

The Cordova Connector

...Connecting our community to Christ

A Publication of the Cordova Church of Christ

Romans 16:16

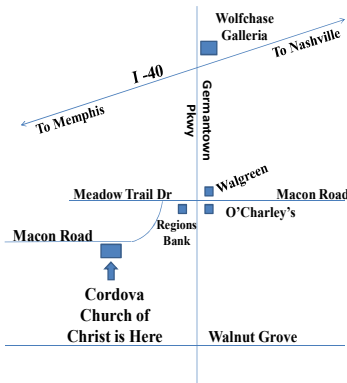
FINDING THE RIGHT CHURCH Part 2

Rick Owens

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:00 A.M.
Sunday Worship	10:00 A.M.
Sunday Worship	1:00 P. M.
Wed. Bible Study	7:00 P.M.

(Attended nursery at all services)



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In the last article of the *Cordova Connector* the importance of Christ's church to man's salvation was recognized. Understanding its importance, the next step is to locate the very church He promised to build or establish (Mt. 16:15-19). When we consider the thousands of "Christian" denominations in the world, there is one thing we know must be true: since all teach differing doctrinal beliefs, not all of them can be right. All that claim to be Christ's church can be wrong, but not all can be right because of the differences in what they teach. Where do we begin our search for the New Testament church for which Christ died?

A good place to start is the name of the organization that claims to be His church. A name reveals much about the ideals and beliefs of a group of people. For instance, a name will reveal how concerned they are about promoting unity within the body of Christ, His church (Col. 1:18). If the name of a group gives homage to another besides Christ, then they are not very concerned with religious division. It was Paul that said, "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you; but *that* ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Cor. 1:10). It is clear that the name given to His church must be a scriptural name. There is no one scriptural name given to

Continued on Page 2...

Look at What's Happening at Cordova!

Sunday Morning Bible Classes and Worship Services

Classes for all ages @ 9 a.m., worship @ 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. every Sunday

Tuesday Morning Bible Class 10 a.m., during the school year

Wednesday Evening Bible Study Classes for all ages @ 7 p.m. every Wednesday evening

Mother's Day Out Program Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30-2:30

Fellowship Luncheons each Sunday

Age Specific Group Programs

Young at Heart Program for those
50 and over

Free Bible Correspondence Courses

Upcoming Activities

Devotional at Carriage Court Assisted
Living every Thursday @ 10:30 a.m.

September 11 – Tuesday morning
Bible class begins @ 10 a.m.

September 30 – Congregational BBQ
Luncheon between services

Continued from Page 1 ...

us for the Lord's church in the New Testament. His church has been called the "church of God" (Acts 20:28), "churches of God" (1 Thess. 2:14), "the church" (Acts 8:1), and the "churches of Christ" (Rom. 16:16). When a scriptural name for the church is used, it indicates a desire to follow the Word of God instead of man's innovations. It also shows that honor and respect to God and Christ are of the utmost importance. However, the name alone is not a surety that one has encountered the church Christ said He would build. A name is simply a starting point on one's journey to find the church spoken of in the New Testament.

The second thing one should be aware of when looking for the true church is the "Gospel" that is being preached. This is important because it is through the gospel that God calls all people to His church. Paul said, "Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thess. 2:14). As the gospel is preached and people become obedient to the requirements within the gospel they receive salvation from sin and are added to His church through the act of baptism. Luke recorded the events of Pentecost in the book of Acts regarding those that submitted to the gospel that Peter and the rest of the apostles preached. He said, "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls" (Acts 2:41). He went on to say, "Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47). It becomes clear after reading the words of an inspired writer that it is very important that a pure, unadulterated gospel be taught and preached at the church where one is a member! Paul warned the Galatians about false teachers and **their** doctrines, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any *man* preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man" (Gal. 1:6-11). If the gospel that is being preached at a place is being changed by its leaders, then a number of troubling things are taking place, one of which is that those listening to it are obeying a gospel that is not Christ's and they are not being saved and added to the Church that Christ established. Though a group may have the appropriate name, if they are changing the gospel that is being preached then they are not the church that belongs to Christ.

We will continue next time in our study of finding the right church and how the gospel being taught is often changed to fit the desires of man instead of God's.