Derogatory Names Given to Churches of Christ*

Matthew 16:16-19 (16) And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.
(17) And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jo-na: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.
(18) 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.
(19) And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.
Christ gave the name Peter to Simon, because of his confession of faith, thou art the Christ the Son of the living God. *That confession of faith is the foundation of believers, of the Church, and was bound on earth shortly thereafter on pentacost. Because of that fact, whatsoever satan can do by counsel or strength will not prevail against the Church, but that does not mean he will not try. Early in the ministry of Paul, a name was given to the faithful;* And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch (Acts 11:26). *Baptized believers have been called by the name 'Christian' throughout the ages unto the present, so nothing has changed in that respect. Therefore baptized believers having put their faith in Christ received that new name. The apostle Paul wrote;* The churches of Christ salute you (Romans 16:16). *This name distinguishes ownership of the Church as belonging to and subject to Christ. However satan has and will continue in his efforts to disembody believers from the Church, by derogatory names, in false words and in misdeeds and even under the threat of death. Often a religious group is identified with a person who is generally acknowledged as the founder. Under that pretense Churches of Christ are falsely said to have it's*

beginning with Alexander Campbell (1813). Consequently, members of the Church are falsely refered to as "Cambellites." This is a derogatory name given in an attempt to discredit any effort to trace the origin of the Church of Christ to Pentecost (Acts 2). Nonetheless, the Church of Christ existed in America long before the arival of the Campbells, a fact that is conveniently over looked. One instance is evidenced by a historical marker placed by the Historical Commission of the state of Massachusetts. This marker indicates the existence of a Church of Christ congregration at Rumney Marsh in that state as early as 1710, with a meeting house erected in 1790. Thomas Cheever was the first settled minister. He died October 17, 1749, at the age of 91. (West, Search of the Ancient Order). The date of the Rummney Marsh Church of Christ and the life of Alexander Campbell do not match up. Alexander was born in Antrim County, Ireland, September 12 1788, 78 years after a Church of Christ at Rumney Marsh was known to exist in 1710 and 39 years after the first minister died. It is not my intent to prove or disprove other religious groups, that is within their own jurisdiction. Mine is to disprove falsehoods concerning the Church of Christ, which actually began early in its existance. Church of Christ congregations were worshipping after the New Testament order in England long before the Campbells ever came to America. In the Furness District of Lancanshire in N.W. England, there existed in 1669 during the reign of Charles II, eight Church of Christ congregations. An old minute book had been found dated in 1669 with evidence the organization they belonged to was a "Church of Christ." It practiced baptism by immersion, celebrated the Lord's Supper each Lord's Day and had overseerers to feed the Church. In 1735, John Davis, a young preacher in Fife District of Scotland was preaching New Testament Christianity twenty-five years before Thomas Campbell was born, who was the father of Alexander, who was born 119 years after Churches of Christ were known to exist in

Lancanshire England.
Is it possible that Churches of Christ are an American institution? The word says no, turn your Bibles to;
Luke 24:46-48 (46) And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:
(47) And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.
(48) And ye are witnesses of these things.
The founding of the Church in Jerusalem is readily available in scripture as is baptism or the memorial to Christ in breaking of bread on the first day of the week, all ordianed by Christ, denied by many and His Church is called a cult. There are unscriptural doctrine's galore, why? Turn your Bibles to;
Jude 1:1-25 (1) Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:
(2) Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.
(3) Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.
(4) For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.
(5) I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.
(6) And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.
(7) Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going

after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.
(8) Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.
(9) Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.
(10) But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.
(11) Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.
(12) These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;
(13) Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.
(14) And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,
(15) To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.
(16) These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.
(17) But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;
(18) How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.
(19) These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having

not the Spirit.
(20) But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,
(21) Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.
(22) And of some have compassion, making a difference:
(23) And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.
(24) Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,
(25) To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.
Unquestionably, the Lord will come to execute judgment upon those who have spoken against Him, many of the so called "dissenters" in Jude were either seeking or practicing after the Apostolic order; and they learned of it by reading or being taught the New Testament. During the reign of Henry VIII the word was translated into English. If the histories of men during that period had not been written largely by members of the Roman church, we could undoubtedly document faithful groups throughout Europe during the Medieval Era and before, that baptized for the remission of sins, and had congregational worship on the first day of the week. There were people in the Medieval Era which opposed the Roman church and were persecuted by it. One such group were the Waldensians in the 12th century, so called by Roman historians because Peter Waldo was a well known preacher of the group. Their crime was, they "proclaimed the Bible as the sole rule of faith and life." They were declared heretic in 1184 and 1215 [by the Roman church], and persecution persisted until the 18th century. Those faithful believers wore the name Christian, and the Church—The Church of Christ. Waldensians was a derogatory name given to the faithful in the 12th century, as was the name Cambellites in the 19th century. The devil does

not give up on an idea that he thinks is working. However it is unbelievers that are short changed by the devil's antics.

