

The Cordova Connector

...Connecting our community to Christ

A Publication of the Cordova Church of Christ

Romans 16:16

FINDING THE RIGHT CHURCH

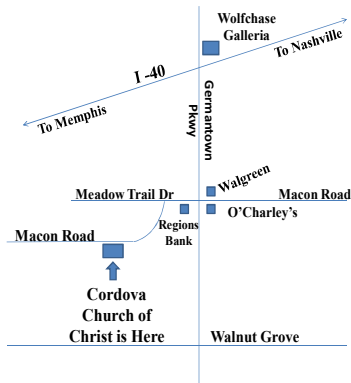
Part 4

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 edition of the *Cordova Connector* we noticed some of the identifying marks of the church of the New Testament. Once we come to realize the differences between manmade religious institutions and the New Testament church, we will surely want to locate the church Christ said He would build (Mt. 16:18).

We learned that the organization of the church was not structured in such a way as to be led by the preacher or any other type of council or synod. However, it was organized in such a way that it would be led by a qualified eldership having a plurality of elders. Paul commanded Titus, "For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee" (Titus 1:5). Anytime we read in the Bible about the eldership, it is spoken of in the plural form, never as having a single elder. When Paul said goodbye to the church at Ephesus, he advised the "elders" on what would happen in the future (Acts 20:17).

Differences in the New Testament worship of God and modern day worship was also recognized. The early Christians sang without the accompaniment of mechanical instruments of music (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). The first century Christians observed the Lord's Supper each first day of the week (Acts 20:7). They also gave of their means to support the works of the church when they came together for worship on Sundays (1 Cor. 16:1-2).

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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 22 - Bible Bowl @ Collierville

October 27 - Trunk or Treat @ 4 p.m.

October 28 - CATS Luncheon

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New Testament Christians also prayed according to a pattern that was given to them by Jesus. The prayers offered by the early Christians were done so in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, not by or through any other person. Jesus said, "And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give *it* you" (Jn. 16:23). The importance of prayer, to the Christian, cannot be over emphasized. It is through prayer that we are able to approach the throne of God with the burdens of this life that are difficult to overcome. The Hebrews writer said, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Heb. 4:16).

However, one must never make prayer a substitute for obedience to the will of God when it comes to our initial salvation. John said, "Now we know that God **heareth not sinners**: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and **doeth his will**, him he heareth" (Jn. 9:31). It is clearly stated that His will is to be observed and fulfilled if we are going to be heard by Him in prayer. This makes it impossible for an alien sinner to be able to approach the throne of God and for God to act upon His requests. He must first be obedient to God by becoming a Christian according to the parameters that He has set forth.

Without the Bible we would know nothing of His will, so it is the Bible that we will consult in order to locate His commandments. Paul told those at Rome, "So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17). If the teachings of an organization cannot be supported with Biblical proof, we must avoid it at all costs. Once the gospel is taken into the mind, faith is produced. It is through the hearing of the gospel that we are called to God and that is where our faith is born (2 Thess. 2:14). Once faith begins to cultivate and grow in our hearts, the desire will be to repent of all past sins and turn our lives over to God in order to serve Him faithfully (Acts 17:30). This will lead the believer to want to make the good confession that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, just like the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:37). Confession takes one up to the point of salvation because Paul said, "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made **unto** salvation" (Rom. 10:10). The final step in gaining salvation is the act of baptism, immersion in water, for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16). Baptism is the act that adds us to the Lord's church of the New Testament (Acts 2:47), places us in His body (Gal. 3:26-27) which is the church (Col. 1:18), and puts us in contact with Christ's blood to remove our sins and save us (Rom. 6:3-4; 1 Pet. 3:20-21). Once salvation is gained we must be diligent to remain faithful just as Paul did (2 Tim. 4:6-8) because the danger of apostasy and the loss of salvation is what the Devil would have all of us to experience. Paul warned the Galatian brethren that they were in danger of falling from grace and losing their salvation (Gal. 5:4).

It is the desire of the Cordova church of Christ that the information found in these newsletters has been helpful to those that have read them with regard to understanding the differences between the New Testament church and the many manmade organizations that exist in the world today. The souls of men and women everywhere depend upon the reliance on the Bible as the only guide in the quest for heaven and eternal life. If book, chapter, and verse cannot be provided, then the doctrine being taught must be rejected (Gal. 1:6-9).