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 ([**Ro. 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 [**Phil. 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 [**Rev. 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)**,**[**Eph. 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 ([**Matt. 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 Tim. 3:15**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=1%20Timothy%203:15)). We are accountable to our one and only Head Jesus Christ ([**Eph. 1:22-23**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Ephesians%201:22-23)**,**[**Col. 1:18**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Colossians%201:18)).

**It Is A Great Time To Be A Christian!**

We are living in truly troubling times. Our nation continues its moral decline. Nations around the globe, including ours, are financially unstable. Freedoms in our country seem to be eroding more each day. And then we have the constant presence of immorality and violence. A very bleak picture, similar to what Paul warned Timothy about in **2 Timothy chapter 3 verses 1-7**. However, tonight I would like us to realize that even in these seeming bleak times, **it is a Great Time to be a Christian**! A disciple of Jesus Christ can rejoice for many things, no matter what is happening in the world.

* We have Salvation From Our Sins **(Acts 4:7-12, 22:12-16, 2 Timothy 3:15-17, Hebrews 5:9)**
* We are a part of a Holy Nation which cannot be shaken by man **(Daniel 2:44, 7:14, Hebrews 12:28-29, 1 Peter 2:9-10)**
* We have a Savior who provides for all of our needs **(Matthew 6:25-33, Philippians 4:6-7, 1 John 5:11-14) –** Jesus provides for us physically, mentally, and spiritually.
* We have a message that can save our friends & neighbors in spite of all the turmoil in the world **(Acts 8:1-4, 17:22-34, Colossians 1:3-6, 23)** – In the midst of a world full of confusion, the gospel spread throughout entirely. The same opportunity exists today! It is up to us to spread that soul saving word!
* We have a hope to be with the Lord in a place where all that is bad is no more **(Revelation 7:9-17, 21:1-4, 22-27, 22:1-5)** – Where all is joy and peace with God the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit forever! No matter what man or nations do, all can have this hope.

It is truly a great time to be a Christian! Many places in the world are in chaos, but in the Lord there is peace. Christians in places like Cuba are strong and growing stronger, even in the midst of governmental oppression. Immorality is praised and paraded before us. Yet there is a silver lining in these clouds of turmoil. ***The light of Jesus shines brightly when people lose hope in the world!***

We Christians need to not lose our focus of Heaven. We do not want to risk losing out for eternity. If we have things that are wrong with us spiritually, we need to make them right today by repenting and determining to do better.

If you are not a Christian, Jesus died for you so you could live with Him in Heaven; a place where all is perfect. Heaven is the Utopia that people try to make this earth to be. This earth is not Utopia, but we get glimpses of what Heaven will be like every day (**James 3:13-18**). Jesus wants all to enjoy those blessings for eternity. But to obtain those blessings you need to submit and give your life to Him. It starts by truly believing Him. Being willing to confess that He is the Son of God! Then you must turn from your sins and decide to follow Him in repentance. The waters of baptism take away your sins and you start your journey to the perfect place called Heaven.

We invite all in our audience to our Bible studies on Wednesday at 7pm and Sunday morning at 9am. We would love to study God’s together with you! 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. Contact: We assemble at 225 North Purdue Ave. in Oak Ridge at 9am on Sundays and 7pm on Wednesdays; oakridgechurch.com; david.barry@oakridgechurch.com, murray.wade@oakridgechurch.com; (865) 693-1416

Our next live program is planned for January 8, 2024 when we plan to study “**The Gospel of Hope!**” and we hope to see you next time on **"Speaking The Truth In Love".**