

Studies in the Scriptures

Neither Jewish, Protestant nor Catholic???

It is possible to be *just a Christian* today and not be a member of any denomination. When Jesus asked for those in His day to follow Him, He was inviting men and women to be *His disciples*. The Bible warns of people who would *depart from the faith*, the true faith of Jesus Christ (I Tim. 4:1). Paul wrote of this faith in Ephesians 4, when he wrote by the inspiration of God, "One Lord, *one faith*, one baptism..."

We know from passages like I Corinthians 1:10 that God opposes the religious division that exists today. We sometimes hear people boast of "*freedom of religion*", as though it is ok to choose any religious faith. God has always "allowed" freedom of religion in the sense that He has never forced mankind to obey His desires. But, true religion is one faith, not many. Truth is not ambiguously obeyed in the religious denominationalism of today. The very idea of "*attend the church of your choice*" implies that there are many choices that are blessed by God! In reality, this is another of Satan's lies. We should *attend the church of God's choice!*

God's Word teaches us that the disciples of Christ were simply called 'Christians' in Acts 11:26. The churches were called "churches of Christ" or "churches of God" in the New Testament (Rom. 16:16; I Cor. 1:2). The churches of Christ in the New Testament were independent, autonomous churches that answered only to Christ (and not some man-made organizational structure). After Jesus built His church, some refused to convert from Judaism. There are a significant number of people who remain Jews today and reject Jesus as Christ. The Catholic Church had its formal origins from around 325 - 606 AD, followed by the beginning of the various Protestant denominations that originated during (and after) the Reformation movement. Please consider visiting the Golden Isles church of Christ...we are neither Jewish, Protestant, nor Catholic (Rom. 16:16).

- by Mark J. Ward (markjward@yahoo.com)

A Warm Welcome Awaits You At

The Golden Isles church of Christ

2:00 pm & 3:00 pm Sundays - 6:30 pm Wednesdays

441 Touchstone Pkwy - Brunswick, GA Call 265-6936 or 265-3615

<http://www.religiousinstructor.com/church>

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