

The Church Jesus Built

071518AM

1 Timothy 3:14-15

- Last week, knowing the truth and needing courage – What is the church of Christ's choice?
- Mat. 16:18 “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.”
- Eph. 1:22-23 “the church, which is His body,” also Col. 1:18-24.
- Eph. 4:4 “There is one body”, the church!
- If the church Jesus built can be identified from the Bible, it must be reproduced, for it is as unique in nature and mission as the Lord who bought it (Acts 20:28).

The Time It Began

- Mic. 4:1; Isa. 2:2 – The Lord's house would be established in the "last days."
- Joel 2:28-29 – the Holy Spirit was to be poured out upon all flesh in the last days; fulfilled! Acts 2:16-21.
- Mk. 9:1 “And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.”
- Fulfilled! Power came with the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit came on Pentecost (Acts 1:8; 2:1-4).
- Heb. 1:1 – the last days are when Jesus Christ is the authority.

The Place It Began

- Isa. 2:2-4 and Mic. 4:1 – In Jerusalem
- “And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.” Lk. 24:47
- The apostles were instructed to tarry in Jerusalem (Acts 1:4-5).
- The Great commission was to be initiated in Jerusalem

(Acts 1:8) – Acts 2 records the beginning.

- 1 Tim. 3:14-15 – the house of the Lord is the church.

Its Founder and Foundation

- Jesus Christ is the founder, architect and owner (Mat. 16:18; Acts 20:28).
- He is the sole foundation of the church (1 Cor. 3:11).
- Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18 – He is the head of His body, the church!
- Eph. 4:4 – There is “one body,” hence, there is one church!
- The New Testament makes no provision for any other church, any other founder, or any other head!

The Law by Which It Is Governed

- The law of the church of Christ is the New Testament (2 Cor. 3:4-11; Heb. 8:6-13; 9:15-17).
- Jas. 1:25 refers to the law of Christ as the "perfect law of liberty", and in 2:12 as the law by which Christians shall be judged.

"If it says more than the Bible, it says too much. If it says less than the Bible, then it does not say enough. If it says the same thing as the Bible, then it is not necessary."

Decision... It's Terms of Membership

- The Old Testament reveals when, where, and how the church would begin.
- The New Testament reveals the fulfillment of those Old Testament prophecies and promises.
- The church Jesus built can be identified from the Bible, so it must be reproduced, for it is as unique in nature and mission as the Lord who bought it (Acts 20:28).

Only a thorough study of the O.T and N.T. can reveal the true church that Jesus built, and to which thousands became members in the first century A.D.

- We know the church of Christ's choice, what is yours?

The Terms by Which It Is Described

- The church of God (1 Cor. 1:2)
- The temple of God (1 Cor. 3:16-17)
- The house of God, the church of the living God (1 Tim. 3:15)
- The church (Acts 11:22)
- The church of the Lord (Acts 20:28)
- The body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:27)
- The bride of Christ (2 Cor. 11:2; Rev. 21:9)
- The churches of Christ (Rom. 16:16)

It's Organization

- Elders
- Deacons
- Preachers
- Teachers

The Manner of Its Worship

- The Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:20-26).
- Giving (1 Cor. 16:1-2).
- Prayer (Acts 2:42).
- Preaching and Bible study (Acts 2:42; 20:7).
- Congregational singing (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).

It's Terms of Membership

- Hear the gospel (Rom. 10:14-17).
- Believe the gospel (Jn. 8:24; Heb. 11:6).
- Repent of sins (Lk. 13:3; Acts 17:30).
- Confess Christ (Rom. 10:10; Acts 8:37).
- Baptized into Christ (Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:26-27).
- God adds the forgiven to the kingdom of Christ (Col. 1:13-14)

It's Mission

- Make known the manifold wisdom of God

- At current rates of increase, there should be 260,000 denominations in the next century... When you can get 72 varieties of mustard in the supermarket, choice is accepted. There is no known counter force visible in our culture which would work against increased varieties in Christian approaches. ("The Next One Thousand Years Of Christianity," Kevin Kelly, emphasis added)
- Citing the Oxford World Christian Encyclopedia (1982): ". . . a projected 22,190 by 1985 . . . The present net increase is 270 denominations each year (five new ones a week)." (pages 15-18).
- "As defined here, world Christianity consists of 6 major ecclesiastico-cultural blocs, divided into 300 major ecclesiastical traditions, composed of over 33,000 distinct denominations in 238 countries..." (World Christian Encyclopedia, 2001. Barrett et al, volume 1, page 16, Table 1-5, emphasis added)