



PathLights

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path"
Psalm 119:104*

March 11, 2018

The Church of Christ

by Frank Himmel

- ✓ You can read about the church of Christ in your Bible. "All the churches of Christ greet you" (Romans 16:16). Is that true of the church you are a member of?
 - ✓ The church of Christ has no creed but the Bible, so that "whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the oracles of God" (1 Peter 4:11). Is that true of the church you are a member of?
 - ✓ The church of Christ is not a denomination or a sect; it is "His body, the fulness of Him who fills all in all" (Ephesians 1:23). Is that true of the church you are a member of?
 - ✓ The church of Christ recognizes only one head, Jesus, the one whom God gave "as head over all things to the church" (Ephesians 1:22). Is that true of the church you are a member of?
 - ✓ The church of Christ does not have councils or conventions which determine truth. Rather, the church is "the pillar and support of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15) which Christ and the apostles revealed. Is that true of the church you are a member of?
 - ✓ The church of Christ does not change its beliefs to stay in step with societal norms. Instead, like its Lord, it is "the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). Is that true of the church you are a member of?
 - ✓ The church of Christ wears only the name of Christ, not the names of men, for "there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). Is that true of the church you are a member of?
 - ✓ The church of Christ worships "in spirit and truth" (John 4:24), limiting its worship to avenues authorized by Christ and His apostles, whose writings are "the Lord's commandment" (1 Corinthians 14:37). Is that true of the church you are a member of?
 - ✓ At the Lord's direction, the church of Christ is not in the entertainment or social services businesses. Rather, its work is to sound forth the word of the Lord (1 Thessalonians 1:8). Is that true of the church you are a member of?
 - ✓ The church of Christ is the saved (Acts 2:47), the bride for whom He will one day come (Ephesians 5:23-27). Is that true of the church you are a member of?
- You should further investigate the church of Christ. We welcome your inquiries. ■

Bibliolatry

by Frank Himmel

For a long time, those of us who regard Scripture as God’s law (not merely suggestions or guidelines) have been accused of *legalism*. Now another term has come into vogue: *bibliolatry*, which means excessive reverence for books. The indictment is that we worship the Bible instead of God; that in effect we make an idol of the Bible, and that is wrong.

One immediately wonders how the critics can say such conduct is wrong if the prohibition of idolatry is only a suggestion, not a law!

Was Moses guilty of bibliolatry when he required Israel to “obey the Lord your God to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this book of the law” (Deuteronomy 30:10)?

Was the prophet Hosea guilty of bibliolatry when he depicted God as saying, “Though I wrote for him ten thousand precepts of My law, they are regarded as a strange thing” (Hosea 8:12)?

Was the apostle Paul guilty of bibliolatry when he cautioned us “not to exceed what is written” (1 Corinthians 4:6), or when he wrote, “If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord’s commandments” (1 Corinthians 14:37)?



Singing

directed by
Tim Stevens

Sunday, March 25
3:00 p.m.

Was Jesus guilty of bibliolatry when He noted that “the Scripture cannot be broken” (John 10:35); or when He said, “...Not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished” (Matthew 5:18); or when He added, “Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:19)?

I know many people who respect the Bible, but I have never seen anyone worship it—pray to it, sing to it, etc. I have seen people ignore it and reject it. Given that it is God’s word, what are they making an idol of? ■

Service Leaders for the Week

| | Sunday | Wednesday |
|---------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| GREETER | John Baucom | Howard Moore |
| SONG LEADER | Bruce Williams | Albert Harrison Sr |
| OPENING PRAYER | Howard Moore | |
| LORD’S SUPPER | | |
| BREAD | Brian Wilson | |
| CUP | Mark Clifton | |
| CONTRIBUTION PRAYER | Rawland Daniel | |
| SERMON/INVITATION | Frank Himmel | Carlos Garcia |
| CLOSING PRAYER | Adam Gibson | David Gray |