

## The Voice of God

### What Does The Bible Say Concerning The Church?

It says that Jesus Christ was the builder and founder:

*"I will build my church..."*  
(Matthew 16:18)

It says that His church would be established first in Jerusalem:

Isaiah 2:2-4 and Micah 4:2

The beginning of Christ's church is recorded in Acts 2, in Jerusalem in approximately 30 AD, exactly as promised:

*"And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."* (Acts 2:47)

It says that Jesus established only one church:

*"I will build my church..."*  
(Matthew 16:18)

*"He is the head of the body, the church..."*  
(Colossians 1:18)

*"There is one body..."*  
(Ephesians 4:4)

What does the Bible call members of Christ's church?

*"And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch."* (Acts 11:26)

be saved. Upon complying with God's commands the Lord will "add" you to His church (Acts 2:47; Matt. 16:18). You will not become a member of any denomination, but simply a member of Jesus' church "which He purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28). Your sins will be washed away (Acts 2:38; 22:16) and your name will be "registered in heaven" (Heb. 12:23). You will be in the "body" of Christ of which Jesus "is the Savior" (Eph. 5:23, 30). You will be a Christian, nothing more and nothing less (Acts 11:26).

Upon becoming a Christian you then need to regularly worship with a local congregation of the Lord's people (Heb. 10:25). Here you will be able to grow in the faith. The Lord requires this growth; it is essential and something toward which every Christian must "give all diligence" (2 Pet. 1:3-11). Each step of the way, as you grow into a mature Christian, the Lord is there helping you (Phil. 4:13).

The local congregation you worship with regularly should follow only the Bible, the "doctrine of Christ" (2 Jn. 9; 1 Pet. 4:11). For example, they should be called by a Biblical name like **church of Christ** (Rom. 16:16). They should be **just Christians**, nothing more and nothing less. They should not be associated with, and have no allegiance to, any denomination; because, denominationalism is condemned in God's word (1 Cor. 1:10-13; 3:1-4). Denominationalism is opposed to the singular nature of the church Jesus promised to build (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4; Col. 1:18). They should report to no earthly head or headquarters. Their head should be Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:20-23) and He resides at the right hand of God in heaven (Heb. 1:3; Eph. 1:20). Their aim and sole desire should be to imitate those in the New Testament that were members of Christ's church (Acts 2:42, 47). They should use God's word as their only guide (1 Pet. 4:11; Col. 3:17) for Jesus Himself said that "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him; the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day." (Jn. 12:48).

Would you like to know more about true, New Testament Christianity? We would be honored to spend time with you studying from God's word. Our contact information is listed below. Don't delay! Remember, your life is like a "vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away." **Contact us today!**

For more information or a free home Bible study contact:

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## THE 5 GREATEST FACTS OF LIFE

- 1 Life is brief
- 2 Death is certain
- 3 Judgment is sure
- 4 Eternity is long
- 5 Preparation is necessary



Do you understand the five greatest facts of life?

Are you dealing with the five greatest facts of life or ignoring them?

*"Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."*

2 Corinthians 6:2

## THE 5 GREATEST FACTS OF LIFE

Someone said “the most important lessons of life can’t be learned in a classroom.” Regardless of your level of education, if you will stop and think about your own life you will most likely agree with the truthfulness of that statement.

In our modern society we live at a very hectic pace. So many things compete for our time: jobs, family, school, and even our recreation. In the hectic pace of modern life it is easy to forget the most important facts of life. Dwight Eisenhower once said, “I have found that the most urgent things in life are rarely important and that the most important things in life are rarely urgent.” Please take a five minute break from your hectic life to carefully consider five facts of life that are both vitally **important** and critically **urgent** for us to learn and live.

1) **Life Is Brief.** The Bible says, “For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.” (Jas. 4:14). We are all familiar with our breath’s frosty vapor on a cold winter day. It truly “appears for a little time and then vanishes away.” Our life is similar. Even if we live to a “ripe old age,” life goes by so very fast! Do you take life for granted? Do you, like most, live your life as if you’re going to live forever? The wise man said, “The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away...So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.” (Psa. 90:10, 12). Do you live as if you’ve learned this great fact of life?

2) **Death Is Certain.** I once knew an 80-year old man who tried to borrow money on a 30-year note. We laugh, but do we live recognizing we don’t get out of life alive? If you will stop and think, I imagine you can recall several relatives or friends whose lives were cut tragically short. Sir

Francis Bacon once said, “Death is a friend of ours; and he that is not ready to entertain him is not at home.” Are you mentally “at home”? Do you ever stop to consider your own mortality? Do you realize the Bible says, “it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment”? (Heb. 9:27) Do you live as if you’ve learned this great fact of life?

3) **Judgment Is Sure.** Jesus tells us everyone will be at the final judgment. He said, “All the nations will be gathered before Him” (Matt. 25:31-33) The Bible says that everyone, “small and great” will stand before God and be judged! (Rev. 20:12-15) That’s you, that’s me, that’s everyone! All will be judged by the “righteous judge” (2 Tim. 4:8) according to God’s word, the Bible (Jn. 12:48). We will also be judged by our “deeds” (Rom. 2:5-10) and that judgment will be final! (2 Thess. 1:7-9) Is it any wonder when Solomon ended his search for wisdom he concluded, “Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.” (Eccl. 12:13-14) Do you live as if you’ve learned this great and sobering fact of life?

4) **Eternity Is Long.** Eternity is a hard concept for creatures bound by the fetters of time to understand. Even Webster has difficulty; he defines it as “infinite time.” “Infinite time” is an oxymoron! By definition time begins and ends, but eternity doesn’t. Jesus said the lost will go into “everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.” (Matt. 25:46) When we’ve been in heaven 10,000 years we’ve no less time to spend there than when we first began. But, the same is true of hell! Do you live as if you’ve learned this great fact of life?

5) **Preparation Is Necessary.** Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people. We’ll never make it there by accident! We are saved by God’s grace “through faith” (Eph. 2:8). But, this “faith” must be an obedient faith (Jas. 2:14-26; Heb. 5:9); otherwise it is “dead”! Do you live as if you’ve learned this great fact of life? What preparations are you making?

Take a moment to contemplate the five greatest facts of life. They’re quite sobering, aren’t they?! Now, what are you going to do? Are you going to resume your hectic lifestyle dismissing these facts from your mind? Or, are you going to gain wisdom and begin living a life taking these great facts into account? If your answer is the former you’re taking a road that will lead you to eternal ruin. Those unprepared to meet the Lord in judgment will hear Him say, “Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matt. 25:41). If your answer is the latter, then its time to begin preparation! The Bible says that we need to do the following to be saved:

- ✦ **Hear:** “faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17).
- ✦ **Believe:** “without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6).
- ✦ **Confess:** “For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” (Romans 10:10).
- ✦ **Repent:** “God...now commands all men everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:30).
- ✦ **Baptism:** “He who believes and is baptized will be saved” (Mark 16:16).

By asking you to do these things we’re not asking you to please men, but to simply do what the Bible instructs all men to do in order to  
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The churches of Christ greet you.  
(Romans 16:16)

JUST CHRISTIANS! (ACTS 11:26)