

# The Cordova Connector

...Connecting our community to Christ

A Publication of the Cordova Church of Christ

Romans 16:16

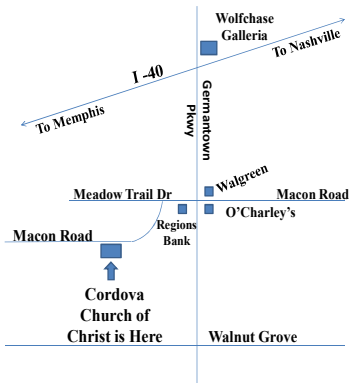
## FINDING THE RIGHT CHURCH

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

David Barrett, one of the editors of the *World Christian Encyclopedia*, reported that there are at least nineteen major religious organizations in the world today. These nineteen organizations are subdivided into two hundred seventy large religious groups. Within the major categories of these religions, there are over thirty-four thousand groups that are identified as Christian religions. More than half of this number are independent and do not identify with any of the larger Christian denominations of the world (<http://www.religioustolerance.org/worldrel.htm#wce>).

There are more than thirty-four thousand groups that claim to be Christian in their beliefs! That is an astounding number to say the least. Not only is it a huge number in terms of people, but it is a huge number when one is trying to locate a church with which to be identified and to work. Which church is the right church? It becomes difficult to answer this question since there are so many in the United States alone. In order to answer it properly we must go to the correct source for the answer: the Bible. It matters not what some man or woman says concerning which church is the right church, but what God says about it in His inspired word!

When Christ was coming into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His followers a simple question, “**Who do men say that I the Son of man am**” (Mt. 16:13)? From this question He received various answers such as John the

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.

Saturday, September 8 – Young at  
Heart Outing @ Noon

Monday, September 10 – Ladies' Night  
Out @ 6:45

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

*Continued from Page 1 ...*

Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the other prophets. It was clear that, though many did not know exactly Who Christ was, they knew He was something special. It was at this point that He asked His disciples who they thought He was. Peter then made a glorious statement, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Mt. 16:16). Following Peter's confession that Christ was the Son of God, Jesus blessed him for his great faith in Who He truly was. The following statement of the Lord will help us in answering the question of which church is the right church. Jesus then said to Peter, "**And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it**" (Mt. 16:18).

Christ said that He would build His church! Christ made it clear that He was talking about a single **church**, not thirty-four thousand separate **churches**. Jesus and His followers understood the great importance that His church holds in man's redemptive process. Many in the first century gave their lives because of their great faith in Christ and His church. We read about Stephen being stoned to death because of His bold preaching concerning Christ and the church for which He died (Acts 7:54-60; Acts 20:28). Secular writings indicate that each of the apostles save John gave their lives as martyrs for the church they loved so dearly. Many in the world will boldly declare their love for Christ, but also their hatred for religion or organized religion, meaning the church. One cannot truly love Christ and at the same time hate the organization which He founded and for which He gave his life.

Before we can find the right church, we must understand the great importance of the church. Paul made this statement to the Ephesians, "Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ" (Eph. 1:3). It is clear that Paul intended for us to understand that **all** spiritual blessings can be found nowhere but in Christ. He also told the Colossian brethren that the body of Christ and the church were one in the same, "And he is the head of the body, the church..." (Col. 1:18). After a study of the Bible, it is clear that the body of Christ and the church are the same, therefore all spiritual blessings are found in the church that Christ said He would build back in Matthew chapter sixteen. After the Day of Pentecost Luke recorded, "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). In addition to the previous statements by Christ and Paul concerning the importance of the church, we now have a statement from Luke informing the reader that the saved are found in the church because God added them to His body.

Beginning with the next edition of the Cordova Connector, we will focus our attention on finding the church for which Christ died and which He said He would build.