

**Words of Wisdom** by John T Polk II For WECO FM 101.3 and The Fellowship Room

All Scriptures and comments are based on the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.

#### 4-11–2016 What is the Church of Christ #1

Because of all of the confusion in religion throughout the world and history, atheists argue there is no "god" to speak clearly. They have completely ignored the unity of the people when God has been obeyed as He spoke. The resurrected Jesus said,

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mark 16:15-16).

Churches of Christ were established without confusion:

In Rome: "So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another" (**Romans 12:5**);

In Galatia, "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ...you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:27-28).

For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints (**1 Corinthians 14:33**).

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### 4-12–2016 What is the Church of Christ #2

When divisions began over allegiance to men other than Jesus Christ, Paul asked:

"Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?" (1 Corinthians 1:13).

There are religions that ignore or reject Jesus as the Christ.

[Apollos] vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ (Acts 18:28).

It is ignorance of the Scriptures, not the Scriptures themselves, that has let people follow other religious leaders than Jesus Christ. The Scriptures reveal only One who had died "for our sins." The Scriptures reveal only one "name" for people to be baptized "into." Confusion has occurred over those who reject the Bible to uphold their own choices. God is not to be blamed, nor the Bible branded as causing religious division.

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### 4-13–2016 What is the Church of Christ #3

But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases. Their idols are silver and gold, The work of men's hands (**Psalm 115:3-4**).

Combining man-made "gods" with The "God in Heaven" only creates confusion and hides the truth. Peter warned the churches of Christ of the:

... False prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction (**2 Peter 2:1**).

Then he gave the solution, to:

Be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior (**2 Peter 3:2**).

Combining man-made "prophets," with holy prophets only creates confusion and hides the truth. The Bible solves confusion, but does not create it!

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## 4-14–2016 What is the Church of Christ #4

Christians must:

Contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ (Jude 3-4).

This tells us:

- "the faith," or the New Testament, does not change, nor has it changed, since its completion in the 1st Century;
- (2) trying to find the church of Christ among the twisted teachings of ungodly men is hopeless; and
- (3) claiming the church of Christ includes all of that twisted teaching is not true!

"The faith" is the only source of pure teaching about the churches of Christ and among the churches of Christ. The church of Christ is found back to the Bible alone.

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### 4-15–2016 What is the Church of Christ #5

Before Jerusalem was destroyed, Jesus warned,

"For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many" (Matthew 24:5).

Bible miracles, however,

... Are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name (John 20:31).

After Jerusalem fell in A.D. 70, many have come establishing churches "in His name," and also have deceived many. But God said of false prophets of old:

"Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; They speak a vision of their own heart, Not from the mouth of the LORD" (Jeremiah 23:16).

But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ (**Jude 17**).

Only the Bible speaks the truth.

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