

# The Cordova Connector

...Connecting our community to Christ

*A Publication of the Cordova Church of Christ*

*Romans 16:16*

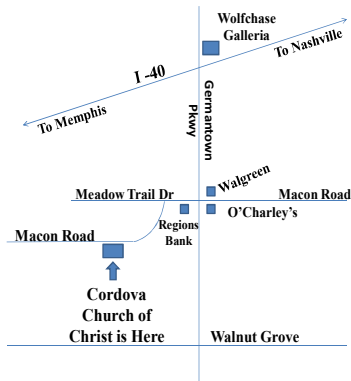
## THE GREATEST PROBLEM MANKIND HAS EVER FACED

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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People of all ages, nationalities, incomes, and ethnic groups have to deal with various problems in life. We may not all face the exact same problems in our respective lives, but there is one problem that is common to all people no matter where we live or the circumstances that surround us. Sin! Sin is a problem that has plagued man from almost the beginning of time. As we study man's history in the Bible, we learn quickly that the Scriptures deal with humans in a perfect state for only two chapters. By the time the events of chapter three have unfolded, we have learned of sin's introduction into the world. As a consequence of the first couple's lapse into sin, they were removed from the Garden of Eden and separated from the tree of life. However, Adam and Eve's expulsion from the garden and forbiddance from the tree of life were the minor results of their sinful activity.

In order to understand our greatest problem, we must first have a clear understanding of what sin is. Sin is committed when one breaks the law of God. The apostle John wrote, "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law" (1 Jn. 3:4). If one makes a practice of living in a sinful way, they are giving control of their life over to Satan. Jesus taught that, "**Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin**" (Jn. 8:34). Since sin is committed when the law of God is broken, it is reasonable to understand that one must choose whether to break His commandments or not. Even though we face various problems in the world today God still expects each of us to

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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

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### Upcoming Activities

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

Saturday, September 8 – Young at  
Heart Outing @ Noon

Sunday, September 9 – CATS (College  
Aged and Twenty Somethings)  
luncheon

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follow the guidelines that He has provided for us in His inspired word, the Bible. In His Sermon on the Mount Jesus explained the choice that each of us must make, **“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it”** (Mt. 7:13-14). It becomes even clearer after reading the words of Christ why sin is our greatest problem: it keeps us from eternal life if we do not avoid its traps. The prophet Isaiah told the people of Israel why they were separated from God when he said, **“Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear”** (Isa. 59:1-2).

What can we do about our sin problem? First, we must understand that without God there is nothing we can do about the problem of sin in our lives. In order to know what He wants we must go to His instructions for the answers. We must never take the word of another person, regarding the salvation of our souls, without making sure that what we are told is in accordance with what the Bible says (Acts 17:11).

The Bible holds for us God's pattern for gaining salvation from sin. Paul taught that belief in Jesus Christ as the Saviour of the world comes from a study of the word of God (Rom. 10:17; Heb. 12:2). The knowledge gained from the Bible will produce in our lives a godly sorrow which comes from knowing that we have not been faithful to God (2 Cor. 7:10), which causes the believer to repent of the sins in his or her life and then to turn to God (Acts 2:38). The Ethiopian Eunuch, after Philip's teaching, confessed his belief that Jesus Christ was the Son of God (Acts 8:26-39). We find that in every case of conversion in the book of Acts that each person submitted to immersion in water as a part of their obedience to God.

Beginning on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2) the apostles taught that the purpose of baptism was to remove past sins from the new believer (Acts 2:36-38). Ananias came to Saul of Tarsus and said these words, **“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord”** (Acts 22:16). Saul had been praying and fasting for three days, but still his sins had not been removed (Acts 9:8-11). To call upon the name of the Lord is to be obedient to His commandments. Jesus said, **“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned”** (Mk. 16:15-16).

All spiritual blessings are in Christ and there are only two places in the New Testament that tell us explicitly how we get into Christ (Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:26-27). We are baptized into Christ, where all spiritual blessings are (Eph. 1:3). Baptism is the same act that both removes our sins and adds us to the Lord's church (Acts 2:41, 47). After salvation is gained through obedience to God, we must be diligent to remain faithful to Christ as long as we live upon the earth (2 Tim. 4:6-9). This is the only way to overcome sin, the greatest problem mankind has ever faced.