New Testament Christianity flourished in Egypt into the late 5th and 6th centuries until the Arab conquest between 640 and 642 A.D. These so-called 'Coptic Christians' by the Roman church, maintained the Scriptures in original and Coptic translations from the 1st and 2nd centuries. They retained their ties to first century Christianity until the Arab conquest of Egypt, an Islamic danger that has risen it's head again and is even in our house. There is an old saying that where God builds a temple, the devil builds another in opposition. The Church of Christ was established on the first Pentecost after our Lord's resurrection, and the gates of Hell have never prevailed over her; and even now as Hell is battering at the door of the Church, the Bride of Christ will continue to exist unto the coming of the Lord.

Anglican clergyman, Dr Daniel Featly, (1578-1645) who was one of the translators of the King James Bible, wrote in 1645 of the Churches of Christ meeting in London and elsewhere in his work the 'Dippers Dipt or the Anabaptists Dunckt and Plunged Over Head and Ears,' he *took those congregations back to 1525 when he quotes from them,* "That baptism ought to be received by none, but such as can give a good account of their faith; and in case any have been baptized in their infancy, that they ought to he re-baptized after they come to years of discretion, before they are to be admitted to the Church of Christ." *He was in dispute with four members of the Church of Christ on October 17, 1642 whom he called Anabaptist, which was a derogatory name given to objectors of infant baptism. Featley, an enemy of the Lord's church, states there were members of the Church of Christ, in London, that they had existed in England during the reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI and James I! These congregations existed separately from the Church of England and dismissed infant baptism. Featly confirmed these congregations immersed for*

the remission of sins upon account of their faith. Featly notes these congregations used the identity Church of Christ and they describe themselves as Christians (Dippers Dipt pages 5 and 20). They also deny circumcision is a precursor in the Old Testament to baptism in the New Testament (6,7,32,35). They defend 'lay-preaching' arguing all Christian men may preach and administer baptism and the Communion, denying any clergy-laity divide (8,25,81). They argue the Old Testament priesthood is abolished and now all Christians are in the priesthood (9). They argue the congregation is the Church, not the steeplehouse (10). They say men have freewill in spiritual action (22,24). They do not use set forms of prayer, but pray from the heart (58,59,62). They baptize by immersion (25). They state that repentance and confession precedes baptism (29), and that through baptism entry is into the Church of Christ. These congregations hold that the Kingdom and the Church are the same (Dippers Dipt page 8). Therefore Featly, antagonist to the Lord's Church offers a wonderful glimpse of the Church in the 1600's even calling them by name.

So, there is evidence of Churches of Christ elsewhere, other than America, before the birth of Alexander Campbell that were teaching the same doctrines as he. To say that Alexander Campbell was the founder of Churches of Christ on American soil is a gross misjudgment totally in error. The origin of Churches of Christ is not traced to Alexander Campbell or any other man. The Church is identified with its name sake and founder, Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). *The Church of Christ was established on the first Pentecost after our Lord's resurrection, and the gates of Hell have never prevailed over her; and even now as Hell batters at the door of the Church, the Bride of Christ will continue to exist unto the coming of the Lord, but at a price. Jesus said;* And ye shall be hated of

all men for my name's sake; but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved (Mark13:13). *When Christ left to return to His home in heaven, He had trained Apostles and disciples to continue the task He had started. The results were extraordinary, in a single day-Pentecost, in a single city-Jerusalem, about 3,000 baptized believers constituted the original Church as an effect of the teaching of the Apostles. So effective was their instruction that the enemies of Christianity attempted to prohibit any further teaching, turn with me to;*

Acts 5:27-29 (27) And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them,
(28) Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? And, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.
(29) Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

Nineteen centuries later, the theme of the Cross, vibrant and forceful, had survived intact by the grace of God. However, dethronement of Christ was also alive, as then, and the citizens of the Church of Christ began to be called "Cambellites" after a vibrant and forceful preacher, Alexander Campbell. It is true he planted several congregations, however all were planted upon that foundation already laid by the word of Christ. He was in complete agreement with;

Tertullian (204 A.D.) "The church of Christ composed of baptized believers, does meet each Lord's day to partake of the Lord's Supper."

