1 - **Preaching Jesus - His Church**
 Matthew 16:18

2 - **Preaching Jesus**

1. His **origin, identity and nature**. -
2. The **prophesied Messiah**.
3. The **life He lived in the flesh**.
4. His **death and resurrection**.
5. Preaching **His church**.
6. Upcoming:
7. Preaching Jesus’ “PLAN” OF SALVATION”

3 - **Jesus promised to build “My Church”**

Matthew 16:18, *“I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock* ***I will build My church****; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”*

* ***“This rock”***? Peter’s confession that Jesus was ***“the Christ, the Son of the living God”***. (vs. 16; Luke 22:24-26;
1 Corinthians 3:11; 2 Corinthians 12:11)
* That Jesus is the Christ is the basis for Him to “***build***” His “***church***”.

4 - **Jesus promised to build “My Church”**

Church - from the Greek word “ekklesia” meaning “a calling out” or a called-out body of people. (cf., Acts 19:32, 39)

* Out of what and into what?
* Emphasis on the singular… just one!
* What about John 15:5?

Through our ***“obedience to the truth”*** (1 Peter 1:22; Acts 2:41, 47), we’ve been “***called… out of darkness***” to become **God’s special people** (1 Peter 2:9-10).

5 - **The Church of Christ**

The called out body of believers in Christ.

That church that belongs to Christ.

* **He shed His blood to “purchase” it**. (Acts 20:28)
* **He sacrificed Himself for it**. (Ephesians 5:23-25)
* **He purified it**. (Ephesians 5:26-27)
* **He is the foundation**. (1 Corinthians 3:11; Ephesians 2:20)
* **He is its’ head**. (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18, 24)
* He is **the king of the kingdom**. (Matthew 16:18-19)

6 - **The Name of His Church**

Names mean something!

The church which belongs to Christ and was purchased by Christ. The name describes our relationship to Christ.

Also the “***church of God***” (Acts 20:28; 1 Corinthians 15:9) as God planned the church from times eternal. (Ephesians 3:10-11)

Wearing the name isn’t sufficient to be approved of God but how can we be right when we don’t start with the right name?

So why are churches of Christ taking Christ off their names?

7 - **The Organization of His Church**

Nothing more or less than revealed in the NT Scriptures:

1. Jesus Christ (alone) is it’s head. (Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:23)
2. Elders, Deacons and Saints. (Philippians 1:1)
3. Elders who humbly shepherd the flock among them. (1 Peter 5:2; Acts 20:28)
4. Deacons who serve the needs of the local flock.
5. Christians who do the work of service. (Ephesians 4:11-16)

8 - **The Work of His Church**

Not to “***burden***” His church with other works He did not intend. (1 Timothy 5:16)

First, a “**spiritual**” organization warrants a “**spiritual**” work and **not a secular one** that addresses entertainment, social & political causes, secular education or ecological concerns.

9 - **The Work of His Church**

The “work” we read of in scripture that His church is to do:

1. **Worship**. (1 Corinthians 11:17ff)
2. **Evangelism**. (Acts 13:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; 2 Corinthians 11:8; Philippians 4:15)
3. **Edification**. (Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Tim. 3:15; 4:6, 11-16)
4. **Relief of needy** saints (benevolence). (1 Timothy 5:16;
Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-35; 6:1ff; 11:27-30; Romans 15:26)

10 - **The Christians’ Duties In The Church**

1. **Responsibilities of the individual that can’t be shirked**.
(1 Timothy 5:16; James 1:27; Matthew 25:41-46; Luke 10:29ff)
2. **I must be an active, faithful, growing worker in the church**. (Ephesians 4:14-16)
3. **Exercise care and love for my fellow members**. (1 Corinthians 12:25; Romans 12:10)
4. **Encourage, edify and strengthen**. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
5. **Stand united in His word**. (John 17:20-23; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 4:1-3, 13)

11 - **Preach Christ & Not His Church?**

That would be like saying…

* "**Tell us about the blood he shed but don't tell us what he purchased with it"** (Acts 20:28).
* “**Tell us about the Savior but don't tell us what he is going to save**" (Eph.1:22,23; 5:23).
* "**Tell us about the bridegroom, but don't tell us about his bride**" (Eph.5:22-33).
* "**Tell us about the king but don't tell us about his kingdom over which he reigns**" (Matt.16:18,19; Mk.9:1).
* "**Tell us about his being the Head, never mind what he is Head of** " (Eph.1:22,23).
* "**Tell us about his Father, but we don't want to hear about his family**" (Eph.3:15; 1 Tim.3: 15).

12 - **What Is Your Relationship To His Church?**

Have you been added to His body, the Church?
(Acts 2:41, 47)

If you are part of His body, the Church, have you been faithful to it and done all “***for the sake of the kingdom***” (Luke 18:29)?