

cannot be king unless He has authority. Jesus has been given "all authority in heaven and on earth" (Matthew 28:18). Therefore, those who are members of His church willingly live according to His law and respect His authority.

It is evident from what the Bible says that the church is not some sort of social club. It is not human, but divine, in origin. Because it is the kingdom of God, it must be organized the way God designed it to be.

### The Truth About Salvation

Salvation is the theme of the Bible. It records God's plan for our salvation; it reveals how we are able to receive salvation.

These facts should cause us to ask the question, what do we need saving from? The answer is sin. Though many people do not see sin as a "big deal," sin really is at the root of every problem. Because of sin, all men die (Romans 5:12). Because of sin, all men are in danger of eternal condemnation (Rom. 2:5-11).



Just being a "good person" will not help us avoid the consequences of sin, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Therefore, all need salvation through Jesus Christ.

Because of His great love for mankind, God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to provide a means of salvation from the terrible consequences of sin. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

To have salvation is to have the forgiveness of our sins and to have the promise of eternal life in heaven. It is offered to everyone, but only those who believe and obey the gospel of Jesus Christ can receive it (Hebrews 5:9). That is why Jesus commanded His disciples to preach the gospel to all the world (Mark 16:15-16). Salvation has been made available to all, including you, if you so desire.

## Bible Studies Available

God desires that "all may be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth"  
(1 Timothy 2:4).

### Bible studies are available to all!

Simply contact us with the information provided on the front page of this pamphlet. For material that you can study at home, visit our website at [www.avondalechristians.com](http://www.avondalechristians.com).

### En Español

El curso por correspondencia en español está disponible gratis. Mande simplemente un correo electrónico a [info@avondalechristians.com](mailto:info@avondalechristians.com).

Todos son invitados a asistir los servicios. Usted puede llamar 610-268-2088. Da su nombre y el numero y un miembros que habla español volverá su llamada.

### Meeting Times

All are welcome to come and visit us in person during any of our service times.

Sunday Morning Bible Class:.....10:00am

Sunday Morning Worship: .....11:00am

Sunday Evening Worship: .....6:00pm

Wednesday Evening Bible Class:.....7:00pm

## AVONDALE CHURCH OF CHRIST

[www.avondalechristians.com](http://www.avondalechristians.com)

"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."  
-John 8:32-



We invite you to learn the truth with us from God's inspired word—the Bible.

Los estudios de la Biblia está disponible en español gratis.

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**“So then, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” —Romans 10:17**

## Can We Know the Truth?

Jesus said in John 8:31-32, “If you abide in My words you are My disciples in deed.

And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.” Thus, the answer to our question is simply, yes. We can know the truth by studying the words of Jesus.

If we can know the truth, then why is there so much religious division in the world? Some people say that the reason for such confusion is the Bible; that it was written in such a way that we cannot understand it alike. On the contrary, God teaches us that He is a God of peace, and not a God of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33). With God as its author, the Bible does not create confusion, rather it is the only cure for it.

In the first century, when the New Testament Scriptures were being revealed and recorded, there was unity among Christians. “Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ...that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel” (Philippians 1:27). Before long, however, there began to be divisions in some churches. “I hear that there are divisions among you” (1 Corinthians 11:18). What was the cause of this? Division occurred whenever men taught things contrary to the teachings revealed by God! That is to say, they “exchange the truth of God for a lie” (Romans 1:25).



When we come to understand this, and are no longer willing to blindly accept the words of men, then we have taken first step in overcoming the confusion that is in the world. Going outside of God’s word causes division, but if we abide in God’s word we can know the truth and avoid division. Thus, Jesus said, “If you abide in My words...you shall know the truth...”

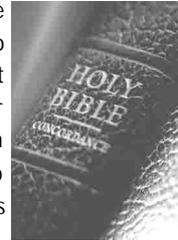
Just as many men can build a house together when

they all abide by one standard, all men can know the truth when they come to the one true standard, which is the word of God. Therefore, in helping the church in Corinth to overcome their divisions, Paul told them “not to think beyond what is written” (1 Corinthians 4:6).

### The Truth About the Bible

While praying to the Father, Jesus said, “Your word is truth” (John 17:17). The Bible is the word of God; it is truth. “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God...” (2 Timothy 3:16).

The words recorded in the Bible are not based on human tradition or human understanding. Within the Scriptures we are able to learn things that no man could have ever known if God had not revealed them to us. “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the hearts of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit” (1 Corinthians 2:9-10).



Why would God, the Creator of the universe, record all of the wonderful things in the Bible for us to read? First and foremost because He loves us (1 John 4:16). But also because He expects us to do something with His revealed word. “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only...” (James 1:22). “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven” (Matthew 7:21). “Therefore, whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock” (Matthew 7:24).

Therefore, the Bible is the revelation of the will of God, and we are commanded, “...do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is” (Ephesians 5:17). The Bible is God’s guide for men to help us walk in this life in a way that is right before Him. “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105).

Because it contains the commands of God for mankind, the Bible includes laws which we must obey if we are going to be saved from our sins. “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ has

made me free from the law of sin and death” (Romans 8:2).

The New Testament Scriptures are referred to as the “perfect law of liberty” (James 1:25), by which, when we obey that law by faith in Christ, we are made free from sin through Christ Jesus. Thus, within the Bible, we are taught how to attain salvation. In fact, salvation is the theme of the whole Bible. If we desire salvation, then we must be willing to do what the Bible says.

### The Truth About the Church

The Bible records many occasions where people heard the word of God, believed it and obeyed it. One of those occasions is recorded in Acts 2:41-47. “Then those who gladly received his words were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.” These were people who believed the truth about God’s word. Notice that they were “added” to something. In verse 47 it says, “And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” This verse describes what the church really is. It is not a building, as some people have come to believe. Rather, the church is the body or assembly of people who have obeyed the gospel for salvation. As each individual believes and obeys the words of Jesus Christ, the Lord adds that person to His church. In



Matthew 16:18 Jesus said, “...on this rock I will build My church.” He is literally building his church or assembly from those who come to God through Him. He also shows us that the church is His church. It is literally the church of

(belonging to) Christ.

The Bible also teaches us that the church is the kingdom of God. In Colossians 1:13, Paul said that Christians “have been conveyed into the kingdom.” Every member of the Lord’s church is at the same time a citizen in the kingdom of God. Jesus is not only the head of the church (Colossians 1:18), He is also the King in that kingdom; the “King of kings and Lord of lords” (1 Timothy 6:15). A king