

commands, we invite you to the church that follows only the doctrine of Christ!

7. The "steps of salvation" that God has shown us, are:

A) Listen to the Word of God.

Romans 10:17 says "**So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God**". The Word of God is the seed of God.

B) Believe in Jesus Christ.

John 3:16 says "**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life**". When you believe, the seed of God has been begotten in your heart.

C) Repent of your sins.

Acts 17:30-31 says "**Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man (Jesus) whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead**". To repent means to quit doing what is wrong and start doing what is right. If it's possible, it also means to do restitution like Zacchaeus did (*Luke 19:8*).

D) Confess your faith in Jesus.

Romans 10:9-10 says "**that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation**". If instead of that you deny Jesus, He will also deny you.

E) Be Baptized and follow Jesus.

The will of Jesus is clear in the next verse:

Mathew 28:18-20 says "**And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen**". God generated man, man degenerated himself, man is regenerated when he believes in God and is born again. The seed of God is in you when you believe; but one is not born again until one is born of the water and the Spirit as indicated in *John 3*. The word "baptism" comes from the Greek word "baptizo" which means: "to immerse."

If the members of the church where you attend do not teach and follow these steps of salvation, or the last one is not done the right way, we invite you to the church where the members do follow the steps that the Bible teaches!

There may be other things that we would like to share with you, so that you may see that not all churches are the same. Jesus only founded one church and wants that church to be united, not only among its members, but first of all in union with Him.

Jesus prayed for that in *John 17:20-21* "**I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me**".

The divisions are made by Satan so that the world may not believe; but the ecumenical movement is also of the devil because it brings together churches with different false doctrines. Remember what we read in *Romans 16:16-17* "**Greet one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ greet you. Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them**".

Jesus wants His church to preach the Gospel exactly the same way He taught it so that the only possible outcome may be true and regenerated followers of Christ.

An invitation for you!

If the congregation that you are acquainted with is not the church of Christ, we invite you and welcome you with your family and friends to the church that Christ founded.

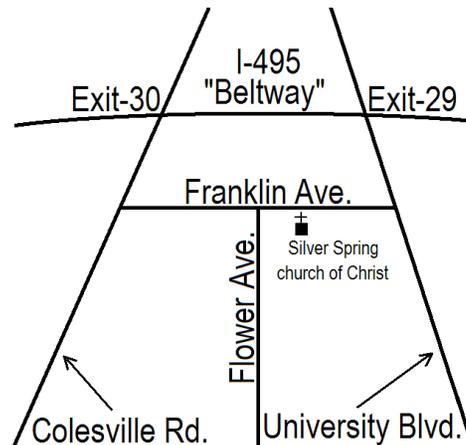
Welcome to the church of Christ!

Address: 100 East Franklin Ave. Silver Spring. MD. 20901

Phone Number: (301) 585-8727

Times: Sundays 9:30am, 11:15am, 6:00pm & Wednesdays

at 7:30pm. Website: www.silverspringchurchofchrist.org



Are you in the church that Christ founded?

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Have you ever wondered why are there so many churches, religions, denominations, sects and beliefs? Don't they all say they have the truth and the way to salvation? Doesn't that confuse you?

Is God the cause of all this confusion?

Definitely No! *1Corinthians 14:33* says: "**For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints**". If God is not the origin of all this confusion, who is it?

Daniel 9:8 answers us: "**O Lord, to us belongs shame of face (confusion), to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, because we have sinned against You**".

When people, even the ones who say that are Christian, start sinning, that is, start to disobey God's doctrine and commandments, that's when their confusion starts.

God's enemy is the devil, and he is always trying to confuse people by giving them many religions to steal their souls. Jesus, on the other hand, wants to save us.

In *John 10:10* Jesus says: "**The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly**".

Remember, the author of all confusion is Satan. Do not get fooled with his deceitful scheming. God wants to save you!

