

THE CHURCH OF MY DREAMS

- Eph. 5:25-27 "Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word; that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless."
- I Cor. 15:24 "Then comes the end when He must deliver the kingdom to God the Father."
- Acts 20:28 "Shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."
- Eph. 3:10 "To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all people see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things by Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church"

LOOKING AT OUR WORLD I HAVE A DREAM OF A CHURCH
AS GOD REALLY WANTS IT.

1. There Would Be A Desire To Be Approved By God.
2. A Healthy Respect For The Authority Of God's Word.
 - A. A direct command, an approved example, a necessary inference.
3. Elders - Older Men - Family Men With the Qualifications:
 - A. Titus 1:5; I Tim. 3; I Peter 5; Acts 20.
4. Deacons - Whose Work Was More Than A Name On Church Stationary.
 - A. I Timothy 3.
5. Scholarly, Godly, Preachers - Who Love People And Respect God's Plan.
6. Godly Group of Bible Teachers Who Love Their Students.
7. Capable Evangelists Who Would Go To Every Country - To Each Person.
 - A. Who would tell men that: There Is A God Who Cares.
That Christ Died For Them.
That The Bible Is The Best Book for Living.
That There Is A Heaven To Gain - A Hell To Miss.
8. A Church Where Each Member Really Cared For Every Other Family.
9. A Church who loved the lost and was about doing something beside singing about it.

10. A Church Where Each Member Was Present Each Service For The Purpose of Worship - And For Preparation For Greater Service.
11. A Church Who Cared For The Poor, Disfigured, Unlovely, Handicapped.
12. A FRIENDLY Church Where No Stranger Left Without Every Member Making Him Welcome and Insisting That He Return.
13. A Group Of Brethren Who Were Builders of Bridges - Not Fences.
14. A Group Dedicated To Changing Our World For The Better.
15. A Church Which Destination Is Heaven - And Every Member Knows It Every Day.

THE CHURCH OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

A STUDY

by

Ralph T. Henley

I BELIEVE THAT THESE SCRIPTURES FORM A PATTERN FOR THE LORD'S CHURCH. APPROACHING THE NEW TESTAMENT TO SEE HOW THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS DESCRIBED THE CHURCH AND ITS MEMBERS IS SOMETHING THAT EACH GENERATION WILL HAVE TO DO. HOWEVER, THE PATTERN WILL NOT CHANGE. IT IS UP TO EACH GENERATION TO FIND THE MESSAGE FOR THEMSELVES.

LET US LEAVE THE PATTERN UNCHANGED. IT IS JUST LIKE GOD WANTS IT. WE CANNOT CHANGE AND TAILOR THE NEW TESTAMENT MESSAGE EACH GENERATION TO FIT THE WHIMS OF THE SO-CALLED MODERN AGE.

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THE RELATIONSHIP OF CHRIST TO HIS CHURCH

I. CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH.

- A. Ephesians 1:20-23: "Which He (God) wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all."
- B. Ephesians 4:15-16: "But Speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, making increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."
- C. Ephesians 5:23: "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and He is the saviour of the body."
- D. Colossians 1:15-18: "Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him: And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church; who is the BEGINNING, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the pre-eminence."
- E. Colossians 2:9-10: "For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in Him which is the head of all principality and power."
1. These scriptures above teach that the church is the spiritual body of Christ and that He is the head over this body.
 2. In Ephesians 4:4, we are told that there is only ONE body.
Ephesians 4:4-6: "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are 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."

NOTE: The same writer writing to the same people in the same book and in the same letter that said that "there is one God" also said there is ONE BODY. In the first chapter at verses 22-23, we are told that the one body is the church.

CONCLUSION: Christ has only ONE CHURCH and He is the only head over it.

II. CHRIST IS THE BUILDER OF THIS CHURCH.

- A. Matthew 16:16-19: "And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also 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. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

- B. Hebrews 3:4-6: "For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God. And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; But Christ as a son over His own house: whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end."

NOTE: The church of the New Testament began in the city of Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost following the resurrection and ascension of Christ. This church has Jesus Christ as its only head, and it has Christ as its only builder.

III. CHRIST IS THE PURCHASER OF THIS CHURCH.

- A. Acts 20:28: "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with His own blood."
- B. I Peter 1:18-19: "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."
- C. I Cor. 6:19-20: "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which is God's."

IV. CHRIST IS THE SAVIOUR OF THE CHURCH.

- A. Matthew 1:21: "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins."
- B. Luke 2:11: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord."
- C. I Timothy 1:15: "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners: of whom I am chief."
- D. II Timothy 2:10: "Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory."
- E. Ephesians 5:23: "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and He is the saviour of the body."
1. Christ is not only the head and builder of this church, but He is truly the saviour of this spiritual body. "All Spiritual blessings are in Christ" and since salvation is a spiritual blessing, it is also in Christ. To be in Christ is to be in His spiritual body, which is the church.

V. CHRIST IS THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH.

- A. Isaiah 28:16: "Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a

precious cornerstone, a sure foundation: whoever believes will not act hastily."

- B. Luke 1:31-33: "And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end."
- C. Acts 4:11: "This is the stone which was set at nought of your builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."
- D. I Cor. 3:11: "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."
- E. Ephesians 2:19-20: "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone."
- F. I Peter 2:6-8: "Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on Him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe He is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed."

1. In the words of the great song:

"How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word."

