

The Church of the Bible

By Kevin Cauley

The Bible speaks of only one church. Jesus said in [Matthew 16:18](#), "Upon this rock, I will build my church." The first congregation of that church was established in Jerusalem in 30 A.D. Persecution came upon that congregation ([Acts 8:1](#)) and new congregations sprang up all over Palestine. After the gospel was given to the Gentiles ([Acts 10](#)), congregations started appearing in cities all over the world including Ephesus, Philippi, Rome, Corinth, and Athens to name a few. There were many local congregations, yet there was still one body, one church ([Ephesians 1:22, 23](#); 4:4). How could this be? We read the secret in [Acts 2:42](#), "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' teaching."

Today there are MANY churches. Can all be the ONE church of the Bible? Of course not; if all the churches that exist today were the ONE church of the Bible, then God would be the author of confusion, which He is not ([1 Corinthians 14:33](#))! So how can a person KNOW the ONE church of the Bible? Easy, simply compare that "church" to the apostles' teaching, which is found only in the Bible.

Perhaps an example is in order. You will never find in the church of the Bible a pyramid organization reporting to an earthly head. If you see a church today that is organized in a pyramid with local churches reporting to a regional headquarters; and regional headquarters reporting to a national headquarters; and a national headquarters reporting to world headquarters with an earthly head; that is NOT the church of the Bible. You will never find a pyramid organization in the Bible. Each and every local congregation in the New Testament was self-governed (they reported to no other earthly organization); all of them together had one and only one SPIRITUAL head—Jesus Christ ([Ephesians 5:23](#))!

Why would a church do something different from what is in the Bible? Simply put, THAT church wants to continue in MAN'S teachings and NOT God's teachings. Those "churches" may as well put a sign in front of their building that says, "The Church of Man." The sign in front of our building says, "The Church of Christ" ([Romans 16:16](#)). We want to belong to Christ. We want to continue in the apostles' teaching—the Bible teaching. What church do you want to belong to, God's or man's?

Edifier

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Attending church services regularly is like making a path through the forest: the more often you use it, the less obstruction you find in the way."

Sunday Worship:

Will Vann, Preacher

9:30 am Bible Study

863-899-0987

10:20 am Worship

Email: wvann@yahoo.com

12:30 pm Afternoon

www.evanchurchofchrist.org

Wednesday Night

7:pm

A Mirror For The Soul

A mirror is probably one of the most honest things there is. It doesn't lie. Every time one looks into a mirror there is an accurate reflection of exactly what we are. About the only way to make a mirror lie is to distort it. Even then, the reflection is not flattering.

James says looking into the Bible one can see self in his natural face. This means bare bones, nothing doctored up. An actor can be made up to appear very different than natural, but that becomes hypocrisy. The word hypocrite is an old word for an actor, one who pretends to be someone else. The Bible rips away the veneer of pretense and lays bare what we are in God's view.

The Mirror of the Soul reveals the origin of the soul (Genesis 2:7). It equally tells us the great value of the soul (Matthew 16:26). The mirror God gives us also shows us our personal defects and shortcomings (Galatians 5:19-21; 2 Timothy 3:1-5). Most important of all it shows us the eternal destiny of the soul (Matthew 25:46).

The mirrors we use sometimes get smudged and dirty. Good house-keepers will clean them with diligence. A dirty mirror tends to blur our vision of what we actually look like. When clean, a better and accurate image is reflected. The word of God is ever clean and pure (Psalm 12:6). It never fails to show us what the Lord thinks of us.

James pictures one who, after seeing self in God's mirror, instantly walks away and forgets what was seen. The tenses show that one takes a look (once) then instantly ignores it, and continues to avoid the mirror. The only one blessed is the honest person who sees self as God sees him, makes whatever corrections are needed, and does what God would have him do. Take a good look at yourself in the Bible. What do you see? What does God see?

"For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer; he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does" (James 1:23-25).

*via Findlay church of Christ
Bulletindigest.com*

Those to Serve

(B) Keith Stifflemire (FV) Calvin Burks

(O) Doug Pruett (A) Kyle Stifflemire

1st prayer Judd Wall

2nd prayer Vernon Houts

Announcements: Jack Wall

Singing: Mike Mallett

Prayer List:

Naomi Wall

Letha Sheldon

Mildred Lovell

Janese Lancaster

Ruby Jones

Loyd Crownover

Pray for our Nation

Our Troops

Law Enforcement

Rescue Personal

Dates to Remember

May 7th

Mission Fund

May 14th

Mother's Day

May 29th

Memorial Day



Jana Wall May 18th

Cassidy Stapp June 2nd

Loyd Crownover June 5th

Jeret Burks June 7th

Naomi Wall June 23rd

- **There is a sign up sheet on the back wall for those that are interested in doing card and preparing the Lords Supper.**
- **Also please don't forget to sign the cards on the back table.**

A Word of Advice

An old evangelist was telling another man how he might improve his lifestyle. "You know," answered the wayward fellow, "I've been aiming to do that." "Well," said the preacher, "quit aiming and start shooting." The Bible says, "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness" (1 John 3:4). This literally means to miss the mark. Honestly now, are you hitting the mark of righteousness? The life you are living today, how close are you to what God desires? Good intentions are good but no matter how good the intention is it will never replace the act itself. Good intentions will not get us to heaven! Read Matthew 7:21.

*Matt Richardson
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