

THE GREETER

SUGAR GROVE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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Restoring New Testament Christianity in Principles, Practices and Power.

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WHAT IS STANDARD-FOR THE CHURCH ?

- A look at the church world today in Christianity finds a wide variety of governance, practices, and principles in place at congregations. Is there a standard or norm that could be and should be followed? Can we find such standards in early Christianity? A careful study of the church in the book of Acts and in the epistles as well as examination of ancient writings shows that there were common grounds of orthodoxy in first-century Christian church life. What were these standards or norms? (1) The Church was made up of congregations of believers or disciples, who were called Christians. They recognized Jesus as Savior and as the founder of the Church. (2) These congregations met together in a special place and a special way the first day of each week, for simple worship and fellowship. (3) There were church officials: Elders or Bishops, who had spiritual leadership responsibility over the local body, and Deacons, who had responsibility for the community of the church in the area of material needs. (4) There were specific qualities needed in these leaders who were designated and set apart by the local church. (5) The ordinances of the Church were centered in Christ and were (a). Baptism, the immersion of the penitent believer in water. This act climaxed their faith in Jesus for salvation and made them a part of the body, the church. (b.) The Lord's Supper, the weekly observance of the memorial meal as established by Jesus. (6) The membership of the churches remained steadfast in the teaching of Jesus and the apostles, and used their various spiritual gifts to edify and mentor others. (7) The churches participated in their primary mission- world evangelism, through the preaching of the gospel locally and the sending forth of ambassadors to other lands, as commanded by Christ. (8) The Church was active in benevolence as an integral part of their duty, looking after the needs of others, especially those of the faith. (9) The members of the churches brought regular offerings to the leaders to support the evangelism and benevolent outreach. (10) Prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit comforted and supported the church in all areas. (11) The membership was expected to live moral lives. Admonishment, teaching and discipline, when necessary, kept them on the right road. (12) There was a unity of purpose among all, and instances of cooperation and consultation with other congregations. We see cultural background brought about different observances and practices among churches then, as certainly they may now. But there is no reason all churches seeking to follow Christ, can't be true to the precedents set by the early followers of Jesus. A return to the New Testament and historical norms would provide a basis for unity and growth and an end to the maze of denominational confusion today. JESUS PRAYED FOR UNITY!

BACK TO CHURCH.... AS CHRISTIANS, WE HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE LORD AT HIS TABLE. WHAT COULD BE MORE IMPORTANT ?

Jesus Christ is the Center of our worship as it was in the early days of the church. Remember the Sacrifice of New Covenant.

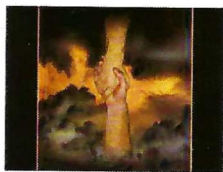


BRING THE FAMILY.... JOIN US SUNDAY

Classes 10 am Worship 11 am



ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT VIEWS IS TO SEE THE WHOLE FAMILY, TOGETHER IN CHURCH. IF YOU ARE SINGLE IT IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT DATE..



WE ARE SAVED BY..... (fill in the blank)

One of the most serious errors made in the religious world today is to preach a gospel of salvation that adds the word *alone* or *only* to the above statement. We hear these evangelists say.. saved by grace alone, only believe, only pray with me and be saved. Simplistic as they make it, it is wrong and a tragic false doctrine. No common sense view of the salvation process can be exclusive to one element. The Bible actually has Scripture that gives 16 that's right, 16 different things that 'save us." All are a part of the process.

Not once is the word only or alone added. We know to study any subject we must look at all the indications and statements to have a clear picture. Yet, many treat the most important matter of life, salvation, in such a way as to ignore the basics of interpretation. What saves us? God, Christ, Christ's life, Christ's death and blood, grace, the gospel, calling on the Lord, by words, by hope, confession, repentance, obedience, faith, by baptism, by works, by faithfulness, we are even told we save ourselves.

All of these have direct Scriptural backing with clear statements. There are no references at all to a "sinners prayer" or any prayer that will save. So what really saves us? All of these, of course, excluding none, in our explanation to others of God's redemption.

MISSION GIVING IS A PRIORITY. GOD GAVE US THE COMMISSION OF WORLD EVANGELISM. HE SAID GO TO THE ENTIRE WORLD, TEACH, AND BAPTIZE, MAKE DISCIPLES. SUGAR GROVE SUPPORTS 10 CROSS CULTURAL WORKS. OF COURSE SGCC IS TRUSTEE FOR THE LARGEST MEXICO MISSION WORK- WORKERS FOR MEXICO MISSION. REMEMBER TO GIVE THAT PEOPLE MAY KNOW THE LIGHT OF JESUS CHRIST.