VI. CHRIST IS A HIGH-PRIEST OVER HIS CHURCH.

- A. Hebrews 3:1: "Wherefore holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus."
- B. Hebrews 4:14-15: "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."
- C. Hebrews 5:5-6: "So also Christ glorified not Himself to be made an high priest; but He that said unto Him, Thou art my Son, today have I begotten thee." As He saith also in another place, "Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."
- D. Hebrews 6:19-20: "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."

VII. CHRIST IS THE KING OVER HIS KINGDOM WHICH IS THE CHURCH.

- A. Isaiah 9:6-7: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful,

Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this."

- B. Luke 1:31-33: "And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David: And He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end."
- C. Acts 2:30-36: "Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of His loins, according to the flesh, He would raise up Christ to sit on His throne; He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ that His soul was not left in hades neither His flesh did see corruption. This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, until I make Your enemies Your footstool. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ."
1. God has given the throne of David (it is a spiritual throne over a spiritual house) to Christ. He had raised Him up from the dead and made Him both Lord (the anointed king) and Christ (the Messiah for which the Jews had looked).
- D. I Timothy 1:17: "Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory forever and ever."
- E. I Timothy 6:14-15: "That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: Which in His times He shall show, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords."
1. Christ is a king now reigning over a spiritual kingdom - the church.

CONCLUSION: As we think of Christ's relationship to the church, he is:

1. Its Head;
2. Its Builder;
3. Its Purchaser;
4. Saviour;
5. Foundation;
6. A Priest over the church;
7. Its King.

REPRODUCING THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

INTRODUCTION:

1. The church is spoken of in two senses in the New Testament:
 - A. The Universal Church;
 - B. The Local - Congregational.
 - (1) No authority exists for the church to operate on a universal basis with an earthly headquarters governing all congregations.
2. The church has never ceased to exist from the day of Pentecost so it is not quite accurate to speak of restoring the church.
3. Any desire or attempt to re-structure the church is to act with extreme presumptiveness that such would accord with God's will.
4. Only one church is depicted within the pages of the New Testament. Different local congregations had particular problems but they were not different kinds of the Lord's church. To ask "Which one of the churches will we restore" is to reveal shallow thinking or repulsive ridicule.

I. THERE ARE NUMBERS OF SCRIPTURAL REASONS WHY THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH CAN BE REPRODUCED:

1. The Relationship of Christ To It Has Not Changed.
(Head, Builder, Purchaser, Saviour, Foundation, Priest, King)
2. The Terms Denoting Ownership Have Not Changed.
(Church of God, Churches of God, Church of Firstborn, Churches of Christ)
3. The Descriptive Terms Of The Church Have Not Changed.
(Bride of Christ, Body of Christ, Household of God, Vineyard, Kingdom of God, Temple of God)
4. The Terms Applied To Those Who Compose The Church Have Not Changed.
(Members, Christians, Disciples, Children)
5. Qualifications For Membership Have Not Changed.
6. Items Of Worship Still Exist Within The Church.
 - A. Prayer, Singing, Lord's Supper.
7. Organic Church Structure Has Not Changed.
 - A. With the exception that we no longer have the apostles and prophets.
8. The Standard For Church - Christian Holiness Has Not Changed,
9. The Mission Of The Church Has Not Changed.
 - A. To preach the gospel of Christ to every nation - to every person.
 - B. To edify the saved.

- C. To help the needy.
 - D. To be the salt of the earth, the light of the world, and the leaven to permeate society.
 - E. To battle spiritual wickedness in high places.
10. Those Who Are Saved Constitute The Church.
- A. Those who obeyed the gospel of Christ in the First Century were saved.
 - B. God added saved people to the church.
 - C. If people are still being saved today, then God is still adding them to His church. Therefore, we conclude that the church of the New Testament does exist and it can be reproduced any place on earth where mankind will believe and obey the gospel of Christ.

II. THE CHURCH OF OUR LORD WILL LAST UNTIL THE END OF TIME:

- 1. It is to be delivered up to God.

TERMS DENOTING RELATIONSHIP DESCRIBING THE CHURCH

There are a number of descriptive terms used by the New Testament to depict the church and its function, its place in God's Plan of Salvation.

I. IT IS CALLED THE BRIDE OF CHRIST.

- A. Romans 7:4: "Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to Him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God."
- B. Ephesians 5:23-25, 30-33: "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and He is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it; that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, ... For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband."

1. So the church is the spiritual bride of Christ.

II. IT IS CALLED THE BODY OF CHRIST.

- A. Ephesians 1:22-23: "And hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all."
- B. Colossians 1:18: "And He is the head of the body, the church"
- C. Ephesians 5:30: "For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones."
- D. Ephesians 2:14-16: "For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in His flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in Himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that He might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby;"
1. Both Jew and Gentile have now been united in the one body - the church, and there is no distinction any more.
- E. Colossians 1:24: "I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church."
- F. Ephesians 4:4: "There is one body"

III. IT IS CALLED THE HOUSE OR THE FAMILY OF GOD.

- A. I Timothy 3:14-15: "These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."

- B. Ephesians 2:19: "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;"
- C. Hebrews 3:6: "But Christ as a son over His own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end."
- D. I Peter 2:5: "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house."
- E. I Peter 4:17: "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?"
 - 1. God has only one household or family. It is composed of those who have been born spiritual into it. Salvation is within it and it has heaven as its glorious destiny. Have you ever had anyone to ask you, "Which one of God's families are you a member of?"

