



## "Why does the church of Christ put so much emphasis on Christ?"



A key New Testament passage is **Matthew 16:16-18**: "And Simon Peter answered and said, 'Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered and said unto him, 'Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but My Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.'"

### CHRIST IS THE FOUNDATION

He said, "Upon this rock, I will build my church." (Matthew 16:18). Christ is the Rock and the rejected cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20).

### CHRIST IS THE BUILDER

He said, "Upon this rock, I will build My church ..." (Matthew 16:18). Religions invented by men are worthless (Psalm 127:1). Churches of men will be rooted up, according to the Lord (Matthew 15:13).

### THE CHURCH WAS BOUGHT BY CHRIST

He said, "Upon this rock, I will build My church . . ." (Matthew 16:18). Christ "purchased" it with "his own blood" (Acts 20:28). We are redeemed by His blood (Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:13-14; Romans 5:8-9). Jesus gave Himself for the church (Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:25-26).

### THE CHURCH WEARS THE NAME OF CHRIST

A bride wears the name of her husband; the church is Christ's bride (2 Corinthians 11:2; John 3:29; Ephesians 5:27; Isaiah 56:5; 62:2). Paul said "the churches of Christ salute you" (Romans 16:16). Its members wear His name—"Christian" (Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16). Wearing His name gives honor to Christ (Colossians 3:17). Salvation is found in no other

name (Acts 4:12).

### THE CHURCH PREACHES THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST

Only His truth can make one free (John 8:32). The Gospel is truth; it has the power to save lost souls (Romans 1:16). Preaching saves (1 Corinthians 1:18-21).

### THE CHURCH WORSHIPS ACCORDING TO CHRIST'S TEACHINGS

True worship is in spirit and truth (John 4:24), which means according to the pattern of the New Testament of Christ. That pattern authorizes singing, giving, communion, prayer, and teaching (Ephesians 5:19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-28; 16:1-2; Acts 2:42).

Why does the church of Christ put so much emphasis on Christ?  
How could we fail to emphasize Christ!

### CONCLUSION

How could we fail to emphasize Christ!? Let's all emphasize only Christ and His Church! Let all submit to only that which is commanded by Christ (Philippians 2:10).

[Scripture quotes—KJV]

Via House To House/Heart To Heart, Volume 10, Number 6  
Jacksonville Church of Christ, Jacksonville, AL

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### WHY FOUR ACCOUNTS OF JESUS' LIFE?

There were three prevailing cultures in first century Palestine. It is not surprising, therefore, that there should be a Gospel narrative directed to each of these populations. The Gospel of Matthew is intended to influence the Jews. It emphasizes the fact that Jesus of Nazareth is the promised Messiah of Old Testament prophecy; thus, there is a significant appeal to the text of the Hebrew Scriptures. Mark, a close companion of Peter, penned a narrative adapted to the Roman mind; he stresses the urgency with which Christ "served" His heavenly Father. The concept of servitude was keen in the Roman world.

Luke's Gospel account was fashioned for the Greek culture, and its aim is to highlight the human nature of the Lord Jesus. In Greek thought, "man" was exalted. The book of John is altogether unique. It is cosmopolitan in appeal and provides strong evidence that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. Thus, there is an emphasis on the "signs" (miracles) Christ performed.

[Scripture quotes—KJV]  
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**"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"** —2 Timothy 2:15

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