

# The Keavy Encourager

*(October 5 2025)*

**1 Thessalonians 5:14 (GW)-We encourage you, brothers and sisters, to instruct those who are not living right, cheer up those who are discouraged, help the weak, and be patient with everyone.**

*(For Any Corrections Or Updates To The Bulletin, Please Contact brother Mark Tabata (Call Or Text) @ 606-216-1757)*

## WELCOME TO THE KEAVY CHURCH OF CHRIST!

- Visitors: Please fill out a visitor card and grab a Visitor Welcome Kit!
- Communion is available in the front of the building on the table.
- Our website is: [www.keavychurchofchrist.com](http://www.keavychurchofchrist.com), and our email address is [keavychurchofchrist@outlook.com](mailto:keavychurchofchrist@outlook.com) Please share this information with your family, friends, and social media pages!
- If you would like to be subscribed to brother Mark Tabata's email list (for weekday devotionals and other Bible and Bible related studies), please let him know!

## Did Alexander Campbell Start The Church Of Christ?

(More Bible Studies Available @ [marktabata.com](http://marktabata.com))

One of the most commonly made allegations leveled against members of the churches of Christ goes something like this:

“You all claim to be members of Christ's Church, and yet Alexander Campbell is the man who started the church of Christ!”

Is this true?

Did Alexander Campbell create the church of Christ?

Who was Alexander Campbell, and what does he have to do with the church of Christ?

Let's study.

Long before Jesus walked the Earth, it was prophesied that He would establish the kingdom of God. The Prophet Daniel declared:

**Daniel 2:44-And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.**

Daniel had foreseen the rise of four great world empires, which may be identified historically as Babylon, The Medo-Persian Alliance, the Greeks, and the Romans. It was during the days of the Roman Empire that Daniel declared that the God of Heaven would set up a kingdom which would never be destroyed.

When Jesus began preaching, it was during the days of the Roman Empire. He declared that the kingdom of God would be established within the first century:

**Mark 9:1-And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."**

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus showed that the kingdom and the church are identical:

**Matthew 16:18-19-And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."**

When people heard the Gospel of Jesus (His death, burial, and resurrection on the third day-1 Corinthians 15:1-8), and obeyed it (by repenting and being baptized into Christ-Acts 2:38), God Himself added them to the church.

**Acts 2:41-Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.**

**Acts 2:47-praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.**

It is very important that we understand that Jesus teaches us the method by which the kingdom of God would be reproduced:

**Luke 8:11-Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.**

**Matthew 13:19-When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.**

The Word of God is the seed which (when planted in good and noble hearts) brings forth the kingdom of God (i.e., the church).

The Apostles of Jesus clearly foretold that during the Christian Age there would be a terrible “falling away” from the Word of God (2 Thessalonians 2:3-12; 1 Timothy 4:1-5; 2 Timothy 4:1-5). The warnings of the Apostles demonstrate that the Great Apostasy would begin in the “temple” of God (2 Thessalonians 2:3-5) or the church (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Specifically, it would arise within the eldership of the church (Acts 20:28-30). These events would take place when the “man of sin” would rise to power and encourage people to depart from the Word of God, which would lead to a terrible “falling away.” The “lawless one” was already working in Paul’s day (2 Thessalonians 2:7), and yet was being restrained by something which Paul had warned the Christians about (2 Thessalonians 2:5). Significantly, the “restraining power” was identified by the second century Christians as the Roman Empire.

*“...he who now hinders must hinder until he be taken out of the way. What obstacle is there but the Roman state; the falling away of which, by being scattered into ten kingdoms, shall introduce antichrist....” (Tertullian, On the Resurrection, Chapters 24, 25).*

*“... ‘he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way,’ that is, when the Roman Empire is taken out of the way, then he [antichrist] shall come; and naturally, for as long as the fear of this empire lasts, no one will readily exalt himself; but when that is dissolved, he will attack the anarchy, and endeavor to seize upon the government both of men and of God.” (Chrysostom, John Chrysostom’s Homily IV, “On 2 Thessalonians ii.)*

*“...it is not absurd to believe that these words of the apostle, ‘Only he who now holdeth, let him hold until he be taken out of the way,’ refer to the Roman empire....” (Augustine, Saint Augustine’s The City of God, Book 20, Chapter 19, paragraph 3)*

Historically, these things happened just as the Apostles declared they would.