All that Alexander Campbell wanted was a return to the pure gospel that was first preached at Jerusalem by the Apostles. Unfortunately, men seek to alter the divine plan and infuse it with their own belief systems that ignores the singularity and uniqueness of the Church, and establishes groups teaching conflicting doctrines that are opposing to the Bible and to each

other. But it should be remembered what was read in Jude; that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. *Now turn with me to;*
Revelation 17:5-6 (5) And upon her forehead was a name written, **MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.**
(6) And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

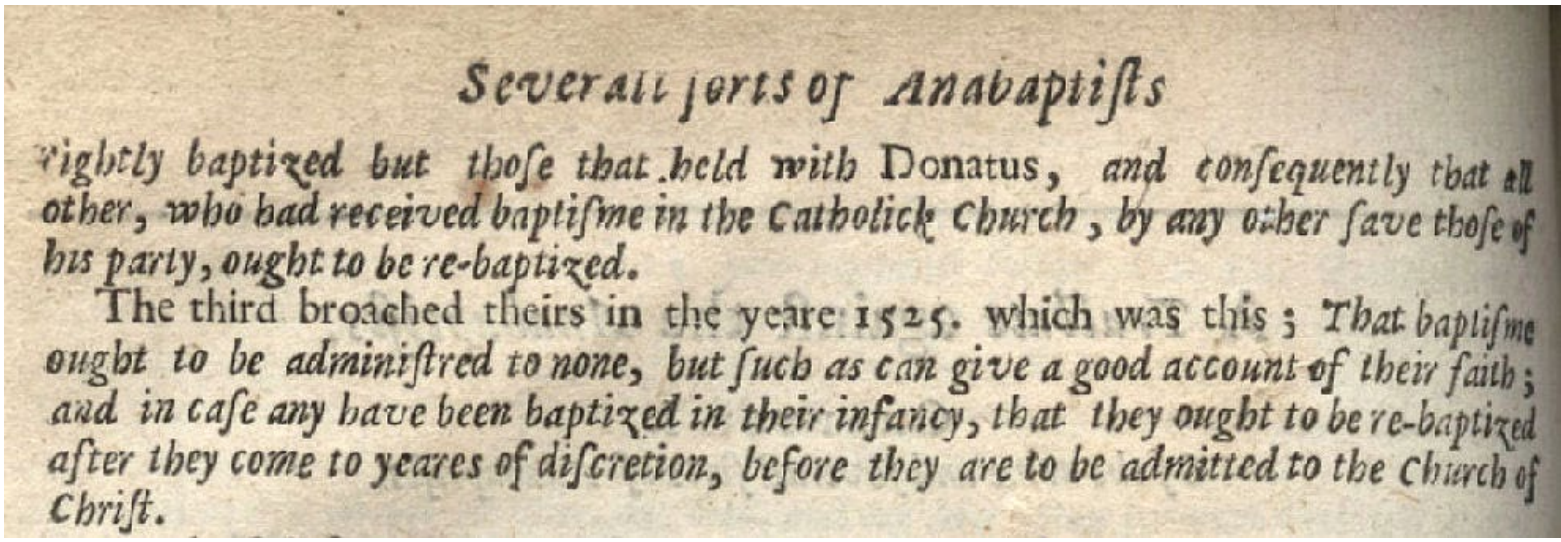
Persecution against the Church was, and is, rooted in the nature and work of Christ. The world hated Christ, if you do not believe it, listen to Him; If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you (John 15:18). *The Church, if true to its mission, will be opposed, as well as her Apostles, Prophets, Elders, Deacons, Evangelists, Pastors,Teachers and Members.*

