

## The Rock That Is Higher

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*Hear my cry, O God;  
Attend unto my prayer.  
From the end of the earth will I call unto thee,  
when my heart is overwhelmed:  
Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.  
- Psalm 61:1-2 -*

The words “the rock that is higher than I” in Psalm 61:2 refer to a rock that is high and elevated. This rock offers a place of safety and security. God, then, is someone who will offer safety and security to all who will believe in him and trust him.

In Psalm 61, the Psalmist cries to God for help in times of exile and trial (vv. 1-2; Note: David may have been fleeing from Saul or Absalom at this time). The Psalmist takes refuge in God (vv. 3-4). The Psalmist is heard and rewarded by God (vv. 5-7). And finally, the Psalmist sings praises to God in return for his refuge (v. 8).

Today, Jesus is a “higher” rock of safety and security to all Christians. Jesus is a foundational rock: a place to build your life upon (Matthew 7:21-24; 1 Corinthians 3:11-14). Jesus is an enduring rock: a place for the church to remain steadfast (Matthew 16:18; Hebrews 12:28). Jesus is a stumbling rock: a place to commit your life to (Luke 20:17-18; Acts 4:11-12; Romans 9:32-33; 1 Peter 2:8). Finally, Jesus is a watering rock: a place to nourish your soul (1 Corinthians 10:1-4; John 4:14; 6:35; Revelation 22:17). Will you let Jesus be your “higher” rock today? - *Chris Reeves*

## Sentence Sermons

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- Jesus died for you and all he asks is that you live for him.
- Man’s way leads to a hopeless end, while God’s way leads to an endless hope.
- Wisdom has two parts: having a lot to say and not saying all of it.
- Don’t spend the last half of your life regretting the first half.
- The Bible is the only book whose author is always present when you read it.

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Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm  
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## THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.  
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

# The Lord's Church Is Different

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*And I also say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.  
- Matthew 16:18 -*

Every week millions of people around the world gather in “church” buildings and worship God. We, at the Warfield Blvd. church of Christ do the same, but we are different. Like Paul, who proclaimed a different message and a different practice when he was in Athens (Acts 17:16-23), we Christians are different.

We are not trying to be different for difference sake. We are not trying to be odd or get attention. We are different because we seek to follow the New Testament alone when many other religious people do not. How is the Lord's church today different?

*The Lord's church is different because of what it was...*

It was **purposed** by God (Ephesians 1:9,11; 3:11). The Lord's church which began on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:41) was purposed by God before creation and not by man. It was **preached** by God (Ephesians 3:21). The Lord's church was preached by the apostles. They preached no man-made church. It

was **purchased** by God (Acts 20:28). Jesus died on the cross to purchase his church. He did not purchase man-made churches and men did not die for the man-made churches that we see today.

*The Lord's church is different because of what it is...*

It is the church of the **savior** (Ephesians 5:23). The Lord's church belongs to Jesus Christ. It is the church “of” (belonging to) Christ. It is the church of the **saved** (Acts 2:47). The Lord adds to his church, the saved. It is the church of the **sacred writings** (1 Corinthians 4:17; 7:17; Colossians 4:16; 3 John 9; Revelation 1:4). The Lord's church in the 1st century received the writings of the apostles and prophets.

The Lord's church is also different because it is scriptural in **organization** (Acts 14:27; 20:17; Philippians 1:1). It has elders, deacons, and saints. It is scriptural in **worship** (Acts 2:42; 12:5). It worships according to the truth of Jesus (John 4:24). It is scriptural in **works** (Acts 9:31; 11:26; 13:1; 15:41; 1 Corinthians 16:1; 2 Corinthians 8:1,19; 11:8; Philippians 4:15). It engages in evangelism, edification, and benevolence toward needy saints. It is scriptural in teaching the **plan of salvation** (Acts 2:47).

*The Lord's church is different because of what it is not...*

It is not of **human origin** (Matthew 15:13; 16:18). It was started by Jesus, not by a man or woman. It is not of **human teaching** (Ephesians 1:22; 5:23).

We follow a **different rule book** (the New Testament, 2 Timothy 1:13), not a manual, discipline, catechism, etc. We have a **different founder** (Christ, Matthew 16:18), not Luther, Calvin, Wesley, Smith, Eddy, etc. We wear a **different name** (Christian, 1 Peter 4:16), not Episcopalian, Catholic, Lutheran, Mormon, etc.

*The Lord's church is different because of how it acts...*

It **seeks** to live pure lives (1 Corinthians 1:2; Ephesians 5:27). Christians are not sinless, but they are “saints” and they strive to live apart from sin. It **suffers** for the cause of Christ (1 Thessalonians 2:14). Christians are willing to suffer for the gospel and the cause of Christ. It **sustains** the truth (1 Timothy 3:15). Christians uphold the teaching and preaching of the New Testament.

We, at the Warfield Blvd. church of Christ, don't simply claim to be different, we demonstrate it. Come experience the difference! Simple worship. No man-made laws constantly changing. No gimmicks. - Chris Reeves