After the death of the Apostles, some in the churches began to seize power over other churches. Within the next several centuries, there were five huge churches in particular which began to fight for dominance among the ancient world. These churches were in Alexandria, Antioch, Constantinople, Jerusalem, and Rome. The church in Rome began to forge documents claiming to be the original church, and that Jesus had made Peter the head of the church on Earth as the first pope. Of course, the church of Christ did not have a pope, since Jesus Himself is the Head of His church (Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 1:18; Matthew 28:18). However, as these five large churches began to bicker over power, the bishops began to take more and more control. They all recognized the authority of the others, and none were so arrogant as to claim the authority over all of the church. This is shown by several references from the second and third century Christian writers. When the Roman Empire fell, the “man of sin” was then fully revealed (just as Paul declared would happen). We know this “man of sin today” today as the papacy of the Roman Catholic church. The corruptions of Catholicism eventually led to the Protestant Reformation. During this time, many valiant Roman Catholics abandoned the Catholic church and tried to encourage their followers to reform Catholicism. We owe them a debt for their courage and faith in translating the Word of God to modern languages. Sadly, their valiant efforts instead resulted in the formation of hundreds of other churches, each one based upon a man-made creed.

During the eighteen and nineteen hundreds, disciples of Christ from around the world recognized that the existing religious denominations of the world were not in harmony with God’s plan for the church. As such, they began to courageously depart from these man-made churches and to return to the pure and simple Word of God. One of the preachers who led this Restoration Movement was named Alexander Campbell. In an excellent book, *Muscle And A Shovel*, a disciple named Michael Shanks recounts a conversation he has with Randal, a friend in the church of Christ he was studying with. In asking why some members of the church of Christ are called “Campbellites,” we are told:

““They call members of the church of Christ Campbellites because Alexander Campbell 2 was one of several pioneer preachers who helped bring about the

Restoration Movement 3 . Campbell's family were Scotch-Irish Presbyterians but Campbell became a well known Baptist preacher. He published a widely circulated paper called The Christian Baptist 4 . Campbell began to recognize the church that Jesus founded within the pages of the New Testament. He began to point out his findings and encouraging others to look at it for themselves. Through his continued studies he found that his own Baptist doctrines were not supported by the Bible. Over time Campbell rejected his own Baptist creeds, desiring instead to be a Christian only. He was one of many men during the nineteenth century who began to urge all believers to throw away denominational creeds and names and restore the church of the Bible. In reality Campbell started nothing. He started no church or religion. He simply pointed people back to the Bible. His plea was the restoration of the first century church and practices that were supported by the Bible. He encouraged people to leave denominationalism and be unified under the banner of Jesus Christ and the Lord's church as found in the New Testament. The Baptists grew to hate the man. Denominational preachers from many different brands began to hate Campbell because to unify under Jesus Christ and Christ's church meant they had to denounce the false doctrines of their respective denominations. The denominations started losing people by the thousands to the church of the Lord." (Michael Shank, Muscle And A Shovel, 5079-5100 (Kindle Edition))

In reality, Campbell (and the other members of the Restoration Movement) did not start any church or denomination. Instead, they encouraged people to return to the Word of God and allow the Holy Scriptures to be the pattern for the church, as God had intended (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Today, when we plant the seed of the kingdom in good and noble hearts, we will get the same crop that was brought forth in the first century: the church of Jesus Christ (Luke 8:11; Matthew 13:19).

Friends, the church of Christ has always existed since Pentecost of Acts 2. Jesus promised it would never be destroyed (Matthew 16:18), just like Daniel the Prophet declared (Daniel 2:44). Many are not aware that churches of Christ have been discovered all around the world, and were in existence long before the American Restoration Movement! With that in mind, consider the following.

During the 1960's, missionaries from the churches of Christ traveled to different parts of Europe for the purpose of spreading the Gospel of Christ. To their amazement, they found churches of Christ already in existence, some of which were part of congregations that could trace their history back to Pentecost of Acts chapter two! One fascinating book was written that detailed some of this history. The author, Hans Grimm, was a preacher of the Gospel who labored in Europe at a

time when the Christians who were loyal to New Testament Christianity were being systematically by the Nazis and the communists. It was at that time when this preacher of Christ met brother Otis Gatewood, a missionary and well-known evangelist in the Lord's work, made an amazing discovery: churches of Christ already in existence that dated back to time of the Apostles themselves!

Alexander Campbell (along with the other founding members of the Restoration Movement) did not START the church of Christ. Instead, they started planting the seed of God's kingdom that so many had for so long been neglecting. The result was not the creation of a new denomination: it was a return to the church which Jesus had built, using the very method that the Lord Himself gave to reproduce His kingdom. While the charge that Campbell started the church of Christ is often heard and repeated, it is simply not true.

