*Christian**

Acts 11:19-26 (19) Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.
(20) And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus.
(21) And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.
(22) Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch.
(23) Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.
(24) For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.
(25) Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul:
(26) And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.
*Christianity **has been** misunderstood, **is** misunderstood and **most likely will continue** to be misunderstood. Listen to this;* **{**"Christianity started out in Palestine as a fellowship; it moved to Greece and became a philosophy; it moved to Italy and became an institution; it moved to Europe and became a culture; it came to America and became an enterprise."**}**
This quotation has been variously attributed to Sam Pascoe, an American scholar and to Richard Halverson, former chaplain to the U.S. Senate. Pascoe is cited on the Internet as the author more than ten times as often as Halverson. Why Palestine?

In 33 AD, Jerusalem was part of the Roman providence of Judea, however, approximately 100 years later the name changed from Judea to Palestine about 135 AD. The Church, then, was established in Jerusalem of Judah as prophesied, being written and recorded by Isaiah, thus;

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning **Judah and Jerusalem**.

And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the **word of the LORD from Jerusalem** (Isaiah 2:1-3).

History reveals the Romans imposed the name "Palestine" on the Holy Land approximately 135 AD, some 40 years after all the books of the New Testament were written, thus confirming what Isaiah saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. Prior to 1917, the territory that is called Palestine was ruled by the Ottoman Turkish Empire, and included several districts. The name Palestine that was used by Roman and Arab rulers, was revived by the British, who received a mandate from the League of Nations to administer Palestine as a national home land for the Jewish people. Re-enter the nation of Israel into the world in these last days in the year of our Lord 1948. Now the thing of interest is; the ten tribes that broke away were known as Israel, she committed adultery and God divorced her (Jer 3:8). The two remaining tribes of Judah, Benjamin and remnants of the ten combined as Judah or Judea where Jerusalem is located. It was out of Judah proper from whence the Messiah sprang and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. On the first Pentecost after the lord was risen, the Church was established in Jerusalem of Judea as prophesied in Isaiah and

latter, in Antioch, the Christian name was applied to the followers of Christ. However, in time derogatory names, such as Lollards and Waldensians (Traces of the Kingdom, ch 6), were given to Christians as well, but in doctrine they were Churches of Christ and claimed so to be. Altho some are misguided when it comes to historical matters concerning the Christian religion, this misguidance should come as no surprise. Christian doctrine has been attacked from the very beginning by leaders to whom it was given, they stated;
But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name.
And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus (Acts 4:17-18).
However I'm sure the threat was no surprise, they were prepared, for Jesus had given warning of what was to come in this prophecy. Let's read from;
John 15:18-25 (18) If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.
(19) If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.
(20) Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.
(21) But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.
(22) If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin.
(23) He that hateth me hateth my Father also.
(24) If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father.
(25) But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled

that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause.
However, insults did not end with supporters of their law.
I want to share a few anonymous quotes with you from the Internet and answer the quotes from where the Bible speaks, also historical records as required. As you hear the quotes, remember the words Jesus spoke, "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you."
{Quote; Would you please write on the Church of Christ? They are a cult too, so much brainwashing in the church, you can only associate with people inside the Church; ***Unquote.}***
I have heard the name cult applied to the Church of Christ before. Do I like it? Of course not. Can I do anything about it? Yes, I can by taking the advise of Paul. However many reject Paul also, they hate these words written by him;
Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.
For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;
And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.
But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry (2Tim 4:2-5).
From; **Dictionary.com**, *a cult means;* a religion or sect considered to be false, unorthodox, or extremist, with members often living outside of conventional society under the direction of a charismatic leader.
Of the three, unorthodox is the definition befitting the Churches of Christ because it does not conform to acceptable customs or traditions of men. Listen to this one;
Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying,
Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread.
But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress

