



# Fruit Check

Scripture Reading: John 15:5-8



# CHURCH OF CHRIST *at Long Creek*

**What's Really Growing In You**

**Resume on 9 August**

# Labels





# The Church Labels and The Great Day



**1 Thess 4:16-18** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

**REV 21:9** Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, “Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife.”

Not For A  
Church Building

Not For A  
Denominational HQs

Not For A  
Sign On The Marquee

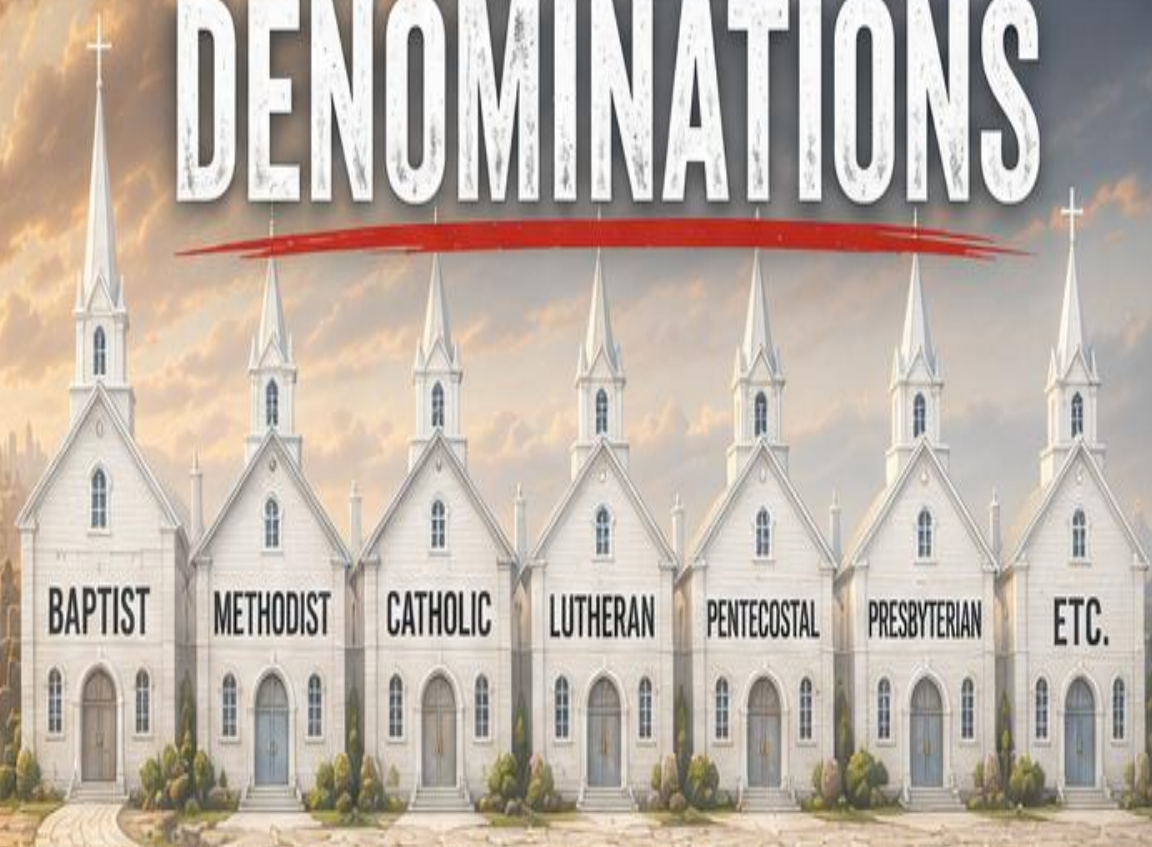


**HE'S  
COMING**  
FOR HIS  
*Bride*

— EPHESIANS 5:25-27 —



**NOT FOR  
DENOMINATIONS**



**The Ekklesia**  
**Called Out Ones**





# Discovering The Bride of Christ

Scripture Reading REV 21:9



# CHURCH OF CHRIST

at  
*Long Creek*

**He's Coming For His Only Bride**

Kelvin L. Briggs, 19 July, 2026

# Discovering The Bride of The Lamb

**EPH 5:25-27** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,<sup>26</sup> that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,<sup>27</sup> that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

**Rev 19:7** Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.

**REV 21:2** Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

**Eph 1:22-23** And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything **for the church,**<sup>23</sup> **which is his body**, the fullness of him who fills

