

Your Bible is not the word of men, full of myths and legends. Your Bible is the very word of God. It is complete, understandable, and without error.

So, what can your Bible do for you? Your Bible can be your teacher (Acts 17:2) and builder (Acts 20:32), your comfort (Romans 15:4), admonition (1 Corinthians 10:11), and learning (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Your Bible can be your defense against the Devil (Ephesians 6;17) and your pattern of living (2 Timothy 1:13). Your Bible can give you discernment (Hebrews 4:12-13) and exhortation (Hebrews 13:22).

Your Bible can bring you salvation (James 1:21), victory over the Devil (1 John 2;14), and the assurance of eternal life (1 John 5:13).

Many people today neglect, refuse, or misuse their Bible. But, if you will love God's word, respect it, read it, study it, and apply it, your Bible will bless you (Hebrews 6:5). Your Bible will take you all the way to heaven if you will let it! Let your Bible help you today. - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- Some people obviously never think of religion until they come in sight of a cemetery.
- If you would lift others up, you must first be on higher ground.
- Some people worry more about where they will spend their vacation than where they will spend their eternity.
- The most powerful person is the one who has himself in his own power.

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Assembly Times Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm Wednesday: 7 pm

> Everyone Is Welcome! For More Information Call (931) 647-1324

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. - 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 - Previously, I answered the question, "Who are the Christians that make up the Warfield Blvd. church of Christ?" I examined how that we are four things with respect to the people of this world. We are a Christ-centered people, a peculiar people, a called-out people, and a Biblebelieving people.

In this week's article, I want to answer the question, "Who are we with respect to other religions and churches?" We are many things that make us different from other churches in the area. We are not purposely trying to be different just for the sake of being different, but our desire to follow the truth of God's word in the Bible makes us different. We are trying to be just like the "churches of Christ" found in the New Testament (Romans 16:16). So, who are we?

We are **Eternally Purposed in Ex**istence (Ephesians 3:10-11). The church belonging to Christ that Jesus built (Matthew 16:18), existed always in God's mind: in purpose, in promise, in prophecy, in preparation, and in perfection. Manmade churches that were purposed long after Jesus built his church cannot make this claim.

We are **First-Century in Establishment** (Mark 9:1; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4). The Lord's kingdom (or church) was established, Acts 2, on the day of Pentecost in A.D. 33. Prior to Pentecost, the Lord's kingdom was promised (Isaiah 2:1-4; Matthew 3:1-2) and after Pentecost, it was in existence (Acts 2:47; Colossians 1:13; Revelation 1:9). Man-made churches established long after Pentecost in A.D. 33 cannot make this claim.

We are **God-Centered in Worship** (John 4:24). Read John 4:24 and know that we desire the right action ("worship"), the right object ("him," God), the right manner ("must worship"), the right attitude ("in spirit"), and the right authority ("in truth"). We sing without instruments (Ephesians 5:19), take the Lord's supper every Sunday (Ac.20:7), give a free-will offering every Sunday (I Cor.16:1-2), pray, and study God's word (Ac.2:42). Manmade churches today who add to or take from this worship cannot make this claim.

We are **Evangelistic in Mission** (Luke19:10). Like Jesus Christ, we want to seek and save the lost with the saving gospel (Romans 1:16). We focus on saving the lost and edifying the saved with the truth of God's word (I Timothy 3:15). Man-made churches that spend a lot of time and money on fun and food and on social and recreational activities cannot make this claim.

We are **Non-Denominational in Character**. What is a church denomination? First, it is something larger than a "local church" (1 Corinthians 1:2) and smaller than the "universal church" (Ephesians 1:22-23). Second, it is divided from other churches. (Think of "denominations" of money: \$1, \$5, \$10, etc.) Third, it is something with a human designation not found in the scriptures like Lutheran, Methodist, Catholic, Mennonite, Greek Orthodox, etc. The New Testament church was neither Catholic (A.D. 606 onward), Protestant (A.D. 1500 onward), or Jewish (1500 B.C. onward). The New Testament church was not Muslim, Hindu, or Buddhist. The New Testament church was made up of "Christians" in name only (Acts 11:26). Man-made churches cannot claim to be non-denominational.

We are **Simple in Terms of Entrance**. What simple steps did people take on the day of Pentecost to become Christians and members of the Lord's church? They heard the gospel (Acts 2:14-36), believed it (Acts 2:37), repented of their sins, were baptized for the remission of their sins (Acts 2:38-41), and they confessed Jesus as Lord and Christ (Acts 2:32,36,41 with Romans 10:9-10). What did the Lord do? He added them to his church (Ac.2:47). Man-made churches today who add to and take from these five simple steps cannot make this claim.

We are **Necessary in Salvation** (Ephesians 5:23). All spiritual blessings are "in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3). To be in Christ, is to be in his body (Galatians 3:27; I Corinthians 12:13). To be in Christ's body, is to be in his church (Ephesians 1:22 -23; Colossians 1:18,24), the body of saved (Ephesians 5:23). Therefore to receive spiritual blessings and salvation, we must be in Christ, his body, his church.

Why not come be with a group of Christians who are different? - Chris Reeves