Let's sound the call for all believers to return to the Gospel and New Testament pattern for the church that Jesus has established, beloved. Let us turn away from denominationalism and man-made creeds, and submit to Christ and His Word for our teaching and practice (both congregationally and individually). Jesus died to pay the price for your sins (1 Timothy 2:6), was buried, and arose from the dead on the third day (1 Corinthians 15:1-8). Why not today as a believer repent of your sins and be baptized into Christ to have your sins forgiven (Acts 2:38)? If you are a Christian who has fallen from grace because of sin (Galatians 5:4; 2 Peter 2:20-22), why not immediately repent of your sin and seek God's forgiveness in prayer (1 John 1:8-2:2)?

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

### October Prayer List

Kurt And Joanne Martin, Sanders Family, Eddie Craft (Cancer), Jimmy Brooks (Tammy's cousin, cancer), Kathy Mingus (Cancer), Anne Baker (Cancer), Sandi Tabata, Bill and Mary Ruth Browning, David and Ivy Mosley, Molly And Ebb Baker, Margie Turner (Hospice), Jake Robbins (Cancer), Coy Gilliam (Cancer), Roger and Sandra Frazier & Family, Carman Carroll, Bessie Young, Nathan & Patty McDaniel, Edward Young Sr., Ed Young, Mike Clayton (Liver Transplant), Corbin Pennington Junior (Chemotherapy), John Reeder (Cancer), Harmony Mullins, Mike Gill (Cancer), Claude Humphrey (Cancer), Cheryl Moore (Kin T Ellen Colwell), Felicity Lanham (Cancer), Diane Duke, Chris Holt (Friend Of

Brother Mark), Piere Daigel (Cancer), Samantha Collins, Jerry Napier, Shirley Farley, Fred Morris, Bob Jones, James Smith And Family, People In Ukraine, Wayne Dockery, Debbie McDaniel, Earnie Baker (Phyllis Sanders Brother In Law), Ronnie Griffin (Breathing Problems Paul Matney's Brother In Law), Gracie Gregory (friend of Phyllis Sanders), James Theverakan, George Theverakan, Kyle Davis And Family, Pattie's friend Haley, Sherrie Goodwin (Kyle Davis Grandmother In Hospital), Barbourville Work, Beverly Jones, Daniel Parks, Kathy Sears, Courtney Watkins, Leigh Ann, Kenny Young (Recuperating From Knee Surgery), Quintin Nelton, Ronnie Gregory (Recuperating From Surgery), Wayne Sanders (Randy Sanders father), Jack Hale (Recovery From Surgery), Dan Scott, Daniel Parks, Janahra Hill Family (Lost Loved Ones), Marlene Howard, Kenne McKallen, Rod Hill (Cancer friend of brother Paul), John Wayne and Elizabeth Hetteberg, David Mosley Family (Lost Loved Ones), Charlene Reef (Cancer), Rick and Linda Cowden (COVID), Jimmy Turner (Cancer), Kenly Delk (COVID), Phyllis Sanders (Tests), Danny Day, Floyd Book (Mesothelioma), Xavier Maleckas (New Christian), Alex Davis (New Christian), Peggy Smith (Bad Fall In Corbin Baptist), Teddy Adkins (Phyllis Cousin), Annie Posten (Little Girl In Hospital), Lela Kilburn (St Joseph's London), Paul Matney (Traveling)

### Announcements

- Sister Sandra Frazier responded to the Gospel Sunday morning, asking for prayers with challenges she and her family are facing. Please remember them in your prayers!
- Brother Willis has been doing a fantastic job teaching g adult class while brother Paul has been traveling. Thank you Willis!
- Please remember the Barbourville work in your prayers.
- Regularly Scheduled Events; Sunday Bible Class All Ages (Every Sunday @ 10:00); Sunday Worship (Every Sunday @ 11:00 AM And 5:00 PM); Wednesday Evening Bible Class All Ages (Every Wednesday @ 5:00); Keavy Ladies And Supportive Saints (K.L.A.S.S. Every First Sunday Of The Month After Evening Service); Keavy Support Group And Youth Group Meeting (Every Tuesday @ 6:00); Adult Night (Every Second And Fourth Friday @ 6:000); Nursing Home Ministry (Every Third Thursday @ 6:00); Keavy Fellowship Meal (Every Last Sunday of The Month After Morning Service)

### Bible Class And Sermons Notes

- Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class: 1 Corinthians
- Sunday Morning Sermon: The Repurposed Life By Repentance (Luke 13:1-5)

- Sunday Evening Sermon: Repentance-Things To Lay Aside (Colossians 3)
- Wednesday Evening Adult Bible Class: 1 Corinthians