

## WHY I AM A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST #2

I am a member of the church of Christ **because it requires nothing more and nothing less than that which is set forth in the Scriptures.**

First Thessalonians 5:21 declares: *“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.”* The same thing is pointed out in 1 John 4:1, *“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits where they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”*

It is not only appropriate to test and examine every thing and every one religious, it is demanded that we do so. God does not allow and accept just any belief or action. He is not like our dog that anxiously awaits at our feet while we eat at the dinner table for any crumb we might toss him. He demands respect, reverence and obedience. He demanded the first and the best in the Old Testament and (cf. Exodus 12:5) and He demands no less now (Matt. 6:33).

To “prove all things” and “try the spirits” is to compare what we hear and see with what the inspired Word of God says. Since God is to be worshiped, He has the right to tell us what to do in both worship and service. To follow error is to follow anything that is not authorized in the Scriptures. That is the way of the devil. That is the way that causes people to be lost.

Jesus tells us that everyone in the world will be judged according to his Word. He said, *“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: **the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day**”* (John 12:48). Very strict

warning is given that we must not “add to” or “take from” God’s Word/Bible (Rev. 22:18-19). Therefore, the Lord requires nothing more and nothing less than what He gives us in the Scriptures.

Colossians 3:17 demands that we have authority from the New Testament for everything we both say and do. *“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus...”* (Col. 3:17). To do all “in the name of the Lord” means we do everything according to a “thus saith the Lord.” That means we have book, chapter and verse for everything we say and do. We cannot act without Him telling us to act. If we do something “on our own” because we like it or think it would be acceptable, we become our own authority. God does not allow us to do what we want. Serving the Lord is not subject to man’s likes and dislikes. That would be chaos. To follow our way means there would be thousands and thousands of ways that man chooses to worship God; and, that is exactly what we see in the world. However, if everyone does only what the Lord says (authorizes), then everyone is worshiping God in unison. The Bible is the absolute standard of authority. When we worship His way, we all meet His approval because we all point to His Word — His Authority.

The Lord’s church, his people, teach only that which he tells us to. First Peter 4:11 says, *“If any man speak, let him **speak as the oracles of God**; ... that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”*

— Garland M. Robinson