the commandment of God by your tradition (Matthew 15:1-3)?
I would have to say that, like Christ, His Church is unorthodox. She is the most unlikely to conform to traditions of men, altho some of her congregations have left it's first love. Moving on, this next definition would apply to the Church of Christ;
{*Quote*; My working definition of a cult is a group that you don't like, and I say that somewhat facetiously, but at the same time, in fact, that is my working definition of a cult. It is a group that somebody doesn't like. It is a derogatory term, and I have never seen it redeemed from the derogatory connotations that it picked up in the sociological literature in the 1930s. J. Gordon Melton.**}**
So, a cult is a group that somebody doesn't like. But Christ already stated that; And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake (Luke 21:17). *What is His name's sake? That would be His own, Christians, members of the 'Church of Christ.' Deny her and most likely dissension against you will cease. Hold to Christ name's sake and most likely dissension will increase, you may become known by a derogatory name such as a cult, or Lollard, or Waldensian, or Campbellite or worse. It is true that Churches of Christ and it's religious tradition are peculiar to the world because it is so recorded;*
For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,
Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;
Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;
Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and **purify unto himself a peculiar people**, zealous of good works.
These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee (Titus 2:11-15).
From; **Dictionary.com: Peculiar** *means;* Unusual or eccentric;

odd, Distinct from all others. Belonging distinctively or primarily to one person, group, or kind; special or unique:. *Being peculiar is the reason why the Church of Christ is on the 'do not like' list. She belongs to one deity, which is Jesus Christ. And the Church of Christ is one of a kind, She is distinct from all others, unique.* And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.
And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.
And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will **build my church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Matthew 16:16-18).
Close analysis reveals that 'Church' is the actual name of the institution that Christ built. 'Of' is a preposition that indicates a specific identity and 'Christ' is that identity. Christians are connected or associated with Him as baptized believers of His Church. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved (Acts 2:47). *The Church is not built on Peter as advocated, but is built on the rock solid confession,* Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God (Matthew 16:16:).
Had the church been built on anything other than Christ, then we would not be known by His names sake, Christians.
Now in Romans 16:16, Paul used the plural, Churches of Christ, what did he mean? Were there more than one? No, at that time in history there was only one Church during Paul's entire lifetime and ministry. He could only have meant one thing, a plurality of congregations of the one Church then in existence. But before proceeding further there is another quote meant to undermine the Church of Christ. Listen to this ***Quote***; The name "Church of Christ" is not even in the King James Version of the Bible. ***Unquote***. *I beg to differ. The Apostle Paul to the Romans wrote;* Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you (Romans 16:16).
There were many congregations, a few examples are;

And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira (Rev 2:18)
And unto the angel of the church in Sardis (Rev 3:1)
And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia (Rev 3:7)
These few examples from one book clearly show there was a local congregation or Church in several different cities.
{***Quote***; In the 1800's, there was a religious movement called "The Restoration Movement" or the "Second Great Awakening" that was a split-off from the Presbyterian Church. And the first time the Church of Christ was ever recognized as a Church by the U.S. religious census was in 1906. Two of their most prominent early leaders were Thomas Campbell (1763-1854) and Alexander Campbell (1788-1866). ***Unquote***.}
Lord forgive them for they know not what they do (Luke 23:34).
Let's take an abbreviated look at;
Christianity Before Alexander Campbell by David Padfield
{*Quote;* In 1818 a church in New York sent a letter to "the churches of Christ, scattered over the earth," asking them for a statement of their views and practices. These letters were later printed in The Christian Baptist, a paper edited by Alexander Campbell. Since denominational preachers often claim that Campbell was the founder of the "church of Christ," I thought it would be interesting to examine some of these letters.
"The Church of Christ meeting in Morrisons Court, Glasgow" was established somewhere between 1772 and 1782. They had 180 members in 1818. This group also worshipped each Lord's day."
The Church of Christ assembling in Leith Walk, Edinburgh" was planted around 1798.
"The Church of Christ at Tuber-more" first met in May, 1807. Their 250 members met together every Lord's day to worship.
Dublin, Ireland, The Stephen Street congregation in Dublin was established in 1810 and consisted of 100 members in 1818.}
Clearly some of these local Churches of Christ in England were established before the birth of Alexander Campbell, born Sep 12 1788, and still others were established when he was a child.

