We are members of the Oak Ridge church of Christ. We call ourselves Christians ([**Acts 11:26**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Acts%2011:26)) and we hold to the Bible as our one and only Truth. Church of Christ is a biblical description of Christians who work together for the cause of Christ ([**Romans 16:16**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Romans%2016:16)). We are independent assemblies with no organization beyond our own number as described in [**Philippians 1:1**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Philippians%201:1). There are Christians across the world working with local congregations of God’s people such as described in [**Revelation 2**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Revelation%202)**-3**. Christians are members of Christ’s body, which is also known as His Church ([**Acts 2:47**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Acts%202:47)**,**[**Ephesians 5:23**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Ephesians%205:23)). Our mission is to stand for God’s truth (the gospel) and teach it to all people ([**Matthew 28:18-20**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Matthew%2028:18-20)**,**[**Romans 1:16**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Romans%201:16)**,**[**1 Timothy 3:15**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=1%20Timothy%203:15)). We are accountable to our one and only Head Jesus Christ ([**Ephesians 1:22-23**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Ephesians%201:22-23)**,**[**Colossians 1:18**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Colossians%201:18)).

**Man Misidentifies God’s People**

Throughout the Bible we see examples of man misidentifying God’s people. The thought for this lesson started from **1 Kings 18:17**. In this passage King Ahab says to the prophet Elijah, “**Is that you, O troubler of Israel?**” Is Elijah (the highly regarded prophet of God, the one who appeared with Moses and Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration) really a troubler of Israel? He was really an encourager of Israel toward God. We also have examples from the New Testament when man misidentifies God’s people.

**Acts 7:35-36 – Moses was misidentified**

**Acts 14:8-18 – Barnabas and Paul were misidentified**

**Acts 17:1-9 – Paul and believers were identified as “These who have turned the world upside down” Acts 17:16-34 – Paul was identified as a babbler and a proclaimer of foreign gods**

**Matthew 9:32-34 – Jesus was accused of casting out demons by the ruler of the demons**

**Matthew 12:22-30 – Jesus was accused of casting out demons by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons**

Man may falsely accuse and falsely judge a Christian’s motives. But let us not get off the narrow path of the Lord and let us not get discouraged from sharing His gospel with those around us.

Have you ever had people at work, people at school, your neighbors, or even your family, treat you like you are their enemy, simply because you are trying to live as a Christian? That is really sad isn’t it?

Let’s take a look at the proper example set in **John 1:43-51** – Philip simply says to Nathanael (aka Bartholomew) “**come and see**”. That is what Christians are all about.

Young people, do not be discouraged, you can do much for the Lord’s Kingdom by simply introducing your friends to Jesus! We Christians have been blessed with coming to know Jesus and we want others to be saved like us. We are not the enemy of our friends, neighbors, co-workers, classmates, and family members. But, rather, we could be the best friend they ever had if they would let us lead them to Jesus!

As we have just read, even our Lord was misunderstood (**John 11:48**). Jesus was also misunderstood by His own brethren (**Acts 1:6**). We may also at times be misunderstood by those close to us.

Young and old: Do not be discouraged. Keep seeking to please God, hold tightly to His Word, and Shine the Light of Jesus to those around you. No matter if you are misunderstood or others misinterpret your motives (**Matthew 5:16, Acts 8:4, Romans 1:16**).

**CLOSE**

Tonight, would Jesus recognize you as belonging to Him (**John 10:25-30**)? Man may not properly judge our motives, but Jesus always knows who belongs to Him. He knows the hearts of all men and women. He wants to identify you as one of His sheep!

If you are not a Christian, we encourage you to become one. Repent of your sins and be baptized to wash them all away (**Acts 2:38, 22:16**). Then no matter what man may say, you will be a child of God; walking on the path that leads to Heaven (**Matthew 7:13-14**).

Please check the scriptures we have covered tonight. We want to help you in any way we can. Contact us for Bible studies by telephone, e-mail, or simply come to one of our assemblies. We plan to have a rerun of this program on May 20. For our next live program on June 3, 2019 we hope to study, **“Why am I a Christian?”** We hope to see you next time on "**Speaking The Truth In Love**".