

The Bulletin of
The Golden Isles
CHURCH OF CHRIST

441 Touchstone Parkway ♦ Brunswick, Georgia 31525

Volume 1

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Number 1

Welcome!

The members of the Golden Isles church of Christ which meet at 441 Touchstone Parkway in Brunswick, Georgia wish to welcome you to the pages of this church bulletin. We encourage you to study the Bible with us and to join us as we worship God in spirit and in truth. John 4:24 teaches, "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth." (NKJV). You will find the teaching and the practices of the Golden Isles church of Christ to be in harmony with the authorized practices found in the New Testament applicable to the local church. 2 John 9 teaches us that if we do not stay within the doctrine of Christ, we don't have fellowship with God. Passages like this teach us the necessity of following God's Word in all we do. -mjw

Not a denomination...

It is possible to be *just a Christian* today and not be a member of any religious denomination founded by men. Christ built His church as He promised He would in Matthew 16:18. The Lord's church began on the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Christ in the city of Jerusalem as recorded in Acts chapters 1 & 2. The local churches were called "churches of Christ" (See Romans 16:16) and were to be governed by God's Word. The Golden Isles church of Christ is an autonomous local congregation, which is not a part of any denominational organization. The New Testament, rightly divided, is the rule of faith and practice in all we do.

God's Word teaches that there is only "one faith" (Please see Ephesians 4:1-5). Truth is not ambiguous or contradictory. It is certainly sad that many folks today seek a "church home" with a group that makes them *feel comfortable* or one that *fits their tastes*. This should not be the criteria used for locating oneself with a local congregation. God's Word should be consulted when seeking a church. Please compare what the Bible authorizes a church to engage in with regard to church worship and church work and look at the work and worship of The Golden Isles church of Christ. We can provide book, chapter and verse for all that we teach and practice (Col. 3:17; I Peter 4:11). Come and let us study the Bible together! - Mark J. Ward

Times of Services

Sundays - 2:00pm Bible class, 3:00pm Assembly

Wednesdays - 6:30pm Bible class

Peanut Butter Religion

If you were to go to the grocery store for peanut butter, you would find that you had several choices. You could decide on the basis of how much it cost you, how well it suited your particular tastes, and you could even have your peanut butter already mixed with jelly if you liked! Well, believe it or not, many people use this very same approach in "finding a church".

"FINDING A CHURCH"

It has been estimated that there are over 1500 religious groups in the world today. Yet there is only one Christ. In John 17, Jesus prayed that His disciples be united. Paul, by inspiration, condemned religious division in the first chapter of I Corinthians. Why, then, the utter mass of confusion? Is God the author of such? Certainly not! (See I Cor. 14.33; Eph. 4.1-6).

Where do you go to try to find a group of people meeting in the name of the Lord? Ever look in the Yellow Pages? Pretty confusing, isn't it? There are so many listings it can make your head spin. One might drive within a few miles of his or her home and pass by several buildings that represent a place for religious people to gather for worship.

Why not read the New Testament before making such an important decision? Sounds crazy? Not if you really think about it. The words therein are God's Will for man living today (Heb.1.1ff; James 1.25). The inspired words of the Bible are the words that should be our guide in searching for a local congregation of people who are practicing New Testament Christianity. But, how many people do you know look to this book before setting out to "find a church"?

"HOW MUCH DOES IT COST ME?"

Normally, one will ask the question, "What will I have to do if I go to that church?" In other words, "What's it gonna cost me?" If we have the right spirit toward God, we will want to know what His Will is and we will want to do that. However, such is not the attitude of those who are trying to locate themselves with a congregation that will condone their present style of living with little or no change being necessary. This would be a good example of "shopping for a church." If one particular church were maybe more tolerant of worldliness, for instance, it might appear more appealing to the flesh. But this is not the proper criteria for basing whether or not we will join ourselves to a church (Col. 3:17; Acts 9:26).

"IT SUITS ME"

It is possible to "find a church" that suits your every whim and desire. The possibilities are almost endless. But this is a peanut butter religion; choosing the kind YOU like best. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...His Son built His church...man has no right to pick and choose in religious matters today like we might pick and choose our peanut butter at the grocery store! (John 3:16; Mt. 16:18; Acts 2:47; Lk. 9:23; Lk. 14: 26-33). Let us determine to seek God and His Will and forsake all others. Brethren and friends, think on these things (Phil. 4.8).

- Mark J. Ward

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