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)).

**Why Are We Christians?**

The gospel of Jesus Christ is a joyous message which leads to a life full of the only true happiness and contentment available (**1 Peter 1:6-9**). The life of the Christian is also full of joys that are special and not found in the world. If someone was to ask us “Why Are You A Christian?” what would we say? Tonight we hope to provide some straight forward answers from God’s word on, “**Why We Are Christians?**”

1. We have a Father who created us and demonstrated His love for us by giving His only begotten Son (**Genesis 1:26-2:4, Psalm 33:6-9, John 3:16, 1 John 4:9-11**).

2. We have a Savior who created us and all that we see, became a man, endured as a man, gave Himself for our sins, and now is reigning as King in Heaven (**John 1:1-5, 14, Hebrews 4:12-14, Romans 5:6-11, Hebrews 10:11-14**).

3. We have a Holy Spirit who created us, that we are to be filled with, and helps us as we are led by Him and follow Him (**Genesis 1:26, Acts 5:32, Romans 8:14, Ephesians 5:15-18, Galatians 5:16, 18, and 25**).

4. Through prayer, we have a way to give thanks, a way to pray for God to help others, and a way to find strength and answers in time of need (**Colossians 3:17, Matthew 7:7-11, James 1:5, 1 John 1:9, and 1 John 3:21-22**). The book of Hebrews refers to Christ as our High Priest who, "ever lives to make intercession for them" (**Hebrews 7:25**). What a comfort a Christian enjoys, knowing that he has access to God the Father through the intercession of God the Son, our perfect and great High Priest!

5. We have lives full of purpose: We are to seek the Kingdom of Heaven first, we are to share the gospel of hope with our fellow man, we are to bring others to Christ, and we are to be a proper light of Jesus (**Matthew 6:33-34, Acts 8:4, Jude 22-23, Matthew 5:16, Ephesians 5:8**).

6. We have dear brothers and sisters who love us, pray for us, worship with us, and encourage us (**Romans 12:10**). Notice what Jesus said to his disciples in **John 13:34-35**. The Christian enjoys a spiritual fellowship with his brothers and sisters in Christ that is special, sincere, and is only possible through our common love for Him and His teachings (**1 John 3:7-11**). With this relationship we can worship Him in spirit and truth in prayer (**Acts 4:23-31**), study (**Acts 17:11**), the Lord's Supper (**Acts 20:7**), in song (**Colossians 3:16-17**), and in the work of seeking the lost (**Acts 8:4**).

7**.** We have true forgiveness of sins - **1 Corinthians 6:9-10** lists evil sins that those in Corinth had committed before they became Christians. In **verse 11**, these people no longer had to bear the burden and guilt of their past sins. Because they were washed, sanctified, and justified the Lord forgave their sins, to remember them no more (**Hebrews 10:15-18**). **What a wonderful relief to be rid of our sins and the guilt of those sins!**

8. No matter who forsakes us, the Lord is on our side and we can be at peace – (**Hebrews 13:5-6, 2 Tim. 4:16-18, Philippians 4:6-7**). How many times we have trials in this life and we can turn to God for His peace? Sometimes we have turmoil in our cities, in our state, and in our country. Even in those times of turmoil a Christian can be comforted with God’s amazing peace!

9. We have an eternal home! **Have you been away for a few days or for an extended period of time and get to the point where you just want to go home?** Home is a special place where we want to be. And our homes here give us a taste of Heaven!

The phrase “**eternal life**” is mentioned 68 times in the NKJV (**Mark 10:29-30, John 3:14-17, Romans 6:23, 1 John 5:13**)! Imagine that special feeling of going home and being home lasting forever! **Why Are We Christians? Because we want to go home!** We want to forever be with our loved ones, including the Father who loves us in spite of our flaws, the Son who gave Himself for us and intercedes for us, and the Holy Spirit who gives us true life through His Word (**Psalm 16:11,** **Philippians 1:23, Revelation 21:3**).

10. We have a personal relationship with God. We enjoy many wonderful relationships in this life, but as a Christian we have an even greater personal relationship with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. This relationship started when we were baptized for the forgiveness of our sins (**Matthew 28:18-20, Genesis 7:1, 9:8**).

**Closing**

**How About You?** If you are not a Christian tonight, you know what? God wants a personal relationship with you **(John 14:23, 17:20-23, and Revelation 3:20)!**

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 June 17. For our next live program on July 1, 2019 we hope to study, **“Baptism of the Holy Spirit”** We hope to see you next time on "**Speaking The Truth In Love**".