There are other evidences of the Church of Christ existence before Alexander Campbell which we will explore.
{Tottlebank, England
A book of minutes from the meeting of the Church of Christ in this little town near Ulverston in the Lake District of England, testifies that the Church met regularly in an upper room of a building that is still standing. One page of the book says, "The 18th of August 1669, A Church of Christ was formed. There were present and assisted Mr. George Larkham paster of a Church of Christ in Cumberland (**Christian Chronicle June 19, 1972**, *condensed*)**.}** *Here is another interesting quote;* **{**About the year 52. When St. Mark, the apostle of Christ, saw that Auxibius had a desire for Christ, and that he was believing and instructed, he descended with him into a pool and baptized him. This is the first example of which we read in history, outside of Holy Scripture, of those who were incorporated into the church of Christ, through baptism upon faith (**Martyrs Mirror**)**.}**
15 centuries before Alexander Campbell was born,
Tertullian (204 A.D.) wrote: "The church of Christ composed of baptized believers, does meet each Lord's day to partake of the Lord's Supper."
The Church of Christ identified by Tertullian in 204 AD is an evaluation of the Church then and now.
*The name and identity is the same, the **Church of Christ**.*
*The membership is the same, composed of **baptized believers**.*
*The meeting day is the same, each **Lord's day**, the 1st day of the week (Acts 20:7).*
*The reason is the same, to partake of the **Lord's supper**.*
Tertullian wrote this 1584 years before the birth of Alexander Campbell, and yet the falsity that Campbell is the founder of Churches of Christ is prevalent and believed by untold numbers today, why? They accept no other explanation.
{*Quote*; The Church of Christ believes the Old Testament was

given by God and that it is historically accurate, but they don't believe anything in the Old Testament applies to the Church of Christ unless it is repeated in the New Testament. Since Jesus, and most of the New Testament writers, quoted from the Old Testament, and since the New Testament says all Scripture is profitable for instruction in righteousness many Christians in mainline denominations believe the Church of Christ has departed from Biblical teaching in this area. ***Unquote***.**}**
How strange that mainline denominations accuse Churches of Christ of departing old testament Biblical teaching, having themselves departed the same by not following the meat offering law in Leviticus 6:14-15, or the forty stripes law of punishment in Deuteronomy 25:3, or the capital punishment law of stoning to death in Deuteronomy 21:18-21, just to name a few. The quote is just another attempt to cloud the truth with misguided or misunderstood accusations. The truth of the matter is; Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace (Galatians 5:4). *Listen, the old is profitable for instruction because Jesus said;* Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me (John 5:39).
And testify they do! But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. **For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.**
For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah (Hebrews 8:6-8).
The Church of Christ believes the new covenant came by Jesus Christ and is the power unto salvation. The old Testament looked forward to the coming of Christ, the new Testament looks back to His crucifixion, and forward to His coming again. However, it should be noted that not all of the old testament

belong to ordinances nailed to His cross (Colossians 2:14).
Read Song of Solomon, this book is about the passionate love a husband and wife should have for each other, about the joys of God given matrimony for a man and a woman as one.
Read Proverbs to gain knowledge of living a virtuous life, however read the gospel to gain knowledge of God's plan in the latter days, of salvation, and of eternal life.
The gospel of Christ is intended for every tongue, tribe and nation. Christ accordingly has therein declared all men without distinction, who through faith, heed, follow, and practice what faith contains. Do not be deceived, the devil is a relentless adversary. He will use any means possible to deceive people, even adjustments to God's word. Consequently there has been ***no more error*** *taught in the supposed name of Christianity, than error concerning baptism. This is one subject the Devil has adjusted to advance his own protocol more than any other, for it is grace by faith in Christ Jesus that a person is saved and added to the Church of Christ. It has been said that "Baptism has become the Devil's workshop" and that saying is well justified! For if he can divert one to accept, "baptism is not necessary", the devil has won! Just remember that faith in Christ is the effect of belief in the gospel, and baptism is the effect of that faith; those who first believe the testimony of God, by faith repent of their sins, confess Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God, and are baptized into Him for remission of sins receive the full and explicit testimony of pardon. This is the gospel. It's invitation is open, also prayer requests for other reasons, in either case come while we persuade with song.*

This message approved by
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Revised; 04222020
This message presented to; BaronOk-Jan2011/
WestvilleOk-Nov2017/PleasentViewOk-Nov2017/
PineMtAr.-Nov2017