IV. IT IS CALLED THE VINEYARD OF THE LORD.

- A. Matthew 20:1: "For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard."
 - 1. Verses 2-16 show the necessity of our going out at every hour to hire laborers for this vineyard and that we are also to work in it.
 - 2. John 9:4: I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work."
 - (a) Since Jesus came to do the work of God the Father, we certainly need to be busy in our Lord's vineyard every day.
 - 3. Matthew 25:14-30: This parable of the talents teaches that all of us must use the talents which have been given to us in the Master's service if we expect to be rewarded.
 - 4. Matthew 25:31-46: This passage certainly teaches us that Christians are obligated to share with the sick, the needy, and those in prison if they are to be rewarded.
 - 5. I Corinthians 15:58: "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

V. IT IS CALLED THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

- A. Luke 1:32-33: "He shall be great, and shall be called the son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David: And He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end.
- B. Matthew 16:19: Jesus told the apostles that, "I will give unto you the keys of the kingdom of heaven."
- C. Colossians 1:13: Tells us that the brethren at Colosse were in the kingdom.

- D. Matthew 26:29 teaches that the Lord's supper was to be in his kingdom.
- E. Hebrews 12:28: "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear."

1. In this Kingdom:

Christ is the King.
The Territory of the Kingdom is the world.
The Subject of the Kingdom - Every nation,
tribe and tongue.
The Law of the Kingdom - Is the New Testament.

VI. IT IS CALLED THE SHEEP FOLD.

- A. John 10:6-9: "... Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers; but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture."
- B. John 10:14-16: "I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold and one shepherd."
 - 1. Christ is the chief shepherd and the sheep fold is made up of both Jew and Gentile. It would be rather foolish to ask "Which one of Christ's folds are you a sheep (member) in?"

VII. IT IS THE TEMPLE OF GOD.

- A. Zachariah 6:12-13: "And speak unto him saying, Thus speaketh the Lord of Hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is the Branch; and He shall grow up out of His place, and He shall build the temple of the Lord: Even He shall build the temple of the Lord; and He shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon His throne; and He shall be a priest upon His throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both."
- B. I Corinthians 3:9-17: (verses 16-17) "If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."
- C. Ephesians 2:19-22: "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."
- D. II Corinthians 6:16: "And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; and God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."
- E. I Peter 2:9: "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people: that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hat called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

TERMS USED TO DESIGNATE OWNERSHIP OF THE CHURCH

The church actually does not have a name. However, there are certain terms used in the New Testament which designate the ownership of the church. It is tragic, indeed, when we look around us in present-day America to see the various names given to the church by men. This has continued to foster division and misunderstanding.

I. IT IS CALLED THE CHURCH OF GOD. (Acts 20:28)

- A. I Corinthians 1:1-2: "Paul called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both their's and our's."
- B. I Corinthians 10:32: "Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, not to the church of God."
- C. I Corinthians 11:22: "What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not."
- D. I Corinthians 15:9: "For I am the least of the apostles, that I am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God."
- E. II Corinthians 1:1: "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia."
- F. Galatians 1:13: "For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it."
- G. I Thessalonians 1:1: "Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father, and in the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ."
- H. I Timothy 3:5: "For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?"

II. IT IS CALLED THE CHURCH OF THE FIRSTBORN.

- A. Hebrews 12:22-23: "But ye are come unto Mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn which are written in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect."
 - 1. That Our Lord is referred to in this passage is seen in these two:
 - (a) Romans 8:29: "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren."
 - (b) 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 might have the pre-eminence."

III. IT IS CALLED CHURCHES OF GOD.

CHURCH OF GOD

- A. I Corinthians 11:16: "But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God."
- B. I Thessalonians 2:14: "For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews."

IV. IT IS CALLED CHURCHES OF CHRIST.

- A. Romans 16:16: "Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you."
- B. Matthew 16:18: "Upon this rock I will build my church."

NOTE: The church is spoken of in two senses in the New Testament: (1) local and (2) universal. Christ is the head of the church and the headquarters of this church would naturally be in heaven where the king is. Every Christian is a member of this church. However, for practical and geographical reasons, the church is spoken of in the local or congregational sense. These various congregations in the different cities and provinces are called churches of God or churches of Christ. They are not different kinds of churches but, rather, the church which happens to be meeting in that particular place.

We shall deal with the organization of the church in another lesson.

CONCLUSION:

The church does not have a name but these terms are used to designate the fact that the church belongs to Christ and God. To be sure, no man has the right to own a church, to build another church, or to be the head of one. Things of this kind rightly belong to the God who loves us and the Christ who purchased us with His precious blood.

TERMS APPLIED TO THOSE WHO COMPOSE THE CHURCH

1. If we think of the Church as a Body - Then we are Members.

A. Romans 12:4-5: "For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office (function), so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and everyone members one of another."

I Cor. 12:12: "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ."

2. If we think of the Church as a Kingdom - Then we are Citizens.

A. Eph. 2:19: "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God."

NOTE: This is one of the dilemmas of modern warfare. If there are Christians in each of the countries waging war, then we have citizens of the Kingdom of God killing each other.

3. If we think of ourselves as Students - Then we are Disciples.

A. John 8:31-32: "If ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

B. John 13:35: "By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another."

C. John 15:8: "Herein is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be My disciples."

D. Matt. 28:19: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit . . ."

ΜΑΘΗΤΕΥΟΝΤΕΣ literally to make a learner, a pupil, a disciple.

4. If we think of God as Our Father - Then we are Children.

A. Matt. 6:9: "Our Father which art in heaven . . ."

B. Romans 8:14-17: "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God . . . and if children, then heirs: heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together."