Quote: {One more item worthy of note is the tombstone of William Rogers at the Cane Ridge meetinghouse near Paris, Kentucky. It simply reads:
William Rogers
Born In Campbell Co., VA. July 7, 1784,
Removed With His Father To
Caine Ridge, Bourbon Co., Apr. 1798
United With The Church Of Christ
At Caine Ridge In 1807
Died Feb. 15, 1862
In The 78th Year Of His Age
At the time William Rogers "united with the church of Christ at Caine Ridge," Alexander Campbell was but a young man in his teens, still living in Ireland. The "church of Christ" was not started by Campbell, nor does it follow his teaching. The church of Christ (Rom. 16:16) was established at Jerusalem on the first Pentecost after the death of Christ -- you can read of it in the second chapter of the book of Acts. The seed of the Kingdom is still the word of God (Luke 8:11). **Unquote:**

(Christianity Before Alexander Campbell by David Padfield)}
That Alexander Campbell existed, and labored in the Lord's kingdom is not to be denied. The test will be: what does the Churches of Christ teach that is anti-Bible and proves to be purely the invention of Campbell? In examining the doctrine we hold and teach, the plan of salvation made known to men, the pattern of worship, the organization - and all else – IS IT by God's Word, or after the opinions of men? That examination is all we ask of men who want and love truth. And they will see that we teach not Campbell, but Christ! Interestingly, those who claim that Campbell began the Church of Christ deal with an impossibility, from the standpoint of time and doctrine. One such doctrine under duress is revealed in;
Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. B*elief in what? Faith in Christ is the effect of belief, and baptism is the effect of that faith; only those who first believe the testimony of God (Romans 10:17), by faith repent of their sins (2Peter 3:9), confess-I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God (Acts 8:37), and are baptized for remission of sins (Romans 6:3), have the full and explicit testimony of pardon. This is the gospel. Therefore Christian's are those who believe, repent, confess and are baptized for remission of sins. Now remission means to be freed from debt, if you are not free, will you obey the gospel plea? If so, please come and make your desire known. And if one needs prayer for other reasons please come while we gently persuade with song.*

This message approved by
Jack Warford
a minister for Christ

Ref. Traces of the Kingdom by Keith Sisman



Severall ſorts of Anabaptiſts

rightly baptized but thoſe that held with Donatus, and conſequently that all other, who had received baptiſme in the Catholick Church, by any other ſave thoſe of his party, ought to be re-baptized.

The third broached theirs in the yeare 1525. which was this; That baptiſme ought to be adminiſtred to none, but ſuch as can give a good account of their faith; and in caſe any have been baptized in their infancy, that they ought to be re-baptized after they come to yeares of diſcretion, before they are to be admitted to the Church of Chriſt.

Photograph of text from Featly's 1646 edition, taken from page 20 of the Dippers Dipt. (Traces of the Kingdom-Keith Sisman)

Welcome to Lakeside church of Christ
Saturday, June 25 2016 @ 10:09 AM EDT
THE INSIDE PAGE(Encore v 2.1)

Often a religious group is identified with a person who is generally acknowledged as the founder of that group. Hence the Lutheran Church by its name is associated with Martin Luther. Falsely so, churches of Christ are said by denominational people to have had their beginning with Alexander Campbell (1813). Consequently, these people have loved to refer to members of the church as "Cambellites." This has been done in derision and in an attempt to discredit any effort to trace our origin to the day of Pentecost (Acts 2).

Commonly, even we in the church today, tend to think that somehow the church of the New Testament order ceased to exist on this earth and that not until what we like to call the Great American Restoration Movement was the church of the ancient order restored again. We also tend to think that it was in the days of Thomas and Alexander Campbell that the restoration was begun. The fact is there was in the first century and even in the pages of the New Testament pleas for a return (restoration) to God's order or pattern.

Jesus had promised to establish His church and the "gates of Hell shall not prevail against it." We need not argue here that the church was established as Jesus promised on the day of Pentecost following His Resurrection. Jesus kept His promise, and while the histories of men can not be used to verify it, Hell has never prevailed over His church. Even though she has under gone much persecution and hardship and has been reduced to small numbers over the centuries, the church has never ceased to be, and the Word has continued in the hearts of men up to our times. This is not to say that the church has not ceased in whole countries, even continents, at times, but if Jesus has kept His promise, it has not ceased to be.

