



WHO WE ARE

We are simply Christians (Acts 11:26; Acts 26:28; 1 Peter 4:15-16), followers of Christ, and lovers of God's word as found exclusively in the Bible.

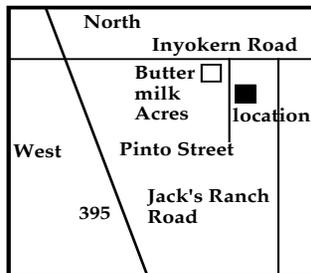
We are your neighbors, your fellow workers, and your fellow students. We try to do the right thing and hold ourselves to the highest possible moral and ethical stands as prescribed by God.

We are not religious extremists but simply people who realize that God must be put first in life if it is to be fully lived and enjoyed. We are part of the mainstream churches of Christ that have been an integral part of the history of this country.

We are people striving to make the world a better place to live by holding to our promises, trying always to tell the truth, respecting others rights, being honest in all things, and being as kind and patient as possible in all circumstances.

DIRECTIONS & MAP

The church building is conveniently located off Inyokern Road just west of town, a mile and a half past Jack's Ranch Road. Look for Buttermilk Acres and turn south onto Pinto Street. The building is then one block south on the left.



WELCOME TO OUR SERVICES

Church of Christ

1508 PINTO STREET
P.O. BOX 1795
RIDGECREST, CA 93556

Telephone
(760) 371-1648
or
(760) 499-6673

SUNDAY

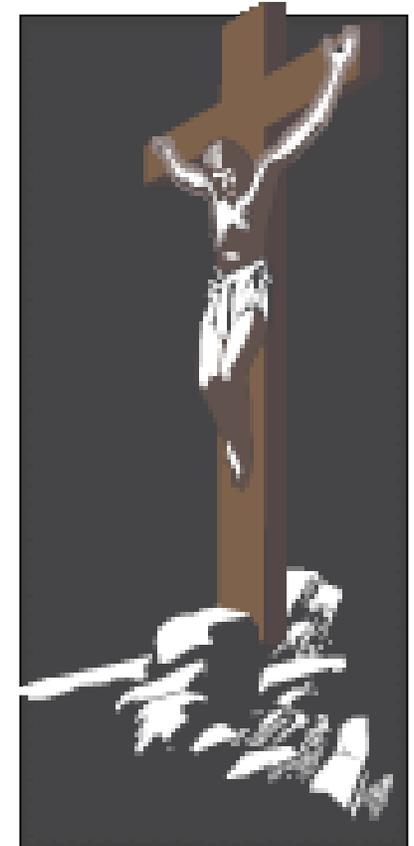
10:00 AM.....Bible Classes
10:50 AM.....Worship Services
5:00 PM.....Worship Services

WEDNESDAY

7:00 PM.....Bible Classes



*About the
Church of Christ*



Romans 16:16 -- Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.

HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION

While the gospel was being preached in the first century it contained within it warnings about apostasy, or a period of falling away from the Faith (2 Thessalonians 2:3), when men would pay attention to deceitful spirits, doctrines of demons, false prophets, and hold to forms of godliness while denying the power in the truth (1 Timothy 4:1-2; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; Colossians 2:18-19).

Four hundred years ago men began to turn back to the Bible for their authority (2 Thessalonians 2:13), and realizing God's Word does not pass away (1 Peter 1:22-25; Matthew 24:35), they became aware God never intended man to add to it or take from it (Revelation 22:18-19; Galatians 1:6-9; 2 John 9-10; 1 Corinthians 4:6).

They tried to reform the various corrupt states of the church, but when that failed, they knew the only real solution was to start over with the New Testament as their only guide. Thus men from many different faiths began to come back to the one, true *Faith* and *Church* found in God's Word (Ephesians 4:4-5).

NEW TESTAMENT TRADITIONS

The Church of Christ has become the leading example in the effort to reestablish the church that Jesus came to build. It wears His name that is scripturally based (Romans 16:16); it is organized only with the offices of Elders and Deacons as prescribed by God (1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9), with Christ alone as the true head (Colossians 1:18). It has no other creed, catechism or manifesto other than the Bible.

In this way the Church of Christ is the oldest established Christian Faith for it traces its beginning all the way back to the first century, with its foundation being the original apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20). It therefore does not presume to wisdom greater than God's and in this is unity.

GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION

The church of Christ understands that the Bible plan for salvation is a process. This process must be followed in its entirety (Matthew 28:19-20) to prevent falling away (Hebrews 6:4-6; Galatians 5:4; Philippians 2:12-13) and to achieve salvation.

1. The Bible teaches that one cannot come to God unless he believes and diligently seeks Him (Hebrews 11:6) through the Scriptures (Romans 10:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14).
2. God has commanded that all need to change from sinful living (Acts 17:30; Luke 13:3,5).
3. Those who seek salvation must confess Jesus as their Lord (Romans 10:9-10).
4. Immersion in water is also imperative (Acts 8:35-36; 10:47-48) to have one's sins washed away (Acts 22:16), and to begin a new life in Christ (Romans 6:3-4).
5. There must also be a continual walk in the light of the gospel (1 John 1:7) and growth to spiritual maturity (2 Peter 1:5-11; Ephesians 4:11-13).

IMPORTANCE OF THE CHURCH

Many feel that the church is not important and that they have no need of it. They feel that they can serve God on their own with Christ as their "personal savior." This, however, is not God's plan for worship and salvation.

Christ came for the specific purpose of establishing His church (Matthew 16:18). The manifold wisdom of God is to be made known through it (Ephesians 3:10). It is Christ's body to do His work (Ephesians 1:23). He will save only those who are part of it (Ephesians 5:23, 27). The church is what Christ died for (Ephesians 5:25).

In Hebrews 10:24-25, we are told not to forsake the assembling of ourselves because the purpose of the church is to stimulate one another to love and good deeds and to encourage one another as we see judgment day drawing nearer.

WHAT WE DO IN ASSEMBLY

The worship service is according to Scripture (John 4:23-24) and orderly (1 Corinthians 14:40). The basis for its structure is taken primarily from Acts 2:42: "They continually devoted themselves to the Apostle's Teachings, Fellowship, the Breaking of Bread, and Prayer." Song service and the privilege of contributing are added from examples in the Apostles' letters.

SERMONS: The preaching and teaching is designed to instruct, to edify (build up spiritually), and to encourage people in righteous and godly behavior. Primarily it is contextual study of the Scriptures with various topical items as needed.

THE LORD'S SUPPER: Like the church during the time of the New Testament, the church of Christ takes part in the Lord's Supper every first day of the week (Acts 20:7). This tradition is also found in external writings well into the second century.

PRAYER: The congregation is lead in prayer by those men displaying righteous and holy behavior (1 Timothy 2:1,8). The prayer consists in praise and thankfulness to God with petitions for our needs and the needs of others.

SINGING: The entire assembly joins in the singing so that none are denied the command and privilege to sing (Colossians 3:16). Since there is no evidence in the New Testament for musical instruments, historically they were not use for over 700 years by any Faith. The command is to make the melody in the heart (Ephesians 5:19), so the church sings a cappella.

CONTRIBUTION: The collection is taken up every first day of the week (1 Corinthians 16:1-2) for the purpose of seeing to the church's needs. It is for the members and is not a solicitation of visitors. It is to be done cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:7) and as one is prospered. Compulsory tithing is not recognized in the New Testament.