Who is the only one that can save us?

There are many religions that pray to the dead, to idols, etc.; but the true church worships the God who made heaven and earth, through the only intercessor authorized by Him: Jesus. *1Timothy 2:5* "**For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus**".

Aren't Confucius, Mohamed, etc, their Jesus?

No! Anyone who says that ignores what the Bible says.

Acts 4:12 says: "**Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved**". *John 14:6* says: "**Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me'**".

What about the ones who claim to be Jesus or a prophet?

Today, there are some people who usurp the name of Christ to deceive people. In *Mathew 24:24* Jesus warns us: "**For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect**".

Isn't the ability to do miracles in the name of Jesus proof of salvation?

No! Sadly, today a lot of people are going to go to hell believing that their "special gifts" are a sign of being baptized with the Holy Spirit. They ignore that a false prophet is deceiving them.

In *Mathew 7:22-23* Jesus warns us of that: "**Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'**" More than the temporal gifts, what we must surely show is the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23 "**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law**".

Is it possible to falsify the fruit of the Spirit?

Yes! There are some charlatans who pretend to be good people. *2Peter 2:1-3* "**But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, ... And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; ...**"

As we just read, the reason why they pretend to be good is to exploit their followers. They demand tithes (something that the people of Israel did, not the first Christians), collect monthly fees, ask for offerings in order to be blessed by a prophet, sell objects that are supposed to be blessed, etc.

How do I know if the church where I attend has been founded by Christ?

1. Christ founded His church around the year 33 A.D. in Jerusalem. All the other churches have been founded by men or women in other years and other countries. If the congregation that you go to wasn't founded biblically, we invite you to the church that Christ did found!

2. All the congregations that the apostles of Christ founded were called: "church of Christ." *Romans 16:16-20* says: "**16Greet one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ greet you. 17Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. 18For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple. 19For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil. 20And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen**". These promises and commandments are for the churches of Christ, not for any other. If the congregation where you go is not a church of Christ, we invite you to the church of Christ!

3. The twelve apostles (counting Matthias, not Judas the traitor) are the true apostles of the church, together with Paul who was the last apostle chosen by Jesus. Paul said in *1Corinthians 15:8* "**Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time**". Being an eyewitness of the resurrected Jesus was a condition to become an apostle, and Paul says that he was the last one. All the ones who today call themselves apostles are nothing more than false apostles. *2Corinthians 11:13-15* "**For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works**". If the church that you attend to has false apostles, we invite you to the church whose only apostles are the ones chosen by Christ!

4. Each of the churches of Christ is lead and taken care of by their local Elders. The Elders (also called: bishops or pastors) are the ones who take care of the "flock," while all are in submission to the head of the church, which is Christ.

The Elders or bishops need to have the qualities expressed in the Bible.

1Timothy 3:1-7 "**1This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. 2A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; 3not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; 4one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence 5(for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); 6not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. 7Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil**". If the ones who shepherd your congregation do not have these qualities, we invite you to the church where their pastors do have the biblical qualities that Christ requires!

5. The church of Christ has deacons that serve in different duties of the church (their required qualities are written after the Elders'); but they are not the only ones who have a ministry. Each faithful member of the church of Christ is equally important and has a ministry according to what each can provide to the body of Christ. *1Peter 4:10* says: "**As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God**". If in your congregation the members don't treat each other as equals, but some believe themselves to be more valuable than others, we invite you to the body of Christ where all members are equally important and useful!

6. The church of Christ teaches and practices only the doctrine of Christ. We have the Bible as the only book inspired by God. The church gatherings, the prayers, the singing, the Lord's Supper, the offerings, we all practice them according to what we read in the Word of God! *2John 1:9* says: "**Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son**".

It is very important for Christ that we don't preach the word of man as God's doctrine. *Mathew 15:8-9* "**These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men**". If the congregation where you go, does not only preach the doctrine of Christ; but also teaches men's