



AN INVITATION

Have you seen the brokenness in the world around us?

You don't have to look hard to see the shattered relationships in our communities. We even feel the brokenness in ourselves through our worries, our pain, the trouble in our personal relationships, and even the knowledge of our own failures. Longing for healing, we know there should be something or someone to right the wrongs, to restore peace and joy, and to bring vibrant life where there seems to be so little of it.

What we ultimately seek is:

LOVE | BELONGING | IDENTITY | JUSTICE | TRUTH

At the College Avenue Church of Christ we do not claim to have all the answers or be able to provide everything your soul is longing for. **But we are followers of the One (Jesus) who claims:**

**To be “the Way, the Truth, and the Life”
(John 14:6)**

**To be “before all things” and “hold all things together”
(Colossians 1:17)**

**To be on a mission “to seek and to save the lost”
(Luke 19:10)**

**That He “is making all things new”
(Revelation 21:5)**

Jesus does not offer you an easy life. But He does say your life will be the most fulfilling life possible when it is lived in Him.

You will find a Savior. And in that Savior you will find
LOVE | BELONGING | IDENTITY | JUSTICE | TRUTH

What is our mission at the College Avenue Church of Christ?

It is simply to be the community of people whose life, teaching, worship, service, work, and mission are lived out in imitation of Jesus Christ and His earliest community of followers - the church of the New Testament. In our teaching and preaching from the Bible, you will see the relevance of Jesus Christ to all races, nationalities, ages, and socio-economic backgrounds - all seeing what they have in common: broken people in need of a Redeemer. And in Christ they find the loving community they have been longing for.

If you have doubts,
WE WELCOME YOUR CONCERNS.

If you have requests for prayer,
WE'RE LISTENING.

If you want to go deeper into the Message,
OUR BIBLES AND MINDS ARE OPEN.

If you are ready to explore an authentic Bible-based, Christ-centered approach to living out the Christian faith,
COME AND SEE.



COLLEGE AVENUE
Church of Christ

211 W. College St. | Enterprise, AL 36330
(334) 347-8917 | office.cacoc@gmail.com
EnterpriseChurch.com

WEEKLY GATHERINGS

SUNDAYS Bible Study 9 am | Morning Worship 10 am | Evening Worship 5 pm
WEDNESDAYS Prayer and Bible Study 6:30 pm



WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

Gospel means “GOOD NEWS.”

The Gospel of Jesus is both SIMPLE AND PROFOUND.

We are broken people in need of healing who live in a world in need of healing. On this point, most religions of the world agree to an extent on the problem. They differ in terms of solution.

Here are some areas that distinguish Christianity and its Gospel message:

- **Broken people cannot fix themselves**, no matter how many good deeds they perform (**Ephesians 2:8-10**).
- **The God of the Bible is one who not only cares about the condition of the world but is willing to make Himself a part of that world, taking on the form of a man.** We call this the Incarnation of God in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, a man who lived roughly 2,000 years ago in Palestine (**Matthew 1:23; John 1:14**).
- **The ministry of Jesus was about beginning the restoration** of all that has been broken in this world, including myself (**Ephesians 4:22-24**).
- **This man Jesus was crucified on a cross because He was a perceived threat to the social order. The Christian understanding of His death is that, even though He was sinless, He absorbed the sins of every human into Himself.** In so doing, He became sin so that in the moment of His death, the evil itself would also die (**2 Corinthians 5:21**).

- **He was buried but rose in bodily form on the 3rd day after His death.** This fact was attested by more than 500 witnesses, no dead body was ever found, and all proposed alternatives to the resurrection lack plausibility **(1 Corinthians 15:3-8).**
- **As a result of His death and resurrection, He has defeated the 2 great enemies of humanity - sin and death (Hebrews 2:9-15).**
- **When we accept the Gospel and obey the Gospel to be united with this Savior Jesus in baptism, we too experience His victory over sin and the fear of death.** He shares with us forgiveness for sins, a renewed access to God, and what Jesus calls “abundant life” **(John 10:10).**



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MY PARTICIPATION IN THE GOSPEL

God has finished the work making salvation from the power of sin and death possible. God's grace (unmerited favor) is what allows me to participate in it. As part of receiving God's gracious gift, **I must recognize that there is salvation in no other name, including my own (Acts 4:12).**

This means that if I want to become a Christian (a follower of Jesus Christ), **I must put my faith in Jesus alone as the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6).**

