

What We Believe

At the Jackson Church of Christ, we recognize that none of us are perfect. We all fall short of the glory of God, but we believe in His grace and mercy. Our goal is to care for everyone's soul and to walk alongside one another in our spiritual journey. We welcome anyone who desires to know God and grow in faith, regardless of their past or present struggles. You don't have to be perfect to join us—we're all here because we need Jesus.

- **Romans 3:23:** "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
- **Romans 5:8:** "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
- **Galatians 6:1-2:** "Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

The Bible is the Word of God

We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, complete and sufficient for teaching, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. We rely solely on the Scriptures as our guide in all matters of faith and practice.

- **2 Timothy 3:16-17:** "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."
- **2 Peter 1:20-21:** "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."
- **Psalms 119:105:** "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Salvation Through Jesus Christ

We believe that salvation is a gift from God, made possible by the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We are saved by grace through faith, through obedience to the gospel, which includes belief, repentance, confession, baptism, and faithful living.

- **Ephesians 2:8-9:** "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."
- **Acts 2:38:** "Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"
- **Romans 6:3-4:** "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

Baptism for the Remission of Sins

We believe that baptism by immersion is essential for salvation, as it unites us with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. Through baptism, we receive the remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

- **Mark 16:16:** "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."
- **1 Peter 3:21:** "There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."
- **Galatians 3:27:** "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ."
- **Acts 22:16:** "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord."
- **Colossians 2:12:** "Buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead."
- **Acts 2:38:** "Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"

The Church

We believe that the church is the body of Christ, established by Him, and made up of those who have been saved. We seek to restore the New Testament church in its simplicity and function, worshipping God as the early Christians did.

- **Matthew 16:18:** "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."
- **Colossians 1:18:** "And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence."
- **Ephesians 4:4-6:** "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."

Worship in Spirit and Truth

We believe in worshipping God in spirit and truth, following the New Testament pattern for worship. As part of that pattern, we practice a cappella singing, just as the early church did. We sing praises to God without the accompaniment of instruments, making melody in our hearts to the Lord.

- **John 4:24:** "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."
- **Ephesians 5:19:** "Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."

- **Colossians 3:16:** "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

The Lord's Supper

We believe in observing the Lord's Supper every first day of the week, as a memorial of Christ's sacrifice and a proclamation of His death until He comes again. It gives us a chance to stop everything, and focus our hearts and minds on what Christ has done for us.

- **1 Corinthians 11:23-26:** "For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.' In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes."
- **Acts 2:42:** "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers."
- **Acts 20:7:** "Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight."

Christian Living

We believe that Christians are called to live holy and righteous lives, growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. We strive to be examples in word, conduct, love, spirit, faith, and purity, following the teachings of Christ and His apostles.

- **Romans 12:1-2:** "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."
- **1 Peter 1:15-16:** "But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy.'"
- **2 Peter 3:18:** "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen."

Outreach and Service

At the Jackson Church of Christ, we believe that caring for those in need is a central part of our Christian mission. Our congregation follows the biblical example of the early church by working together to support orphans, widows, and those facing hardship. We believe that collective

action is not only biblical but essential to fulfilling Christ's command to love and serve others. The Scriptures show churches pooling resources to help those in need, both within their own congregations and beyond. We are committed to this kind of service, following the teachings of Jesus and the practices of the New Testament church.

- **Acts 11:29-30:** "Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul."
- **2 Corinthians 8:13-14:** "For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened; but by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may supply their lack, that their abundance also may supply your lack—that there may be equality."
- **1 Corinthians 16:1-2:** "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come."
- **James 1:27:** "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world."
- **Galatians 6:10:** "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith."
- **1 John 3:17:** "But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?"

Silence of the Scriptures and Following the New Testament Pattern

We believe that the silence of the Scriptures is significant and that we should not go and add beyond what is written. As a congregation, we consider ourselves non-denominational. We say this because we do not follow creeds, disciplines, or any man-made doctrines. Instead, we rely solely on the Bible as our guide, seeking to worship and organize ourselves just as the first-century church did.

Each congregation in the Church of Christ is independent and autonomous, governed by its own elders or, in the absence of elders, a committee of biblically minded men of the congregation. This independence allows us to focus solely on following Christ without interference from outside hierarchies.

- **1 Corinthians 4:6:** "Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other."
- **2 John 1:9:** "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."
- **Revelation 22:18-19:** "For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

We understand that some of our beliefs and practices may seem different or unfamiliar to others. Our goal is not to be different for the sake of being different, nor is it to judge or condemn, but to sincerely follow what we understand from the Bible. We seek to live out a simple, authentic faith, much like the early Christians in the first century. We care deeply about the souls of all people and strive to demonstrate our faith with love, humility, and respect for everyone. While we may have differing views, we are always open to discussing and sharing our beliefs in a spirit of friendship and understanding. Our doors and hearts are open to those seeking to learn more about Christ and His teachings.

Have questions? Please reach out to us on Facebook, through email, phone, or stop by! We'd love to get to know you better!