5. If we think of the Relationship we sustain to one another - then we are Brethren.

A. Gal. 1:1-2, 11: "Paul, an apostle, (not of man, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead;) And all the brethren which are with men, unto the churches of Galatia But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man."

B. Eph. 6:23: "Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

C. I Tim. 4:6: "If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained."

- D. I Pet. 1:22: "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently."
- E. I John 3:14: "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren."
- F. I Thess. 5:25: "Brethren, pray for us."
- G. I Thess. 5:27: "I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren."

6. As regards to our Relationship to Christ - we are Christians.

- A. Acts 11:25-26: "Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul: And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch."
- B. Acts 26:27-28: "King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest. Then Agrippa said unto Paul, 'Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.'"
- C. I Pet. 4:15-16: "But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evil doer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. Yet, if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on his behalf."
- D. James 2:7: "Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by which ye are called?"

7. If we have in mind the Consecration of God's People - then we are Saints.

ἀγιος Set apart for God, to be, as it were, exclusively His. (Thayer)

- A. I Cor. 1:1-2: "Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both their's and ours."
- B. II Cor. 1:1: "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia."
- C. Phil. 1:1: "Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons."
- D. Col. 1:1-2: "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother, To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse, Grace be unto you, and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ praying always for you, Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints."
- E. Eph. 1:1: "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus ..."

NOTE:

It is quite obvious from these scriptures which show our relationship which we sustain to God, Christ, and to each other that the single most important decision we shall ever make is to decide to be part of God's spiritual family - the church.

PROPHECIES OF THE MESSIAH

One of the most effective ways to prove the creditability of the Bible is through fulfilled prophecy. A complete life of Christ was written before His birth. It will be impossible in the short time allotted to deal with all of these prophecies but we want to deal with the more prominent ones.

1. THE COMING OF CHRIST WAS FORETOLD:

- A. Gen. 3:15: "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."
- B. Gen. 12:1-3: "Now the Lord had said unto Abraham, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy fathers house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be to me a blessing; And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee, and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."
- C. Gal. 3:16: "Not to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ."
- D. Jer. 23:5-6: "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days, Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely; and this is his name whereby he shall be called, The Lord Our Righteousness."
- E. Isa. 9:6-7: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this."

2. THE TIME AND PLACE OF CHRIST'S BIRTH WAS FORETOLD.

- A. Mal. 3:1: "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts."
- B. Gen. 49:10: "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be."
- C. Micah 5:2: "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old from everlasting."
- D. Matt. 2:1-6: "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled

and all Jerusalem with hi. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judea: for thus it is written by the prophet, and thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel."

3. CHRIST'S LINEAGE WAS FORETOLD:

- A. Gen. 12:1-3: He was To Be A Descendant of Abraham.
- B. Gen. 21:12: "And God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for in Isaac shall they seed be called."
- C. Jer. 23:5: "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth."
- D. Acts 13:22-23: "And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfill all my will. Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus."
- E. Rom. 1:3: "Concerning his son Jesus Christ our Lord which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh."

4. HIS VIRGIN BIRTH WAS FORETOLD:

- A. Gen. 3:15: "the seed of woman ... "
- B. Isa. 7:14: "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign, Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall his name Immanuel."
- C. Jer. 31:22: "How long wilt thou go about O thou backsliding daughter? for the Lord hath created a new thing in the earth. A woman shall compass a man."
- D. Luke 1:35: "And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee; therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God."
- E. Matt. 1:23-25: "Behold a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS."

5. HIS CRUCIFIXION AND BURIAL FORETOLD:

- A. Isa. 53:8: "He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living; for the transgressions of my people was he stricken."
- B. Psa. 22:16: "For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet."

- C. Ps. 22:18: "And they part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture."
- D. Isa. 50:6: "I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair. I had not my face from shame and spitting."
- E. Zech. 12:10: "And they shall look upon me whom they have pierced."
- F. John 19:32-37: "Then come the soldiers, and broke the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was dead already, they broke not his legs; But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. And he that saw it bear record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe. For these things were done, that the Scriptures should be fulfilled, "A bone of him shall not be broken." And another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced."
- G. Isa. 53:9: "And he made his grave with the wicked, and the rich in his death."
- H. Matt. 27:57-60: "When the even was come, there come a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple: He went to Pilate and begged the body of Jesus ... and laid it in his own new tomb ..."

6. VARIOUS EVENTS IN CHRIST'S LIFE FORETOLD:

A. A Harbinger Was To Precede His Coming.

- 1. Mal. 3:1: "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts."
- 2. Isa. 40:3: "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight and the rough places plain: And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."
- 3. Luke 1:17: "and he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."
- 4. Mark 1:2-3: "As it is written in the prophets, Behold I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. The voice of one crying in the wilderness. Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

B. He Was To Confirm His Message With Miracles.

- 1. Isa. 35:5-6: "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing."

2. Matt. 11:5: "The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them ..."
3. Acts 2:22: "Ye men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs."

C. He Was To Be Rejected By His Brethren.

1. Psalms 69:8: "I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother's children."
2. John 1:11: "He came unto his own, and his own received him not."
3. John 15:24-25: "If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they would have had no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause."

D. He Was Forsaken By His Disciples.

1. Zech. 13:6-7: "And one shall say unto him, what are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends. Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fell, saith the Lord of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones."
2. Matt. 26:31: "Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad."

