

The Cordova Connector

...Connecting our community to Christ

A Publication of the Cordova Church of Christ

Romans 16:16

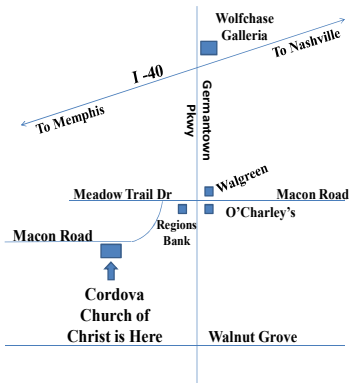
FINDING THE RIGHT CHURCH Part 3

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)



Rick Owens, Minister
7801 Macon Road Cordova, TN 38018
(901) 754-9893
www.cordovacoc.com

In the last article of the *Cordova Connector* some identifying marks of the Lord's church were discussed. A scriptural name, meaning one found in the New Testament, was one identifying mark of that church. The gospel being taught was another identifying mark of the church that Christ said He would build. We learned that there must have been some type of identifying pattern found within the New Testament church since Paul said, "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" (Gal. 1:8-9). If we could properly identify the church that Jesus and the inspired writers of the New Testament spoke of, we would all want to be members of that church.

Down through the years different men and women that claimed to have had special insight into the wishes of God have changed the pattern of the New Testament church to fit their desires. A few of these changes will be noticed.

The church belonging to Christ was **organized** in a specific way. Each congregation of the Lord's church was under autonomous rule. The Hebrews writer commanded, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that

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.

Tuesday morning Bible Class every
Tuesday at 10 a.m.

October 8— Ladies' Night Out

October 12-14 — Family Fall Retreat

October 13— Young at Heart Outing

Continued from Page 1 ...

they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you" (Heb. 13:17). Those that had the rule over the local congregation were the elders that had been ordained in every congregation (Titus 1:5). An example of this is seen when Paul spoke to the elders at the church of Christ in Ephesus for the last time (Acts 20:17). He admonished those elders, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28). Many Christian organizations are led or overseen by people other than an eldership, such as synods, councils, committees, and various other forms of rule. While the office of a deacon is an ordained office within the church, it is never identified as a leadership position within the church.

The **worship** of the New Testament church followed a pattern. They sang psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs in their worship of God (Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19). There is no example of the early Christians singing these songs of worship to the accompaniment of an instrument. The word "a cappella" means without instrumental accompaniment and it first meant "chapel style." One might suggest that we are not commanded not to use the instrument in our worship of God. However, doing so would violate the silence of the scripture. When the Hebrews writer spoke about Jesus not being an earthly priest he said, "For *it is* evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood" (Heb. 7:14). Moses did not have to name every tribe that could not hold the position of priest, he simply had to state which one could. When Nadab and Abihu offered incense to the Lord, they were burned up by fire because they "offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not" (Lev. 10:1). God didn't have to tell them all the places from which they could not get the necessary fire, He only had to tell them from where they could get the fire. The command in the New Testament concerning singing is to simply sing.

The Lord instituted the observance of the Lord's Supper in Matthew chapter 28. We read how the early church observed that sacred form of worship every first day of the week in Acts 20:7. One might argue that observing the Supper every Sunday would make it commonplace, but the same ones who suggest that will take up a collection of money on every Sunday and any other time they deem necessary. However, like the Lord's Supper, the giving of our means as an act of worship is commanded to be done only on the first day of the week collectively by the Christian body (1 Cor. 16:1-2).

We will conclude our series next time as we finish looking at the pattern of the Lord's church. Then, we will search for Bible answers to learn how we become members of the New Testament church.