

The Tanner St Church of Christ meets each Lord's Day beginning with Bible classes at **9:30 AM**. We continue with our worship at **10:20 AM** and again at **5:00 PM**. We also meet each Wednesday evening at **7:00 PM** for Bible study and worship. Our meeting place is located about ¾ of a mile from I30 at 1512 Tanner St in Malvern, AR.

If you have questions about what we believe and teach, please visit our website, **TannerSt.com** to listen to sermons or read past articles from our bulletin. Or you can contact us and we will be glad to find a convenient time to study with you.

Phone: (501) 332-8806 Email: preacher@tannerst.com

Consider: Philippians 4:4-7

Needed News

Brenda Keisler will be getting the nerves in her neck deadened this week. This should help with her neck pain. **Phyllis Jackson** is still suffering with knee problems. **Adene Gray** has not been feeling well for the past week, but is doing a little better this weekend. **Paula Laubach** went to the ER last Monday because her throat had swollen. She is doing better also.

Chris Wright will have surgery at St. Vincent's in Little Rock on January 15th to get rid of kidney stones that have caused him problems for a long while.

Do you read this bulletin? Do you find the articles and news about our local brethren are a help to you? Are there particular topics you would like to have covered in this bulletin? What about topics of study for sermons in our assemblies? What changes could be made that would help you grow in your service for the Lord? Are you interested in studying a particular topic in your home or in a special class? Would you like pointers to other resources that can help you better understand what God expects of His People?

Seeking His Righteousness

"...seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.." Matthew 6:33

January 2016

Volume 5 Number 01

Is Your Religion In The Bible?

Jerry L. Henderson

The Bible, the Word of God, is the source of true religion. It sets forth God's will thoroughly, completely and perfectly. The apostle Paul said in **2Timothy 3:16-17** *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.* And in **2Peter 1:3** Peter records these words: *According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.* These two passages make it very clear that everything we need to be acceptable to God is found in the inspired Scriptures, the word of God, the Bible. The logical conclusion from this fact is that the religious faith and practice based upon what the Bible actually says, is the only one that is unquestionably right in the sight of God.

The important question, then, is whether your religion is really in the Bible. Is it? This is not to ask whether your religion contains some Bible principles, most religions do contain some Bible principles. Neither is the question whether or not in your religion you practice some truth, because most religions do practice some truth. Here is the question we are asking and one you need to answer: "Is your religion from its center to its circumference and in its entirety, actually found in the Bible?"

Are you willing to subject your faith and practice to a Bible test in order to be sure they are actually found

therein? I believe I can give Bible authority for every thing I teach and practice religiously, can you? Where does the Bible tell you how to become a member of the church of which you are presently a member? If you are a Baptist, where does the Bible tell you how to become a Baptist? If you are a Methodist, where does the Bible tell you how to become a Methodist? Does the Bible ever tell anyone to be a Catholic, Pentecostal, Lutheran, Presbyterian or anything else other than a Christian? We are not being "self-righteous", because Jesus condemned that kind of attitude in the Pharisees; nor are we just picking on various religious denominations. We simply want you to examine, by the word of God, what you are and what you practice religiously. We even hear people who are asked what they are religiously, say: "oh, I'm a church of Christ." The Bible nowhere tells anyone to become a church of Christ. In fact, an individual cannot "be" a church of Christ, because the church, (the body of Christ **Colossians 1:18**), is not one member but many according to what Paul said in **1Corinthians 12:14**. Therefore, one person cannot be a church. The word that is translated "church" is also translated "assembly". In fact, the Greek word that is translated "church" means a "called out assembly" and obviously one person cannot be an assembly. As Paul said, it takes more than one member to be a church. One person, if they have fulfilled God's requirements, is a "member" of the Lord's church and no other.

Yes, the Bible tells an individual how to become a member of the Lord's church, (the one which He died to purchase and build **Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28**), **Acts 2:37-41** and that if one is not a member of that church for which Jesus died they cannot be saved, because all the saved are added to the church **Acts 2:47** and Jesus is the Savior of the body **Ephesians 5:23** But nowhere does the Bible tell anyone how to be anything except a Christian, the name by which the

disciples were called **Acts 11:26** Agrippa was not almost persuaded to be called by some man made name, but he was almost persuaded to be a Christian, **Acts 26:28**.

Well, you say, "I am a Christian." Then if you are a Christian, you should be able to explain from the Scriptures what you did to become a Christian. Also, if you are a Christian, why do you call yourself by some man made name? If you are a Christian you should be able to give Bible authority, that is book chapter and verse, for everything you practice in religion. Remember Jesus said in **John 8:31** *"If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed:"* This phrase implies that there are some who are not "indeed" that is, in fact, or in reality, His disciples, even though they claim to be. Why not just obey the simple plan of salvation revealed in the New Testament and the Lord will add you to His church (**Acts 2:47**). Then you will continue to learn and practice that which the Scriptures teach and that only. **2Peter 3:8** says: *"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever."* You will be a member of the Lord's church, the church which belongs to Christ (the church which is OF Christ, hence the church of Christ) and not some human denomination.

We want each individual to honestly face this fundamental question. If the Bible is the truth, the word of God, (which we believe it to be) then an individual must be able to prove his religious practices by the Bible, or else his religion is vain. (**Matthew 15:9**) All Christians (that is, those who are "disciples indeed") will continually be examining themselves, their doctrine and practice by the Bible the word of God. Paul, in **2Corinthians 13:5** says: *"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. ..."* Are you willing to examine yourself in the light of God's word?