But that the Campbells were the first to plead for a return to the New Testament pattern in America can be disproved by the histories of men. The church of Christ existed in America before the time of the Campbells. One instance is evidenced by a historical marker placed by the Historical Commission of the state of Massachusetts. **There is a marker which indicates the existence of a congregation of the church of Christ at Rumney Marsh in that state as early as 1710, with a meeting house been erected in 1790. Thomas Cheever was the first settled minister. He died October 17, 1749, at the age of 91. (West, Search of the Ancient Order).**

It is well established that congregations of worshippers were practicing after the New Testament order in England long before the Campbells came to America. A Dr. Robinson was principal of Overdale College, Birmingham, England, at the time he stated, "In the Furness District of Lancanshire in N.W. England, there existed in 1669, during the reign of Charles II, a group of eight churches of Christ, most of them now not in existence. An old minute book had been found dated in 1669 with evidence that they called themselves by the name "church of Christ," practiced baptism by immersion, celebrated the Lord's Supper each Lord's Day and had elders and deacons. In 1735, John Davis, a young preacher in Fife District of Scotland was preaching New Testament Christianity twenty-five years before Thomas Campbell, the father of Alexander, was born.

Unquestionably, many of the so called "dissenters" of that time period and earlier were either seeking or practicing after the ancient order; and they learned of it by reading the New Testament, which was first translated into English during the reign of Henry VIII. If the histories of men of that period had not been written largely by members of the Roman Church, we could undoubtedly document such groups throughout Europe during the Medieval Era and before. There were many groups in the Medieval Era which opposed the Roman Church and were persecuted by it. One such group were the Waldensians, in the 12th century, so called by Roman historians because Peter Waldo was a well known preacher of the group. Their crime was that they "proclaimed the Bible as the sole rule of faith and life. The group was declared heretical in 1184 and 1215 [by the Roman Catholic church], and persecution persisted until the 18th cent. . . . A group of Waldensians settled in the U.S. at Valdese, N.C." (The Concise Columbia Encyclopedia, 1991). These were Bible believing people who opposed the additions of

the Apostate Church, and thousands paid with their lives for their faith.
New Testament Christianity flourished in Egypt into the late 5th and 6th centuries until the Arab conquest between 640 and 642. These so-called [by the Roman Church historians] Coptic Christians opposed Rome and maintained the Scriptures in original and Coptic translations from the 1st and 2nd centuries. They retained their ties to first century Christianity until the Arab conquest of Egypt. Clement of Alexandria (died c. 215) was a Greek scholar who was converted and was one of the first to attempt a synthesis of Platonic and Christian thought. He attacked Gnosticism and other departures from the New Testament. Origen, 185?- 254?, was his pupil. Origen was the father of many departures from the New Testament pattern in spite of what histories influenced by what Rome may say.
The origin of Churches of Christ is not traced to Alexander Campbell or any other man. The church is identified with its name sake and founder, Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" Matthew 16:18. The church of Christ was established on the first Pentecost after our Lord's resurrection, and the gates of Hell have never prevailed over her; and even now as Hell may batter at the door of the church, the Bride of Christ will continue to the coming of the Lord.

WARNINGS ABOUT THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST -Samuel A. Matthews

The churches of Christ Greet You (Romans 16:16)

Our dearly beloved reading audience, in this article we will concentrate our efforts on opening your spiritual eyes (minds) to “the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ” (2 Cor. 4:3-4). As we proceed “to declare unto you the whole counsel of God” (Acts 20:27), we will make plain God’s Plan of Salvation and expose many of the false doctrines you are being taught in your particular denomination.

Loved ones, as we give you the TRUTH of what God says, we will give you the Bible book chapter and verse for everything we teach. Our prayer for you is that you will open your Bible and study the Word of God with us. Please don’t believe OR disbelieve anything we say just because we say it, but SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES to be sure what we say is true (Acts 17:11).

Has anyone ever WARNED you about the churches of Christ? Maybe you've heard this WARNING: “Those are the ‘Christians’ who think only ‘church of Christ folk’ are going to Heaven!” Occasionally in a home Bible study, some honest and sincere soul will admit his need of teaching, but because he has been WARNED about us, he's a little wary to listen to what we say. This is no new thing, for certain unbelieving Jews "WARNED" those in Thessalonica against Paul and his co-workers (Acts 17:6), and some who met Paul when he went to Rome confessed that they had been "WARNED" about "this sect," and it being "every where spoken against" (Acts 28:22).

The purpose of this lesson is to mention some of the "WARNINGS" made about the churches of Christ, and to deal with them from the Word of God. Remember: Satan and his laborers deal in craftiness, dishonesty, and deception (2 Cor. 4:2) but truth has nothing to fear!

