

THE UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS MESSENGER

April 12, 2009

Adam's Response To A Baptist Pastor--5

Question- *“Why does the ‘Church of Christ’ insist that **their name** is scriptural when it **cannot be found anywhere in the Bible?** The church is referred to as the ‘Church of God’ eight (8) times in the Bible, but **never** is it called the ‘Church of Christ.’ The verse they use is Romans 16:16, but it doesn’t say ‘Church of Christ.’ Where does **the Bible** call the church the Church of Christ?”*

The verse to which Mr. Martin refers, Romans 16:16, says, **“Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.”** Honestly, I’m not sure if Mr. Martin is serious about this question or not. Yet there are those who have wondered the same thing so we will take a moment to answer it. “Churches of Christ” is the plural form of “Church of Christ”, just as “Christians” is the plural form of “Christian.” Thus “Church of Christ” is quite obviously a scriptural designation for the Lord’s church.

Is this the *only* scriptural designation for the Lord’s church? Certainly not. Mr. Martin pointed out the designation “Church of God.” He also could have mentioned the “church of the firstborn” (Hebrews 12:23) and a few others. Perhaps Mr. Martin has come in contact with one of those members of the Lord’s church who claim “Church of Christ” is the *only* scriptural designation for the church. These folks, and you do come across them on occasion, are just plain wrong and cannot in any way uphold such a claim from Scripture.

Now, having shown “Church of Christ” *is* a scriptural designation for the church, why would the church bear that name in the first place? The Bible sets forth many reasons, but we will simply mention two. First, the church *belongs* to Christ. It is *His* church as is so clearly seen by His referring to it as **“my church”** in Matthew 16:18. Second, it is designated as the “Church of Christ” because He is the Head over all things having to do with it. In Ephesians 1:22-23 we read, **“And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.”** The church that our Lord purchased with His own blood is *not* a denomination. Because of this it does not have earthly headquarters as many denominations do, including many sects of the Baptist denomination. In a very real sense, one could say that the Lord’s church has its headquarters in heaven with the Lord Himself.

Why do you suppose that the “Baptist Church” would style themselves after that monicker? Various Baptists have reasoned that because John the Baptist baptized many of Jesus’ disciples, and even Jesus Himself, they were all made Baptists. If that was the case they were made Baptists long before there ever existed the Baptist denomination, and before Jesus ever built His church. The fact is, every time the term “Baptist” is used it *always* refers to John and no one else. It was clearly not used the way that Baptists use it today to refer to their denomination and its members. The truth of the

matter is that the followers of Christ were *never* called Baptists, and the followers of John were *never* called Baptists. The term “Baptist” does not in any way exalt Christ. If John did not establish the church and the church does not belong to John, why would anyone want to call the church by his name?

Though it has never been argued to me directly, I have been told that some Baptists claim that name because they practice baptism. If such is the case, it doesn’t make any more sense to name a church after one of its practices than to name it after John the Baptist.

Having said all of this, if a group’s teaching and practices are different from those found within the pages of Scripture, I suppose that it doesn’t really matter what they call themselves, does it? After all, if someone refuse to practice and teach what the Holy Spirit instructs within the Bible, calling themselves after the name of Christ no more makes one a part of His church than it would the atheist if he made a similiar claim.

Passage to Remember

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30

In Need of Prayers	General Information
<p>Edwin Brown, a member of the Evendale Church of Christ (the congregation Jackie and I attended in Cincinnati), is in the process of recovering from heart surgery. Please remember him in your prayers.</p> <p>Adam Daniels’ friend, Will Markem, continues to recover from his motorcycle accident.</p> <p>Jackie continues to go through some difficulty with this pregnancy. Thank you so much for the calls, visits, and food. We really cannot express how much it has meant to us.</p>	<p>The member information sheets are still in the back. If you have yet to fill one out, please do so and return it to Garry Banks. Please remember that husbands and wives (and children, as the case may be) should fill out individual sheets to help avoid confusion. When all the sheets are received, we can begin updating the directory. Thanks!</p> <p>Brother Sid Latham from Indiana will be speaking at UK on Thursday, April 23. His subject is “The Problem of Evil: A Just God in an Unjust World.” The talk will be held in room 102 of the Whitehall Classroom Building at 7:00 PM. Knowing Sid, his presentation will be very biblical and very well prepared. If you’re able, why not attend?</p>