E. He Was Sold For Thirty Pieces of Silver.

1. Zech. 11:12: "And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price, and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. And the Lord said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was set on me. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the Lord."
2. Matt. 26:15: "And said unto them, "What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him."

7. HIS ASCENSION WAS FORETOLD.

- A. Psalms 68:18: "Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men: yea, for the rebellious also, that the Lord God might dwell among them."
- B. Psalms 24:7-10: "Lift up your heads, O ye gates: and be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors: and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of Glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory."

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

(Acts 2:)

Lev. 23:15
Deut. 16:9-16
2 Chron. 8:13
Exodus 23:16
Acts 20:16
I Cor. 14:8

Numbers 28:26
Exodus 34:22
Tobit 2:1
2 Macab. 12:32
Josephus, Jewish Wars
B II Chap. 3:1

WHEN AND WHAT WAS PENTECOST? (Lev. 23:15-22)

1. Pentecost came fifty days from the next day after the first sabbath of the Passover Feast. (This way, it always fell on Sunday or the first day.)
2. It is called the Feast of First Fruits - Brought part of Harvest to God.
3. It is called the Feast of Weeks.
4. Jewish scholars say The Law of Moses was given on the Day of Pentecost.
 - A. This would make a wonderful analogy for this is the day that the law of Christ is first introduced.

THE PENTECOST OF ACTS THE SECOND CHAPTER WAS A DAY OF BEGINNING.

1. It was the beginning of gospel preaching.
2. It was the beginning of salvation through Christ.
3. It was the beginning of the Christian era.
4. It was the beginning of the Church of Christ.

GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING THE EVENTS OF PENTECOST.

1. The word of the Lord was to go forth from Jerusalem. (Isa. 2:3)
2. In the last days of the Jewish Economy, He would pour out His spirit. (Joel 2:28-29)
 - A. This was to be poured upon Jew and Gentile alike.
3. Jesus delegated Peter to open doors of the Church on that day. (Matt. 16:18-20)
4. He promised to baptize the apostles with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:5)
5. They were to tarry in Jerusalem until this power came upon them. (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4)
6. New message of salvation was to be preached first at Jerusalem. (Luke 24:45-49)

THE EVENTS OF PENTECOST ARE PROFOUND AND FAR-REACHING,

1. The Setting:
 - A. Jerusalem.
 - B. Devout Jews from all over Mediterranean World.
 - C. Some, no doubt, had been there since Passover.
2. The Coming of The Holy Spirit Upon The Apostles:
 - A. Came only upon the apostles - had been promised to them.

- B. To guide them into all truth, show things to come, and bring to their remembrance the things Jesus taught them. (John 14:16)
 - C. Peter spoke as spirit gave him utterance.
3. Peter's Sermon:
- A. He appeals to Joel. (verses 16-21)
 - B. He appeals to Christ. (verses 22-24)
 - C. He appeals to David. (verses 25-31)
 - D. He affirms the Resurrection of Christ, (verses 32-35)
 - E. He affirms the Kingship of Christ, (verse 36)
 - F. WHAT WERE HIS COMMANDS FOR SALVATION?
 - (1) He had preached the gospel and they had heard.
 - (2) They believed the preaching - were pricked in hearts.
 - (3) Told to repent - no longer to reject but accept Christ.
 - (4) Told to be baptized - in order to obtain remission of sins.
 - (5) Told to save themselves from untoward generation.
 - a. About three thousand were baptized.
 - G. Conversion is the process of turning to God:
 - (1) Faith changes the Mind.
 - (2) Repentance changes the Life.
 - (3) Baptism changes the Relationship.
4. The Church of Christ is Established:
- A. The Church in Prophecy
 - (1) Isa. 2:2-4: To be established in last days - in Jerusalem.
 - (2) Micah 4:1-2:
 - (3) Daniel 2:1-44: To be established during days of Roman Kings.
 - B. The Church In Preparation:
 - (1) Matt 3:2: John the Baptist said "the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
 - (2) Matt. 3:13-17: The Messiah is introduced.
 - (3) Jesus came to establish a kingdom. Called by Matthew the "kingdom of heaven" and by Mark and Luke, "the Kingdom of God."
 - (4) Gentiles to be allowed in Kingdom. (Matt. 8:5-13)
 - (5) Twelve preached that "kingdom of heaven is at hand," (Matt. 10:5-7)

- (6) Matt. 16:18-20: Jesus promised to build the Church.
 - a. Thus could not have been built during Abraham, Moses, John, the Baptist.
- (7) The words Kingdom and Church are used synonymously.
- (8) The parables of the Master deal with the Kingdom.
- (9) The seventy sent out to proclaim nearness of Kingdom. (Luke 10:8-9)
- (10) Humility is road to greatness in Kingdom. (Matt. 18-1-6)
- (11) Forgiveness in the church. (Matt. 18-15-17)

C. The Church in Fact:

- (1) Terms of Christ were first made known on Pentecost.
- (2) Men heard, believed, and obeyed His will first that day.
- (3) God added these saved people to the Church. (Acts 2:47)

NOTE: Any Church started before Pentecost is too early. Any Church started after Pentecost is too late.

THE WORSHIP OF THE EARLY CHURCH (2:42-47)

- 1. They continued steadfastly in Four Things:
 - A. The Apostle's Doctrine,,
 - B. The Breaking of Bread.
 - C. Prayers.
 - D. Fellowship.
 - (1) Not our recreation halls of today.
 - (2) Meant partnership or cooperation in the work of the gospel.
- 2. They were Christians and Christians only.
- 3. They were all members of the same Church.
 - A.

