

# Who are the Christadelphians?

Introducing  
a Bible-based  
Community



# Who are the Christadelphians?

The Christadelphians are a small religious group of people who follow the faith and beliefs of the first century Christians as recorded in the Bible. We believe the Bible to be the inspired word of God, and it is our only guide.

*Colossians 1:2; Hebrews 2:11*

We have been known as "Christadelphians" for almost 200 years. The name "Christadelphian" comes from two Greek words that mean "brothers in Christ". We are located in many countries throughout the world, including the United Kingdom, North America, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, South-East Asia and Africa. Like the early Christians, we meet in homes, rented rooms and our own halls.

*Acts 1:13-14; 2:46-47; 18:7; 28:30*

Each congregation is called an 'ecclesia' (the Greek New Testament word for church). We have no paid clergy or church hierarchy. Members of each congregation are addressed as 'brother' or 'sister', and all are involved in organising our ecclesial activities. Members contribute their time and energy voluntarily in service to God. A strong common belief binds our brotherhood together.

*Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-27; Galatians 3:28*

Fellowship is extended to those who share the same beliefs, after being baptised (fully immersed in water).

# A Brief History

Many believers since the apostles at the time of Christ have held the same faith and beliefs as those currently known as Christadelphians. Only the Christadelphian name is new, the beliefs remain the same as those shared by Jesus' followers in the first century. There have been a number of independent communities and individuals around the world who have eagerly studied the Bible for themselves, realised the errors that have crept in to church teaching over the centuries, and gone back to accept the Bible's simple teachings.

In the early 1800's, one of these individuals, an English physician by the name of John Thomas, was on a voyage to America, when the ship struck unexpected bad weather and nearly sank. This event started his search for what lay beyond death, and upon reading the Bible for himself, he soon realised that many of the doctrines that were popularly taught and believed appeared inconsistent with the Bible. Dissatisfied, he devoted himself to a careful independent study of the Scriptures. He made no claim to any vision or personal revelation.



The early 1800's was a period of keen Bible revivalism, and many other individuals in both America and Britain who were also searching out the truth of the Bible for themselves, and were reaching the same conclusions as John Thomas, joined with him.

Together they formed what is now known as the Christadelphian community. Since then, Christadelphian ecclesias have been established in many countries all over the world.

# Our Beliefs

## **The Bible**

We believe that the Bible is God's only revealed message to mankind, given to bring individuals to belief and faith in God and his Son. The Bible is our only authority and it should be read prayerfully and with care at every opportunity.

*Romans 16:26; Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21*

## **God**

There is only one eternal, immortal God. Jesus Christ is His only begotten son and the Holy Spirit is His power.

*Isaiah 45:5-7; 1 Timothy 1:17; 2:5; Luke 1:35; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 8:6*

## **Man**

Man is mortal and a sinner before God. His whole being is prone to sin and the punishment for sin is death – the end of all life.

*Job 4:17; Romans 3:23; Jeremiah 17:9; Mark 7:21-23; James 1:13-15*

## **Jesus**

In his love, God provided His only begotten son, the man Jesus Christ, as a sacrifice to save mankind from their sins. Those who believe in him will not perish, but have everlasting life.

*Luke 1:35; Matthew 1:20-21; 3:17; Mark 12:29-31; John 3:16*

## **Sacrifice of Christ**

Jesus never sinned, yet died in obedience to his Father's will, to redeem those who in faith acknowledge their sins and identify with this sacrifice by baptism. God raised him from the dead, gave him immortality, granted him all authority in heaven and on earth, and set him as a mediator between God and man.

*Ephesians 1:19-23; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; Hebrews 4:14-16; Romans 3:21-26*

# Our Beliefs

## **Return of Jesus**

We believe that Jesus will soon return to this Earth. He will then raise many of the dead, judge them along with the living, and give his faithful followers everlasting life in the kingdom of God.

*Acts 1:11; Revelation 22:12; Luke 21:20-32; John 5:28-29; Daniel 12:2; 2 Timothy 4:1; Matthew 25:31-34*

## **Kingdom of God**

The Kingdom of God will be established on Earth. Jesus will be king in Jerusalem; his dominion will be worldwide and his government will finally bring eternal righteousness and peace to the whole world.

