



The Sword

*“And take... the sword of the Spirit,
which is the word of God.”* Ephesians 6:17

“The Sword” is published weekly by the OAK GROVE CHURCH OF CHRIST, as a teaching and information tool for the congregation. Articles are intended to encourage the study of God’s Word every day! — Jack W. McNeil, editor

Volume 17 - January 10, 2010 - Number 2

“The Church in the New Testament... Today?” *by Wendell Winkler*

We all agree that the right church is the church that existed in the first century, the church of which Peter, John, James, and Paul were members. If we can find that same church existing in our day, it will still be the right church.

How do we know when we find it? We must ascertain its essential identifying features. We then need to search for the church today that has the same features. When we find it, we will have found the right church. As we open our New

Testaments, what essential identifying features do we find?

- The church was guided solely by the apostles’ doctrine, the church having no man-made creed, discipline, confession of faith, or catechism (Acts 2:42; Philippians 1:27; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3).

- The church worshipped on the first day of the week (1 Corinthians 16:2), upon which day they sang a capella (Ephesians 5:19), gave of their means (1 Corinthians 16:2), observed the Lord’s supper weekly (Acts 20:7), prayed (1 Corinthians 14:15), and studied God’s word (Acts 2:42; 20:7).

- The church was organized on a local, autonomous, congregational level (Acts 14:23), the church having elders, deacons, evangelists, and members (Philippians 1:1).

- The church was designated “the church” (Colossians 1:18), “the church of Christ” (Romans 16:16), “the church of the Lord” (Acts 20:28 asv), and “the church of God” (1 Corinthians 1:2).

- The church was entered as a result of people becoming baptized, penitent believers (Acts 2:36-47).

This was the church as it existed in the first century, the church of which Peter, James, John, and Paul were members. Now, my friends, with no intent at all to be boastful, but to be kindly clear, we affirm that the church of Christ in your community is the same church. The church of Christ in this century has the same essential identifying features:

- We have no man-made creed, discipline, confession of faith, or catechism. We are governed solely by the apostles' doctrine, by the New Testament.

- We worship on the first day of the week by engaging in a capella singing, praying, studying God's word, giving

of our means, and observing the Lord's supper.

- Each congregation is local, independent, autonomous or self-governing, having elders, deacons, evangelists, and members.

- We are designated as "the church of Christ" or by an equivalent.

- If you were to ask, "How do I become a member of the church of Christ today?" you would be kindly instructed that you must become a baptized, penitent believer.

We plead for the church now (this century) as then (first century). Such is pure, simple, and beautiful New Testament Christianity!

"I'm Packing" by Unknown

I'm packing to go to heaven.
I started in '35.
I decided to follow Jesus
For as long as I'm alive.

First, I laid a foundation
As it told me in His Word.
I know the road to take
From teaching and preaching I've heard.

Next, I packed the Bible
As a map along the way.
I check it very often
So that I would not stray.

It seems a long time on the road.
There have been boulders to detain

me.

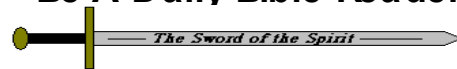
But the Lord has been beside me,
That surely is the key.

He knows my heart and every thought
And helps me when I ask.
He knows my frailties too,
And gives me strength for the task.

So, I am still busy packing.
He won't let me take any strife.
I'll just cast my burdens on Him
So I'll be ready at the end of my life.

Keep Your Sword Sharpened

– Be A Daily Bible Reader!



NEWS AND NOTES:

OUR PRAYER LIST:

Congregation:

- Lowell Smith has been sick with bronchitis the last couple of weeks.
- Bert Wyman had knee surgery last week and she is doing well.
- Wendell Osborne is now cancer free!
- Please remember in your prayers all who have been sick, bereaved or in the hospital recently: Marjorie Alley, Freda Bentley, Lloyd Cooper, Irene Jennings, Jim O'Connor, Wendell Osborne, Alberta Petering, Opal Reed

Friends & Family:

- Shauna Heck has been diagnosed with advanced cancer.

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

Oak Grove:

- Men's Business meeting after the PM worship service.
- January 7th Ladies Bible class has been cancelled.
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"A merry heart doeth good..."

—Proverbs 17:22

James (age 4) was listening to a Bible story. His dad read, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city but his wife looked back and was turned to salt."

Concerned, James asked, "What happened to the flea?"

SERVING ONE ANOTHER:

LEADING IN WORSHIP: *January 10*

Announcements: Claude Andrews

Usher: Melvin Lunn

Lord's Table: Leland Reed

West: Peyton Jenkins – Dustin Hall

East: Shane Stevens – Walter Reed

Sunday AM

Song Leader: David Wiesemann

Opening Prayer: Vint Hall

Second Prayer: Sean McLaughlin

Scripture Reader: Glenn Wyman

Sermon: *Hebrews 10:1-4*

"The Blood of Christ"

Closing Prayer: Roy Smith

Sunday PM

Song Leader: Sean McLaughlin

Opening Prayer: Dixon Liljegren

Sermon: *Judges 17:6*

"No King in Israel"

Closing Prayer: Vernon Logan

Wednesday Night:

Song Leader: Brayden Shelley

January 6

Devotional: Tyler Jenkins

Closing Prayer: Dustin Hall

January 13

Devotional: Sean McLaughlin

Closing Prayer: Richard Petering

OUR CURRENT RECORDS:

Wednesday: *December 30*

Bible Class 61

Sunday: *January 3*

Bible Class 57

AM Worship 68

PM Worship 48

Contribution \$1,737

Budget \$2,061

*The King James Version is requested for
pulpit, classrooms, & scripture reading.*

Work Program 2008-2009

Team	Leader/s	Next Assignment
1	Jack McNeil	Feb. 7
2	Roger Stephenson	Feb. 14
3	Walter Hutcherson	Feb. 21
4	<i>Vernon Logan</i>	<i>Jan. 10</i>
5	Dustin Hall	Jan 17
6	Roy Smith Tim Smith	Jan 24
7	Justin Liljegren Dixon Liljegren	Jan. 31

WHO WE ARE:

The Oak Grove Church of Christ is independent of any denominational organization. We are not associated with any national or world headquarters. Yet, we cooperate voluntarily with our sister congregations in the Lord's work and fellowship.

The church of Christ is noted for its emphasis upon returning to New Testament Christianity and for its desire to *"be perfectly joined together in the same mind and ... judgment..."* (1 Cor. 1:10). We try to follow the basic, innocent faith that was proclaimed on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2).

If you are earnest about learning more by means of studying the Holy Bible and obeying what it says, you will truly find a home here at Oak Grove Church of Christ.

Oak Grove Church of Christ

104 SW 6th Street,
Oak Grove, MO 64075 (816) 690-4599
www.ogchurchofchrist.org

Head of the Church:

Christ (Eph 1:22; 5:23; Col 1:18)

Elders: (1 Tim 3:1-7)

Claude Andrews
Walter Hutcherson
Richard Petering
Lowell Smith

Deacons: (1 Tim 3:8-13)

Darrell Andrews
Dean Evatt
Vint Hall
Hershel Hunt
Leland Reed
Tim Smith
David Wiesemann

Preacher: (2 Tim 4:1-5)

Jack W. McNeil
Office: (816) 690-4599
Cell: (816) 522-2584
ogchurchofchrist@embarqmail.com

– Schedule of Services –

Sunday:

Bible Study – 9:30 a.m.
Worship – A.M. 10:20; P.M. 6:00

Wednesday: Bible Study – 7:00

Bi-Monthly: "House to House / Heart to Heart"