If that was possible in Jerusalem over 1900 years ago; it <u>is</u> possible here in the twentieth century.

THE SECOND CHAPTER OF ACTS SERVES AS A PATTERN FOR ALL TIME FOR:

- 1. Conversion.
- 2. Worship.

"FOR OUT OF ZION SHALL GO FORTH THE LAW AND THE WORD OF THE LORD
FROM JERUSALEM"

1. We need to re-establish the Church of Our Lord in Jerusalem.
2. We need to once more proclaim the Law of Christ and have this Word emanate to all the cities again of New Testament times.
3. This is within our grasp within the next few months. A start will be made and by the grace of God and the help of a wonderful brotherhood the work will be permanent and will be there when Christ returns.
4. You need to cast your lot today in this great and noble work.

THE GOSPEL PLAN OF SALVATION

DEFINITION: εὐαγγέλιος means "good news" or "good tidings." In the New Testament it refers to God's Great Plan for Redeeming Man From Sin. It Embraces The Entire Scheme of Redemption.

I. THIS PLAN ORIGINATED IN THE COURTS OF GLORY BEFORE THE WORLD WAS CREATED.

- A. Matt. 13:34-35: "All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world."
- B. Rom. 16:25-27: "Now to him that is of power to establish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, but now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith."
- C. I Cor. 2:7-8: "But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory."
- D. II Tim. 1:9: "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began."
- E. Eph. 3:8-10: "Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: to the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God."
1. From These Scriptures We Learn A Number of Important Things:
- a. It is Not a Product of Human Reason or Origin.
- b. It Originated in the Councils of Heaven.
- (1) It was Planned by The Godhead.
- (2) It was Executed by The Son.
- (3) It was Revealed by The Holy Spirit.
- c. The Purpose of This Plan is Two-Fold:
- (1) To Reconcile Both Jew and Gentile in One Body - The Church.
- (2) To Reconcile Lost Mankind to God.

II. IN ORDER FOR MANKIND TO BE SAVED, THIS GOSPEL PLAN OF SALVATION MUST BE PREACHED.

- A. Matt. 28:18-20: "Go teach all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit . . ."
- B. Mark 16:15-16: "Go preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved . . ."
- C. Luke 24:46-47: "Thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead ... and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name beginning at Jerusalem."
- D. Romans 1:16-17: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation unto everyone that believeth ... "
- E. I Cor. 1:21: "When the world in its own wisdom knew not God, it pleased God through the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe ... "
- F. I Cor. 15:1-4: "... the gospel which ye received, wherein ye stand, whereby ye are saved."
- G. Col. 1:23: "Be not moved away from the hope of the gospel which ye have heard and which was preached unto every creature under heaven."
- H. II Thess. 2:13-14: "He called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."

III. IN ORDER FOR MANKIND TO BE SAVED, THIS GOSPEL PLAN MUST BE OBEYED.

- A. Hebrews 5:9: "and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him."
- B. I Peter 4:17-18: "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God, and if it first begin at us, what shall be the end of them that obey not the gospel of God?"
- C. II Thess. 1:7-9: "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."

NOTE: Since Man is a Free Moral Agent, There is Not the Slightest Possibility of His Being Saved Unless and Until He Obeys This Plan.

IV. THERE ARE TWO PARTS TO THIS PLAN OF SALVATION:

A. GOD'S PART (GRACE)

- 1. Eph. 2:5,8-9: "Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved:) ... For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast."
- 2. John 3:16: "For God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever

believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

- a. Thus, Salvation Comes Through The Grace of God Because of His Love For Us.
- (1) The Godhead devised this plan before Adam and Eve were created.
 - (2) Jesus Christ gave His precious life in our behalf.
 - (3) The Holy Spirit directed holy men of old to write this plan down for us.

NOTE: God has done His part in salvation. This Plan is a perfect Plan made by a perfect God. A God of love, power, knowledge, wisdom, and one who cares for each of us very dearly even though we be sinners. Salvation is free, it cannot be earned - it must be received.

B. MAN'S PART IN SALVATION. (OBEDIENCE)

1. Man Can Save Himself By Obedience to the Commands of God.
 - a. Acts 2:40: "And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation."
 - b. Phil. 2:12: "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."

NOTE: Man cannot save himself without the grace of God. However, God cannot save lost mankind without obedience from man.

2. There are Six Steps in Obedience Which Leads Us Home to Heaven.
 - a. Hearing The Word of God. (Rom. 10:13-17; John 6:44-45; John 17:17; John 8:32)
 - b. Believing In God, In Christ, In The Bible. (Heb. 11:6; John 3:18; John 6:29; John 8:24)
 - c. Repenting Of Our Sins. (Acts 2:38; Acts 3:19; Acts 17:30; II Pet. 3:9)
 - d. Confessing Our Faith. (Rom 10:9-10; Acts 8:36-37; Matt. 10:31-33)
 - e. Being Baptized for Forgiveness of Sins. (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; I Pet. 3:21)
 - f. Life Faithfully Until The End of Life. (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26; Rev. 3:5, 12, 21)
Read all of chapter 25 of Matthew.
3. God Has a "Second Law of Pardon" Which Applies to Christians.
 - a. Confession of Sin.
 - b. Repenting of It.
 - c. Pray for Forgiveness.

(1) I John 1:8-10 and I John 2:1-2.

