

Welcome Visitors,

First, THANK YOU! We are excited to know that you are interested in worshipping God. We want you to feel very welcomed here among our group. Our goal is doing God's will. You will find that our teaching and preaching are strictly from the Bible so we encourage you to open a Bible and follow along as the lessons are presented today.

God's word is the complete guide for our life of service and worship. The all-sufficient word of God—the Bible is what we need (John 8:31-32; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). We desire to help one another in doing God's will. If you are interested in learning more please ask one of our members today.

## Main Street Church of Christ Newbern, Tennessee

### Schedule Of Services:

<b>Lord's Day:</b>	9:45 a.m.	Bible Study (All ages)
	10:20 a.m.	Morning Worship
	6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship
<b>Wednesday:</b>	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study

#### *Our Elders:*

Johnie Dodds  
Harry Elliott  
Austin Willis

#### *Our Deacons:*

Danny Carpenter  
Wayne Hulme  
Tommy Sawyers

*Our Preacher:* T. Sean Sullivan

## The Gospel Plan

HEAR THE GOSPEL MESSAGE Romans 10:11-16

BELIEVE IT !!! Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:6

REPENT—CHANGE Luke 13:3; 2 Peter 3:9

OPENLY CONFESS—JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD

Romans 10:8-10; Acts 8:37

BE BAPTIZED—FOR REMISSION OF YOUR SINS

Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38-39; 1 Peter 3:21

LIVE ON FAITHFULLY Hebrews 10:35-39 I Peter 1:6-9

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The Main Street Church of Christ

# Messenger

1 Thessalonians 1:6-8

## God's Special People: A Chosen Generation

### Introduction:

How amazing is it to consider the fact that we are gathered here to honor and respect the Almighty God of Heaven? Has it ever put you into awe to think of this opportunity? We are not here to simply practice some self-seeking ritual; we are here today to fulfill the request of audience before God. God desires that we would intentionally gather to pray, sing, remember His Son, return our thanks to Him, and praise Him through a desire to know His word. Today, we are blessed with such an opportunity.

We are not setting out to accomplish these duties as outsiders attempting to appease God. We are, as Christians, today, God's special people—His chosen generation. Our way of worship and our relationship with God is different in Christ than any other time in the history of man. The Hebrew writer said our covenant with God is "better" than the "Old" (Hebrews 7:19). In this relationship we are God's "chosen generation". Let's consider some things that God has given to this chosen generation.

### A Name like No Other

Where did the name "Christian" come from? Some have supposed the name Christian was a derogatory term used to slander those who followed Jesus Christ. Truth is; God gave this name to us. The Holy Spirit used the term in the scriptures. Luke, through inspiration, used the term (Acts 11:26) and Peter, in his first epistle, also used it (1 Peter 4:16). The original

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language also tells us that God gave us this name; consider this from Acts 11:26. The Greek term that has been translated “called” in Acts 11:26, is not the typical “kaleo” but rather it is “*chrematizo*” which literally means *divinely called*.

We also can see the promise of God giving us a new name in Isaiah 62:1-2. When righteousness goes forth from Jerusalem—fulfilled in Acts 8:4. When the Gentiles see righteousness—fulfilled in Acts 10. Then with those fulfillments—God gave a new name “Christian” (Acts 11:26).

Our name is special—only those in Christ and seen as “Christians” by God. Our name is an honor—there is no greater honor than to be named and recognized with Christ. Our name is a statement of our devotion—to Christ as His disciples.

### **A Plan like No Other**

What is the plan of human greatness? It is a plan that involves strength, bravery, intelligence, or wealth. These human characteristics are well suited to human achievement. If it were up to us to devise a plan of salvation—it would likely be for the strong, the brave, the intelligent, and the affluent. We would want these terms to characterize the victors.

What is God’s plan for us? It is for our greatest hope—but it is only found through humility. 1 Corinthians 1:20-31—not wisdom, strength, or human nobility—rather humility. God has offered a plan that allows us to demonstrate our humility. Our faith begins with an understanding of helplessness (Romans 5:6-10). We not only believe in Jesus as the Son of God, we must openly confess Him (Romans 10:8-10; Acts 8:37-38). With a humbled heart we understand that our conduct has been wrong and we repent (Luke 13:1-5). Then we are baptized, in water, for the remission of our sins (Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21). From the point of our new life we discipline our lives to follow Christ (Matthew 16:24; 2 John 9).

God’s plan for us is special—no other plan will work. God’s plan an honor—when we understand that God provides for us when we do not deserve His care. Following God’s plan is a statement of our devotion to Him—when we are humble enough to say “as You will, Lord” and we obey His revealed will, without question.

### **A Hope like No Other**

What is the hope of the average person? Having enough money and not to suffer in aging or death—is what was recently heard from one man. This hope seems rather superficial and lim-

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ited to me.

What hope does God offer? God offers a hope beyond this mortal life (John 17:24 “*with*” Christ, to behold His glory) in a place prepared (John 14:1-6); a place of perfect rest (Revelation 14:12-13); and a place of forever (John 6:47 “*everlasting life*”). A hope that can and will bring us through whatever this temporary life dishes out (1 Peter 1:6-9). We will push ahead in hope of a better place (Hebrews 11:13-16). A real hope, proven with infallible proof (1 Peter 1:3-5)

God’s hope for us is special—only those who embrace His will, will have it. God’s hope for us is an honor—God offers to bring us into His presence. Embracing God’s hope for us is a statement of our devotion—we live in hope daily, so that we can die in hope eventually.

### **Conclusion:**

Lots of people claim to be Christians. Only those who God calls Christians, are actually Christians (Acts 11:26). Many have suggested different plans. Only those humble enough to follow God’s plan will be saved (1 Peter 5:6). Many live in “hope” of going Heaven; only those who have obeyed God and maintained their faithfulness will be welcomed there (Matthew 7:21-23). Are you truly a Christian? Are you part of the God’s special people—the chosen generation? You cannot just assume this relationship—to have it, you must obey; will you obey? ~tss