And He cannot be merely my means of thinking myself secure from punishment for wrong-doing. **When I become a Christian, He must become my Lord (Romans 10:9).**

Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth **(Matthew 28:18)**, and I must also grant Him authority over me. In order to be His follower, **He demands that I make a commitment to deny myself as my own master, be willing to suffer for His sake when necessary, and to imitate Him in all that He does (Matthew 16:24-25).**

Understanding the Gospel message and the commitment of following Jesus, **I then turn to the Bible pattern of how the earliest Christians were joined with Jesus as His followers, receiving in turn His sinlessness in exchange for their sins placed upon Him on the cross.** This pattern is what the Bible calls "obeying the Gospel" **(2 Thessalonians 1:8).**

It simply means making the Gospel your own by being united with who Jesus is and what He has done.

Starting points for a Christian life:

FAITH IN JESUS:

This is the internal expression of a heart and mind convinced that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ (the promised Messiah), the Son of God (meaning He is both human and God), the only path of salvation, and was bodily raised from the dead (**John 20:20-21**).

CONFESSION OF JESUS:

This is the verbal expression in front of witnesses of the faith in Jesus as Lord, Christ, and Son of God (**Matthew 16:16; Romans 10:9-10**).

TURNING TOWARD JESUS:

The Bible uses the word “repent” to describe the acknowledgement of past sin and the commitment to walk in a new direction. It literally means “to turn.” Jesus calls us to a new direction with a new Lord leading the way (**Acts 2:38; 17:30**).

IMMERSION INTO JESUS:

The word often translated or spoken of as “baptism” means to be submerged completely under water. Christian baptism brings the responses of faith, confession, and repentance together in one moment of new birth. The Bible teaches that baptism is a personal reenactment of the Gospel of Jesus. Just as He died, was buried, and was raised again, I am burying the old person with Christ and being raised with Christ as a new person who has been united with Him (**Romans 6:1-7**). If it is accompanied by faith in the working of God (**Colossians 2:12**), baptism is the moment when I receive forgiveness of my sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit (**Acts 2:38**). And thus a united relationship with Christ begins when I rise from the waters.



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AREN'T ALL RELIGIONS BASICALLY THE SAME?

YOU WILL FIND SOME ELEMENTS OF TRUTH IN THE TEACHINGS OF EVERY MAJOR WORLD RELIGION...

All teach that something is wrong with the world and particularly with ourselves. All acknowledge “sin” or at least imperfection on some level. And on many ethical teachings, various religions find points of agreement.

However, here are a few areas of uniqueness to the teachings of Christianity for your consideration:

- **Christian faith is in one God who exists in 3 persons. The Bible uses different titles for these 3 persons, but we generally know them as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.** This Triune God exists in a communion of loving relationship. A desire to share this loving communion with others is the motivation behind the creation of humanity.
- **Christian faith asserts that while God transcends His creation (He is not one and the same with the world), He is not a completely distant or unknown God either. He makes Himself as one of the humans in the person of Jesus of Nazareth.** Jesus is the merging of human and divine natures in one historical figure. He thus creates a bridge as a mediator between the human realm and the spiritual realm, the only true mediator between God and man (**1 Timothy 2:5**).
- **Christian faith emphasizes that our human story of sin, fall, and brokenness can only be healed and relationship with God restored through Jesus.** He is “the way, the truth, and the life” (**John 14:6**). No one comes to the Father except through Him.

- **One of the reasons for Jesus as the only access point to God is the Christian doctrine of atonement for sin.** A Biblical principle of atonement is that life is in the blood (**Leviticus 17:14**), and sin robs one of life. Therefore, atonement is an exchange of life for life in a payment transaction. It becomes a substitutionary sacrifice of one (Jesus the Savior) on behalf of another (me). **Christian teaching is that the only full and permanent atonement for sin is when God Himself shed human blood (Hebrews 9:11-14).**
- **Christian faith is the only major religion to claim that its leader and founder was bodily raised from the dead.** Other religions claim a spiritual existence beyond death, but Christianity asserts that the resurrection of Jesus in an immortal human body is the defeat of the power of death and the beginning of the merging of the spiritual and material worlds.
- **The events in the Christian story are not written in language of mythology.** The Biblical narratives are grounded in attested history with real people, places, and chronology of events. If you are not convinced of this, we invite you to read The Gospel of Luke.



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