(2) Read the parables in Luke 15: Coin, Sheep, Boy.

V. THIS PLAN OF SALVATION WILL BE OUR JUDGE IN THAT GREAT, AWESOME DAY OF JUDGMENT.

A. Those Of The Patriarchal Age Will Be Judged By The Rules and Regulations Which God Gave to Them.

B. Those Who Lived and Died Under The Law of Moses Will be Judged By It.

1. John 5:45-46: "Jesus said to the Jew of his day, 'Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust. For had ye believed Moses ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me.'"

C. From Pentecost Until The End We Will Be Judged By the Gospel Of Christ.

1. John 12:48; Rom. 2:16; Rom. 14:11-12; II Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20:10.

CONCLUSION:

When you consider the enormity of this Plan, the Love of God which devised it, the love of the Christ who executed it - put it into operation by giving His precious life in place of our lives; When we contemplate the fact that the Holy Spirit has guided men in writing this plan down in language we can understand and obey; And, when we realize that God has prepared Heaven as the eternal abode of our souls, how can we reject it?

GOD HAS DONE HIS PART - WILL YOU NOW DO YOURS?

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

1. What - Suggests something required of man.
2. Must - Suggests that it is not a matter of option but of necessity.
3. "I" - Not what must God, Christ, Holy Spirit do - but, what must I do.
4. Do - Not what must I "get" or "think" or "feel", but what must I Do.
5. To Be Saved - Salvation is the object being sought by man.

I. THE BIBLE ASKS THE QUESTION AND GIVES THE ANSWER

1. Rich Young Ruler (Mark 10:7)
 - A. Referred to Law of Moses - it was still in operation.
 - B. Lacked one thing - he was wrapped up in his riches.
 - C. Sincere in asking question - but he did not like the answer.
 - (1) Millions who think they want the answer - but in reality do not.
2. Jews on Pentecost (Acts 2:)
 - A. Heard Peter's Sermon.
 - B. Pricked in their hearts.
 - C. Asked, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"
 - D. Told, "Repent and be baptized everyone of you."
3. Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:)
 - A. Lived in all good conscience up until he met Christ. (Acts 23:1)
 - B. Saw light from heaven and heard voice, but was not saved.
 - C. Asked, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"
 - D. Told, "Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins. (Acts 22:16)
4. The Philippian Jailor (Acts 16:30-)
 - A. Paul and Silas were singing at midnight.
 - B. Doors were opened and everyone's bands were loosed.
 - C. Asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"
 - D. Told, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."
 - (1) And they spake unto him the word of the Lord.
 - (2) Why? So he could believe - Faith comes by hearing. (Rom. 10:17)
 - (3) He was then baptized, he and his straightway.

II. THUS, WE HAVE FOUR DIFFERENT ANSWERS GIVEN TO THE SAME QUESTION:

1. The Rich Young Ruler was living under the Law of Moses and thus, was referred to that Law.
2. The People on Pentecost Already believed.
 - A. Thus, they were told to repent and be baptized.
3. Saul of Tarsus was a Penitent Believer when Ananias got to him.
 - A. Thus, he was told to arise and be baptized.
4. The Jailor was a Heathen or Unbeliever.
 - A. Thus, he was told to believe and they spoke God's word to him so that he could believe. (Rom. 10:14-17)
5. Illustration: Man traveling from California to New York.
 - A. After each 500 miles, he asks, "How far is it to New York?"
 - (1) He is going to get a different answer but each will be a correct answer because he has changed positions each time he asked.
6. The Road to Becoming a Christian Is Similar:
 - A. He is in the Unbelieving State.
 - B. Then he moves to the Hearing State.
 - C. Then he moves to the Repenting State.
 - D. And finally he moves to the Baptized State.
 - (1) God adds these saved people to the church. (Acts 2:47)

FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD

James 2:14-20,24: "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O van man, that faith without works is dead? ... Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only."

I. A NUMBER OF RELIGIOUS GROUPS TEACH SALVATION BY FAITH ALONE:

A. Discipline of the Methodist Church (1944 p. 29, Article IX).

"We are accounted righteous before God only for the merit of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ, by faith, and not for our own works or deservings. Wherefore, that we are justified by faith only is a most wholesome doctrine and very full of comfort."

B. Discipline of the Pentecostal Holiness Church (1957, p. 13, Article 7).

"We believe, teach and firmly maintain the Scriptural doctrine of justification by faith alone."

II. TWO CLASSES OF WORKS ARE CONDEMNED BY THE NEW TESTAMENT:

A. Works of the Law of Moses

1. Romans 3:20: "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall not flesh be justified in His sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin."
2. Galatians 2:16: "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified."
3. Galatians 2:21: "I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain."
4. Galatians 3:11: "But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, the just shall live by faith."

B. Works of Our Own Righteousness.

1. Titus 3:5: "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit."
2. Ephesians 2:8: "For by grace are ye saved through faith: and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast."

NOTE: Man cannot be saved by the work of the Law of Moses, nor by his own goodness.

III. JAMES IS ARGUING AGAINST MERE MENTAL ASSENT TO THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST:

- A. Matthew 7:21: "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."
- B. Luke 6:46: "And why call me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"
- C. Hebrews 5:9: "And being made perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him."
- D. Mental Assent Is Not Enough - Our Faith Must Cause Us To Obey God's Commands.

