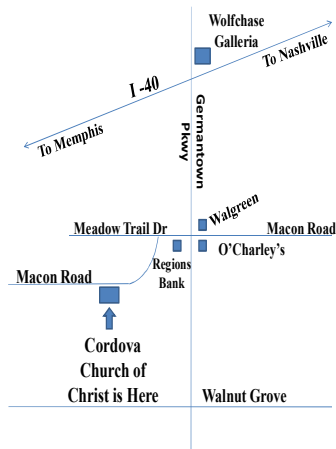


The Cordova Connector

...Connecting our community to Christ

A Publication of the Cordova Church of Christ

Romans 16:16



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Connecting to Life

BURNT BISCUITS

When I was a child, my mom liked to make breakfast food for dinner every now and then. And I remember one night in particular when she had made breakfast after a long, hard day at work. On that evening so long ago, my mom placed a plate of eggs, sausage, and extremely burned biscuits in front of my dad. I remember waiting to see if anyone noticed! Yet all my dad did was reach for his biscuit, smile at my mom and ask me how my day was at school. I don't remember what I told him that night, but I do remember watching him smear butter and jelly on that biscuit and eat every bite!

When I got up from the table that evening, I remember hearing my mom apologize to my dad for burning the biscuits. And I'll never forget what he said: "Honey, I love burned biscuits."

Later that night, I went to kiss Daddy good night and I asked him if he really liked his biscuits burned. He wrapped me in his arms and said, "Your Momma put in a hard day at work today and she's real tired. And besides—a little burnt biscuit never hurt anyone!"

You know, life is full of imperfect things . . . and imperfect people. I'm not the best at hardly anything, and I forget birthdays and anniversaries just like

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Connecting to Jesus

WHAT IS THE CHURCH OF CHRIST?

Different Meanings

The word "church" is often used by people of existing religious organizations. Today there are about 300 different kinds of churches, so it has become necessary for each to be identified by some word other than just "the church." Church has come to mean different things to different people, depending on their association with, or knowledge of, a particular denomination.

This was not always so. During New Testament times, and for several centuries, there were no religious divisions, since the church of Christ existed in its purity.

Bible Definition of "The Church"

Church is first used in the Bible in Matthew 16:18 when Christ said, "Upon this rock I will build my church." It occurs again in Acts 2 and from there is used often to the close of the New Testament. It literally means "the called out body." This body consists of people who have been "called out" of the darkness of sin and into God's marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9). The primary plea of the churches of Christ is for religious unity of all the "called out." In a divided religious world it is believed that the Bible is the only possible common basis upon which people who love God can unite.

How People Are "Called Out"

Paul states that God "...called you through our gospel..." (2 Thessalonians 2:4). When the inspired apostles preached the Gospel or "good news" of Christ, they "called" for people to believe and obey God's Word. When a person did so, he was added to the Lord's church which was composed of the body of believers and followers of Christ. He became thereby a member of the body of Christ which is the church of Christ. The Bible nowhere teaches that a person was saved and then later joined the church of his church. When one obeyed the Gospel, he was saved from past sins and became a member of that group of people who belonged to the Lord.

Salvation and membership in the Lord's church were obtained by one action: that of obedience to the terms of Christ as stated in His Gospel. Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved..." (Mark 16:16). This is God's calling you through the Gospel.

What Is the Church?

The church is the body of believers in Christ who have been immersed into Christ. "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:26-27). The church is composed of those who wear only the name of Christ." And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch" (Acts 11:26). The church consists of those who believe and teach only the doctrine of Christ. God said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him" (Matthew 17:5).

<http://www.housetohouse.com/HTHPubPage.aspx?pub=2&issue=524§ion=569&article=4083>

Connecting to Life continued ...

everyone else. What I've learned over the years is that learning to accept each other's faults—and choosing to celebrate each other's differences—is one of the most important keys to creating a healthy, growing, and lasting relationship.

And that's my prayer for you today. That you will learn to take the good, the bad, and the ugly parts of your life and lay them at the feet of God. Because in the end, He's the only One who will be able to give you a relationship where a burnt biscuit isn't a deal-breaker!

We could extend this to any relationship. In fact, understanding is the base of any relationship, be it a husband-wife or parent-child or friendship. Someone said, "Don't put the key to your happiness in someone else's pocket—keep it in your own."

So please pass me a biscuit, and yes, the burnt one will do just fine.

— Author Unknown, submitted by Frances Shipp, Weaver High School, Weaver, Alabama

Connecting to God's Word

Read Psalms 12-15

1. How would you describe the words of the Lord in these Psalms?
2. Do you think God is happy with the way He is represented in the world?
3. What message are you sending the world about God based on how you are currently living?
4. What are some characteristics that you learned about God from these Psalms?
5. How can these Psalms help you in your relationship with God?
6. What is one action you will take based upon the reading?

Connecting to His Church

7801 Macon Road ~ Cordova, TN 38018

Weekly luncheons between Sunday services!

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)	

Please contact us at (901) 754-9893 to receive a free DVD entitled "The Silencing of God".