*Daniel 2:44; 7:14; 7:27; Acts 3:21; Jeremiah 3:17; Isaiah 2:2-4; 9:6-9; 11:1-9; 61:1-11; Psalm 72*

## **The Promises**

The Gospel is inseparable from the promises which God made to Abraham and David in Old Testament times. These promises find their fulfilment in Jesus Christ.

*Galatians 3:6-9, 16, 26-29; Genesis 13:14-17; 22:15-18; 2 Samuel 7:12-16; Luke 1:31-33*

## **Hope**

The only hope of life after death is the resurrection of the body and everlasting life in God's Kingdom on Earth.

*Psalms 49:12-20; 1 Corinthians 15:12; Romans 8:22-39; Acts 24:15; John 11:25-26; Revelation 5:10; 20:4*

## **The Way of Salvation**

We believe we are saved by God's grace through faith in Him and His son Jesus Christ. This involves belief in the Bible and obedience to its requirements that men and women confess their sins, repent, be baptised and try to follow Jesus faithfully.

*Ephesians 2:4-5; Hebrews 11:6; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; Timothy 3:15; Acts 2:37-38; 4:12; Mark 16:16; John 3:3-5; Matthew 16:24-27*

# Our Way of Life

The Bible gives effective direction and purpose to our lives. We try to rely fully upon God and His word to develop a faith which is active in prayer and service.

However, we recognise that salvation is by God's grace alone.

With God's help, we seek to please and obey Him every day, striving to imitate Christ who faithfully obeyed his Father. We therefore endeavour to be enthusiastic in work, loyal in marriage, generous in giving, dedicated in preaching and happy in our God.

A widespread custom among Christadelphians is to try and read the Bible every day. Many also attend Bible classes each week.

Every Sunday we try to follow the example of the first century believers by participating in a service we call the "Memorial Meeting" or "Breaking of Bread". All members share bread and wine to remind us of the life and death of The Lord Jesus Christ. Attendance at this service is the focus of our religious life.



# Community

The Christadelphians are a close-knit community working together in God's service in whatever ways we can. Since we have no paid ministers, our members take turns to serve our community in all its functions – Sunday School, Children's activities and Youth groups, preaching locally and overseas and caring for people in need. Amongst these activities we include:

## **Agape in Action**

A community of Christadelphian volunteers committed to supporting the physical and spiritual needs of children and families living in extreme poverty, currently supporting over 2700 children in our Child Sponsorship Program and running over 40 projects in Africa, Asia and the Pacific.

*[agapeinaction.com](http://agapeinaction.com)*

## **Heritage Colleges**

Christadelphian Colleges have been established in a number of states, including locally at Morisset, Lake Macquarie, and each is committed to preparing every child to meet the challenges of a changing world with courage and confidence.

*[lakemac.heritage.edu.au](http://lakemac.heritage.edu.au)*

## **Christadelphian Aged Care**

Aged Care & Retirement Living Facilities, focusing on pastoral care, provide an all-inclusive experience for residents.

*[chomes.com.au](http://chomes.com.au)*

## **Christadelphian Bible Mission**

The CBM aims to follow the command of Jesus to 'Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation' (Mark 16:15), supporting and facilitating preaching to help bring others to the hope of the gospel message contained in the Bible.

*[acbm.org.au](http://acbm.org.au)*

# Contact Information

For more information:



## **Hunter Valley Christadelphians**

2 Doree Pl, Dora Creek NSW 2264

[hve.org.au](http://hve.org.au)

[secretary@hve.org.au](mailto:secretary@hve.org.au)

Other Christadelphian meeting places can be found locally at:

<b>Boolaroo</b>	14 Firth St, Boolaroo
<b>Charlestown</b>	38 Ridley St, Charlestown
<b>Gosford</b>	26 Pacific Hwy, Ourimbah
<b>Newcastle</b>	152 Parry St, Newcastle West
<b>Southlakes</b>	Bonnells Bay Community Centre, 275 Fishery Point Rd, Bonnells Bay
<b>Toronto</b>	Multi-Purpose Centre, 9 Thorne St, Toronto
<b>Watagans</b>	200 Gimberts Road, Morisset

Please contact us for details of Christadelphian Ecclesial locations in Sydney and other areas throughout the country and overseas.