WARNING NUMBER ONE:

"THE CHURCH OF CHRIST DOESN'T BELIEVE THE OLD TESTAMENT"

It is amazing that some would make this accusation, since there's really no foundation for accepting the New Testament unless the Old can be believed. May we clearly and strongly declare that we believe ALL the Bible, both Old Testament and New. Indeed, Paul tells us that "ALL scripture is inspired by God and profitable..." (2 Tim. 3:16). Since Genesis 1:1 is inspired just as is Revelation 22:21, and all in between, then the child of God must believe it all!

What men confuse are these terms: BELIEVING the Old Testament and BEING SUBJECT TO the Old Testament. Colossians 2:14 and Ephesians 2:15 tell us that the Old Testament Law of Moses ended with the death of Christ on the cross. Galatians 3:23-25 bears this out, with Paul more plainly showing in Galatians 5:4 that if one tried to be justified by the law he was FALLEN FROM GRACE and Christ is become OF NO EFFECT!

Romans 15:4 and 1 Corinthians 10:1-11 tell us the proper use of the Old Testament: it is a volume for study, that we might learn by examples from olden times, and be encouraged by the long history of God's rewarding obedience just as we are warned by the records of His punishing sin. But friends, we are NOT UNDER that law, and cannot be, for we are now subject to Christ, and we must hear Him! (Matt. 17:5 Heb. 1:1-2).

Please consider this illustration: we today know we are subject (in this land) to our current laws, yet there has also been English law and Colonial law, but we're not under either one of those now. Many points would remain the same, but we are under the system of American jurisprudence though students desiring a background of law knowledge will study all types. Just so, Christians are under the New Testament of Jesus Christ, not under Moses and his law (cf. John 1:17), but that does not mean that the Old Testament isn't inspired, is not to be believed, or serves no useful purpose to one who follows Christ.

WARNING NUMBER TWO:

"THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS AGAINST MUSIC"

Many of our readers have heard this. It is perhaps the single most discussed fact when the worship of God's people is being given consideration. There are those who really believe that the churches of Christ do not believe in music! Yet, it is true that we have music at every service, and we know of no faithful Christian who would think that he had faithfully worshiped God if the Lord's day ended and he had not used music!

Let us state the fact correctly: The churches of Christ are opposed to mechanical instruments of music IN WORSHIP! The Lord has regulated WORSHIP! He has NOT legislated concerning music and the playing of it purely for entertainment and pleasure, and in circumstances where worship is not the intent. But he has regulated HOW He is to be worshiped, stating that man's worship must be IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH (John 4:24). That word "truth" demands, by John 17:17, that worship must be in keeping with the Word of God. Indeed, it can't be OF FAITH unless it is by the Word of God (Rom. 10:17).

Covering the Lord's ministry, here is the range of New Testament teaching on music; and notice the words from these verses that we emphasize: Matt. 26:30 and Mark 14:26 (SUNG); Acts 16:25 (SANG); Rom. 15:9 (SING); 1 Cor. 14:15 (SING); Eph. 5:19 (SINGING); Col. 3:16 (SINGING); Heb. 13:15 (FRUIT OF LIPS); and James 5:13 (SING). Surely no one can miss the action the Lord has repeatedly specified, and it is highly significant that the Lord repeated this over and over in the New Testament, whereas the mechanical instrument and PLAYING took place under the Old Testament!

The principle of divine worship is that everything that we do be set forth in the New Testament, by precept, approved example, or necessary inference. Mechanical instruments in worship is set forth by neither. Therefore, those who practice such are guilty of going beyond the teaching of Christ, and the Holy Spirit says: "Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ hath not God, but he that abideth in the teaching, hath both the Father and the Son" (2 John 1:9).

We have in the Bible both generic and specific commands. In Ephesians 5:19 we are told specifically how to carry out the musical part of the service to God. To be more plain if possible, you remember that God told Noah specifically how to build the ark (Gen. 6). He specified the wood. Now, if God had told Noah just to build it out of wood, Noah could have used hickory, oak, pine, or any other kind of wood, for wood is generic.

But God didn't tell Noah to just build the ark out of "wood." He gave Noah a specific command. He specified the wood. He told Noah to build it out of gopher wood (Gen. 6:14). God did not authorize Noah to use any other wood; therefore, as you well see, all other wood was excluded. The same is true regarding the singing of praise to God in worship. If God had told us to make music, we could resort to any kind of music, for music is generic. But He specified the music. READ carefully Ephesians 5:19 and you will notice the specific music God desires in worship.