## The Church Is The Bride of Christ



# Side One

Which Church  
You Belong To  
Don't Matter



# Side Two

Just Find The  
Church With  
The Right Name

1 Pet 1:18-19 Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

Acts 20:28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood,



# Back to The Beginning of The Church



Not Tradition

Not History

Not Restoration Movement

## What Did The Apostle Preach?

What Did They Preached When Asked **“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”**

## What Would Happen If We Preach What They Preached

Isaiah 55:11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; **It shall not return to Me void**, But **it shall accomplish what I please**, And **it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.**

Heb 4:12 Power of the Word

John 12:48 The Word Has The Last Say

## What Does The Lord Desire For People?

**Not willing that anyone should perish (2 Pet 3:9)**

**One Savior   One Church   One Body   One Bride**





# Jesus Built Only One Church



**Matt 16:18** And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build **My** church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

**Notice What Jesus Did Not Say**  
**The Meaning of My**

**Ownership**

**Possession**

**Relationship**

**Jesus Is Not Divided**

**Nor His Body, His Church, Or His Bride**

**1 Cor 1:13** Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

**One Savior   One Church   One Body   One Bride**



# Scripture Interprets Scripture

**Eph 4:3-4** endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> **There is one body and one Spirit**, just as you were called **in one hope** of your calling.

**Col 1:18** And He is the **head of the body, the church**, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

**If There's One Body There's One Church**

**How Does The Bible Describe The Church?**

**Acts 20:28** Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which **He purchased with His own blood**.

**Relationship To Christ**





# Churches of Christ



**Rom 16:16** Greet one another with a holy kiss. **The churches of Christ** greet you.

**Are You In Relationship With Christ**

**The Church Belong To Christ Is A Biblical Phrase?**

**Christ Ownership Is Biblical**

**BUT**

**No Where Does The Bible Command Put That Exact Phrase On Every Meeting Place**

**For Centuries The Church Met: In Homes, Upper Rooms, Public Place, Riversides, Catacombs**

**Often Hiding In Fear**

**There Was no Church Marquee or Illuminated Sign Yet Everyone of Them Belong to Christ**



# Pride In The Name Church of Christ

**We're**

Wear it proudly, as a reminder of **ownership**

**Engaged**

## Don't Place Your Confidence In Three Words

### Your Confidence Should Be in The Blood of Jesus Christ

Calling Ourselves Church of Christ Identifies who we belong to

### Is Jesus Your Lord & Savior? | Does Jesus Own You?

Acts 4:12 for there is **no other name** under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Col 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, **do all in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Phil 2:9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and **given Him the name** which is **above every name....vs 10-11**

## Imagine Standing Before Jesus Wearing Another Name



# Christ Is Not A Polygamist



**You Have One Hope: One Lord, One Faith, & One Baptism  
Put In Place By one God and Father Above All Eph 4:4-5**



# The Lord Adds People To His Church



The First and Greatest Sermon Ever Preach **Acts 2:14-36**

**Peter Preached Jesus Not Denomination Not How To Worship**

**His death vs 23**

**His burial vs 24**

**His resurrection vs 31-32**

**His Kingship Vs 3**

**His Lordship vs 36 God has made Him Lord & Christ**

Notice The Question vs 37: Men and brethren, **“What shall we do?”**

**The Most Important Question In The Bible (Matt 27:22)**

**Notice Their Question Vs How We Decide Worship Today**

**Friendliness**

**Youth Programs**

**Worship Style (Music)**

**Facilities**

**Location/Convenience**

**Preaching Style**

**A Spiritual Question Deserve A Spiritual Answer**



# The Lord Adds People To His Church



**“Men and Brethren What Shall We Do?”**

**Acts 2:38** Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**Peter Pointed Them To Christ**

**Didn't Say:** Join This Denomination!

**Didn't Say:** Find a Building With The Church of Christ Sign On It!

**Didn't Say:** Take a Membership Class!

**What Were The Results Of Answering A Biblical Question With A Biblical Answer**

**Acts 2:47** Praising God and having favor with all the people. And **the Lord added to the church** daily those who were being saved.



# Christ Is Not A Polygamist

## What He Will Not Seek

- A Sign/Marquee
- A Church Building
- A Corporation



## What He Will Seek

- His People (**Matt 28:19**)
- Those Washed In His Blood (**Rev 7:9-17**)

**2 Tim 2:19** Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

**The Pattern Belongs To God, We Can't Reverse It!**