

Church of Christ

515 West Park Street
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Worship Schedule

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Zac Hall

E-mail: olathecoc@gmail.com

Phone: 913.764.2325

Are You a Christian?

**Do you know what you must
do to be saved?**

Hear – Romans 10:17
Believe – John 8:24
Repent – Acts 17:30
Confess – Romans 10:9-10
Be Baptized – 1 Peter 3:21
Live Faithfully –
Revelation 2:10

Got a Bible Question?

Be sure to submit it in the blue box on the table in the foyer! You can also text, email, or message the Facebook page. Questions will be answered the last Sunday evening of each month.

The Park Street Informer

ILL

Those Fighting Cancer: Barbra Hook, Bill Wright, and Drew Shinn

Prayer List

Mike Katosh, James Jones, Tom Thrasher, Robert Hook, Janet Lake, Sandra and George Rowell, Tina Thomas, Millie Robertson and Margie Chastain.

Shut-Ins

Ted Thrasher, Debbie McGuire.

Upcoming Events

Questions and Answers November 26th
Singing November 29th
Ladies Bible Marking Class December 3rd
Ladies Bible Study December 9th
5th Sunday Potluck December 31st

Birthday

Natalie Carter- November 26th
Ted Thrasher November 30th

Anniversary

Trevor and Sarah Collins 30th

Passage to Ponder: Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sunday Sermons

A.M.....The High Cost of a Free Gift
P.M..... Questions and Answers

Are the Jews Still the Chosen People of God?

Roger D. Campbell

Those To Serve

November 26, 2023

Morning Worship

Announcements

Zac Hall

Song Leader

George Thomas

Opening Prayer

Steve Phillips

Preside

George Thomas

Assist

Steve Phillips

Closing Prayer

Ed Hanson

Evening Worship

Opening Prayer

Ed Hanson

Closing Prayer

Steve Phillips

Lord's Supper

George Thomas

Wed. Nov. 29, 2023

Song Leader

Singing

Invitation

Zac Hall

Have you ever given serious thought to this question? You may have done more than consider it. It may be the case that you have even discussed it with others. If you have heard others talk about it, then most likely you have observed three answers. Some vehemently deny that the Jews are still God's special people. Others just as strongly affirm that they are. And, there are those folks that admit they do not know the correct answer (and may not really care). How does the Bible answer this inquiry?

The Israelites were the descendants of Abraham through his son Isaac and Isaac's son Jacob. Jacob's other name was "Israel" (Genesis 32:28), so all of his offspring were known as "Israelites" or "the children of Israel." They later were identified also as "Jews."

It is a fact that in the Old Testament era, the children of Israel were the chosen, special people of God. The Lord instructed Moses to tell the Israelites, "...if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people, for all the earth is Mine" (Exodus 19:5). Moses later reminded them, "For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth" (Deuteronomy 7:6).

What was the significance of the Israelites or Jews being God's "chosen" people? Jesus was the Messiah, the "Seed" about whom Jehovah had spoken to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, promising that through their "Seed" all nations would be blessed (Galatians 3:16). The Christ came from the Jewish nation, making Him a Jew "according to the flesh" (Romans 9:5). When Jesus told a Samaritan woman that "salvation is of the Jews" (John 4:22), He did not mean that the Jews are the source of salvation. Only "the God of our salvation" (Psalm 69:18) can provide redemption. By God's eternal plan, His Son would come to shed His blood, as a lamb without blemish or spot (1 Peter 1:18,19). When He became flesh (John 1:14) in order to be the Savior of the world (1 John 4:14), He was a Jew. That was the thrust of God calling the Israelites His "chosen" people. They were blessed to be the ones through whom the one-and-only Redeemer came.

So, if we are considering the past, yes, in God's plan the Jews were His special people before the establishment of the Lord's church. There are several New Testament facts that we need to recognize. First, in the Christian era the chosen of God are in the Christ, which is also where all spiritual blessings are available. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world..." (Ephesians 1:3,4; emphasis mine in all Bible quotes, rdc). In the same manner, Paul addressed the Christians in Colosse as "the elect of God" (Colossians 3:12).

Again, in the gospel age it is Christians, not Jews, who are identified as "the people of God." Hear Peter's inspired description of Christians: "But you are a chosen generation a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people...who once were not a people, but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy" (1 Peter 2:9,10).

Who are the children of God today? Is it those who are biologically of the Jewish race? No. "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:26-27). When one responds to the faith (the gospel) by believing and being baptized into the Christ, he becomes a child of God — a member of God's family. All of God's children are in the Christ. Or, said another way, God's house or family is the church (1 Timothy 3:15).

What about the New Testament's message about where saved people are located? Salvation or forgiveness is in the Christ (Ephesians 1:7). And to what does the Lord add saved people? To His church (Acts 2:47).

So, in the lingo of the new covenant, the chosen ones of God are in the Christ, God's children are in the Christ, saved people are in the Christ, and God's people are identified as Christians. According to the message of the gospel, a person is born into the nation or family of God through a spiritual birth (John 3:3,5). Does that mean, then, that physical Jews cannot be saved? Not at all. Any Jew after the flesh can become part of God's family just like any non-Jew can. How? By obeying the gospel.