The Scripture says, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart." No where does the New Testament authorize plucking, playing or making melody on a piano or any other mechanical instrument. No where does the New Testament authorize the blues, jazz, rock, or rhythmical songs. Therefore, these things are excluded from the worship of God.

The church of the Lord is expected to abide by His Word. The early church was commended for following the doctrine of the apostles (Acts 2:42) - which is also the doctrine of Christ (2 John 1:9). That doctrine provides for music in the church, but specifies that the music is to be VOCAL: each saint singing praises to God, offering unto Him the praise from his lips. Music that one enjoys and engages in under pleasure and entertainment circumstances is one thing; music in the body of Christ is to be vocal music!

WARNING NUMBER THREE:

"THE CHURCH OF CHRIST WAS BEGUN BY ALEXANDER CAMPBELL"

This has been frequently stated, and sometimes by an honest soul who really doesn't want to be affiliated with a man-made, human institution - and we agree! We also would not want to enter into any union with a human religious system, built by man, and on man, and to further man's own opinions. But let's look at the above objection, in scriptural light.

The statement itself is an impossibility: Alexander Campbell COULD NOT originate Christ's church! Neither could any other man! Jesus promised to build His church (Matt. 16:18), and we find later that it HAD come into being (Acts 2:47) and Paul tells us HOW: it was purchased by His shed blood (Acts 20:28). Acts Chapter 2 throughout the end of the Bible is a record of that

church, and NEITHER did a man named Campbell or any other bring it into being.
Someone might well object at this point: "Forget the church of the New Testament! I'm talking about Campbell founding the religious group known today as 'the Church of Christ.' That's the one Campbell started!" You know, that point would remain to be seen. The seed is the Word of God (Luke 8:11). At any time, in any land, and among any people, if a man plants only that seed, and no doctrine of men, the fruits will be just what God intended, and not after man. Indeed, that's just what every faithful missionary does. If his name is Smith, and he plants only God's seed, the fruits aren't Smithites. When Paul preached the Word only, he didn't create Paulites nor begin the "church of Paul." Rather, he spoke against that very idea in 1 Corinthians 1:10-12. The Word only produces Christians, and they in assembled form are congregations of the churches of Christ (Rom. 16:16).
That Alexander Campbell existed, and labored in the Lord's kingdom is not to be denied. The test will be: what does the churches of Christ teach that is anti-Bible and proves to be purely the invention of Campbell? In examining the doctrine we hold and teach, the plan of salvation made known to men, the pattern of worship, the organization - and all else - is it by God's Word, or after the opinions of men? That examination is all we ask of men who want and love truth. And they will see that we teach not Campbell, but Christ!
Interestingly, those who claim that Campbell began the Church of Christ deal with an impossibility, even from the standpoint of time. **The State of Massachusetts, in its Bay Colony Tercentenary Commission's work, has erected this historical marker in Revere, Massachusetts: "Church of Christ - 1710. Meeting house of the Church of Christ in Rumney Marsh. Erected in 1710, Thomas Cheever, the first settled minister, died December 27, 1749. Aged ninety-one years."** This is very important, considering that Alexander Campbell first reached these shores in 1809. Campbell was born in 1768, and there had been a congregation of the church of Christ in Massachusetts for at least 76 years before his birth!
WARNING NUMBER FOUR:
"THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS JUST ANOTHER DENOMINATION"
The church of Christ is an undenominational institution. When we say undenominational, we do not mean all-denominational. Some man-made churches (such as some Community Churches) claim to be undenominational, but in reality they are all-denominational. They are all-denominational in that they look with favor upon all denominations. The churches of Christ are undenominational in that we are not a denomination and we stand opposed to denominationalism.
It is evident that denominationalism is antipodal to the Bible. For instance, examine the following:
1. Denominationalism (D) is made up of many bodies or churches. Undenominational Christianity (UDC) consist of only one body or church (Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 12:20).
2. D is founded by man. UDC is founded by Christ (Matt. 16:18).
3. D has human heads. UDC has Christ alone as its head (Eph. 1:22-23).
4. D has human creeds. UDC uses the Bible as its only creed (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
5. D wears human names. UDC glorifies God in the name Christian (Acts 11:26; 1 Pet. 4:16).
6. D follows men. UDC understands that following men is condemned (1 Cor. 1:10-13).
7. D has a multiplicity of churches unknown to the Bible. UDC is mentioned in the Bible (Rom. 16:16; Acts 20:28).
8. D membership is not essential to salvation. UDC understands that membership in Christ's body is essential to salvation (Eph. 5:23).
9. D preaches many different gospels. UDC understands that if a man preaches any other Gospel, he is condemned (Gal.1:8-9).
10. D rewrite their creeds every few years. UDC uses only the Bible which remains the same (Matt. 24:35).
11. D has many faiths. UDC has one faith (Eph. 4:5).
12. D has many baptisms. UDC has one baptism (Eph. 4:5).
13. D invites one to "join" their church. UDC understands that only the Lord can "add" one to

His church (Acts 2:47).
14. D claims to abide in branches of the church. UDC abides only in Jesus, the true vine (John 15:1-6).
15. D walks by different rules. UDC walks by the same rule (Phil. 3:16).
16. D thanks God in their prayers for so many churches. UDC believes in Jesus' prayer for oneness (John 17:20-21).
17. D claims that doctrine is inconsequential. UDC understands we are to take heed unto doctrine to save self and others (1 Tim. 4:16).
The above is only a brief contrast. It could be increased many fold. But this should be enough to convince the convincible that denominationalism contradicts the Bible. Therefore, the church of Christ is not a denomination and has nothing to do with denominationalism (except to reprove it - Eph. 5:11).
WARNING NUMBER FIVE:
"THE CHURCH OF CHRIST BELIEVES IN WATER SALVATION"
Because of the widespread belief of Luther's doctrine of "salvation by faith ALONE," this is perhaps the most frequent point discussed by men as they "warn" against the churches of Christ. Of course, baptism is the item at which objection is made.
We often like to point out that while "water salvation" is not a scriptural term, and we have never heard members of the churches of Christ claim to believe in "water salvation," one could just as easily object to the record in Genesis 3 as teaching "FRUIT DAMNATION." Most clearly, Moses there shows us that Adam and Eve fell due to their eating a bite of fruit! Do we believe in "fruit damnation?"
Let us state it clearly: We, and all children of God, must believe in OBEDIENCE salvation and DISOBEDIENCE damnation. The Lord authored eternal salvation for those who obey Him (Heb. 5:9), and we're told He'll take vengeance on those who refuse to obey Him (2 Thess. 1:8-9). Disobedience has always damned, and obedience has always blessed. The point that must be made is that the obedience AND the disobedience will have some action that is incidental and part of the obeying or disobeying. Adam and Eve's disobedience took the form of eating of that fruit. Noah's obedience took the form of obeying God's will relative to the ark and its preparation (Gen. 6).
It cannot be denied, by the Scriptures, that man's obedience to the Gospel has his being baptized as a part of it. It is a part of his obeying the Gospel (Mark 16:15-16); it is for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38); it is to wash away sins (Acts 22:16); it is to put on Christ (Gal. 3:27) and it is to be saved (1 Pet. 3:21).
Romans 6:3 lets us know that baptism places us where the benefits of Christ's death can be applied to us. That benefit, of course, is the blood of Christ. Romans 6:4 continues to show that in being baptized, with Christ and into his death, the same power that raised up Christ from the grave will cause us to then be in NEWNESS OF LIFE!
Paul goes on to show that in that very obedience, in baptism, the old man of sin is ended (v. 6) and that we then are freed from sin (v. 7). If that opens the door for a FALSE charge that we believe in "water salvation," then so be it! To cover the range of requirements, it must be said that we believe and teach FAITH salvation (Heb 11:6), REPENTANCE salvation (Acts 17:30), CONFESSION salvation (Rom. 10:10) as well as BAPTISM salvation (1 Pet. 3:21). The point is that Christ must be obeyed, and that baptism is required, and neither one of these facts can be denied by the Word!
FRIENDS, we have dealt with five warnings sometimes given by honest and sincere people who are MISTAKEN as they warn others about the churches of Christ. The salvation of your soul is too important for you to rely on the words of others, whose instructions may or may not be true. That's why we urgently encourage you to visit and investigate the church of Christ, comparing all things by your own study of God's Word. Then, AND ONLY THEN, can you really know! Why not begin your serious investigation today, and plan now to visit the church of Christ in your community at the next scheduled service?

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