IV. WORKS OF OBEDIENCE SPRING FROM A LIVING FAITH IN GOD CAUSING MAN TO OBEY:

A. Where There Is No Apparent Reason For Doing the Things Commanded.

(1) Abraham

- a. Commanded to leave Ur of Chaldeans with Sarah, Lot. (Gen. 12; Joshua 24:2)
- b. Offer Isaac on Mount of Mariah.
 - 1. No apparent reason - But God had spoken.

B. Where There Is No Apparent Connection Between the Command and the End Results:

- (1) Israelites marching around Jericho.
- (2) Blood on the lampposts in Egypt.
- (3) Lifting Up the Serpent in The Wilderness.
- (4) Naaman Dipping In The Jordan River.

- a. No apparent connection - But God had spoken.

C. Where Reason and Experience Seem to Make The Command Foolish:

- (1) Noah: Commanded to build an Ark.
 - a. Never before seen such a flood on the earth.
 - b. Took a lot of faith on Noah's part.
- (1) Command seemed contrary to reason - But God had spoken.

V. OBEDIENT FAITH DOES EVERYTHING GOD COMMANDS, EXACTLY AS HE COMMANDS:

- A. Need to postulate that God's will is the High Supreme Law.

B. Discuss the Theory of Essentials and Non-Essentials.

- (1) Noah to build the Ark - God gave the pattern.
- (2) Moses to build the Tabernacle - God gave the pattern.
- (3) Commanded to Go and Preach.
 - a. How we go - and how we utilize methods in preaching is non-essential.
- (4) Commanded To Be Baptized for Remission of Sins.
 - a. Whether the water is hot, cold, running, still, is non-essential.

VI. OBEDIENT FAITH SOMETIMES REQUIRES GREAT SELF-DENIAL AND SACRIFICE:

- A. Christ, Apostles, Polycarp, Huss, Early Christians.
- B. Moses Left the Glories of a King's Court to Serve His God.

VII. OBEDIENT FAITH WILL CAUSE A PERSON TO OBEY THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST:

- A. This includes Hearing, Believing, Repenting, Confessing and Baptism.
- B. If baptism is excluded because some say that it is a work - Then must exclude Faith.
 - (1) Faith is a Work of God. "Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent." (John 6:28-29).
- C. Obedient Faith Will Cause Christians To Work and Fight The Good Fight of Faith.
 - (1) Preaching the Gospel to the Lost.
 - (2) Care for the Poor and Needy.
 - (3) Worship and Grow in the Master's Service.

"Wilt thou know O vain man, that faith without works is dead, being alone."

THE MEANING AND NECESSITY OF REPENTANCE

INTRODUCTION:

1. There Are Numerous Scriptures Which Teach The Necessity of Repentance.
 - A. Luke 13:3,5: "Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."
 - B. Luke 24:46-47: "Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."
 - C. Acts 2:38: "Then Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins."
 - D. Acts 3:19: "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord."
 - E. Acts 17:30: "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because He hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead."
 - F. II Pet. 3:9: "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."
2. There Are Three Things Which Do Not Constitute Repentance.
 - A. Repentance is Not A Confession Of Sin.
 - (1) A Man Could Confess The Fact That He Is A Sinner And Not Repent.
 - B. Repentance Is Not A Reformation Of Life.
 - (1) However, True Repentance Will Lead To A Reformation of Life.
 - C. Repentance is Not Being Sorry For Sins.
 - (1) A Person Might Really Be Sorry For What He Does But Still Not Repent.

I. WHAT DOES REPENTANCE MEAN?

1. ΜΕΤΑΝΟΙΑ Repentance. "The change of mind of those who have begun to abhor their errors and misdeeds, and have determined to enter upon a better course of life, so that it embraces both a recognition of sin and sorrow for it and hearty amendment, the tokens and effects of which are good deeds." (Thayer, p. 406)
2. Repentance As A Change Of Attitude Or Mind Can Be Seen In These Scriptures.
 - A. Genesis 6:5-8: "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the Lord that

he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them."

- B. Exodus 13:17-18: "And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not through the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt. But God led the people about, through the way of the wilderness of the Red Sea; and the children of Israel went up harnessed out of the land of Egypt."
- C. Exodus 32:1-14: The people erected and worshipped the molten calf. Moses prayed for God not to destroy the Israelites. And the Bible says, "The Lord repented of the evil which he had thought to do unto his people." This does not mean that he regretted his previous resolve to destroy them but that he changed his attitude towards them.
- D. Psalms 110:4: "The Lord hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."
- E. Jer. 18:7-10: "At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, and to pull down, and to destroy it; If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them. And at what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it; If it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them."
- F. Jonah 3:9: "Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not? And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not."
- G. Acts 26:19-20: "Whereupon, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance."
- H. Jesus Gave Two Striking Examples of Repentance:
 - (1) Matthew 21:28-29: "But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented and went."
 - (2) The Prodigal Son: "But when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger. I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him,

Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee." (Luke 16:17-1).

(a) It involves a turning from and a turning to.

II. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF BASIC ASSUMPTIONS INVOLVED IN TRUE REPENTANCE:

1. In The First Place: The Sinner Is Aware Of The Goodness Of God Toward Him.

A. Rom. 2:3-4: "and thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance."

2. Secondly: We Must Assume That The Sinner Is Deeply Sorry For His Sins.

A. II Cor. 7:9-10: "Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. For Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death."

3. Thirdly: The Sinner Knew His Attitude Towards Sin Must Change Or Be Lost.

A. Luke 13:3: "Nay, I tell you except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish."

B. Acts 17:30-31: "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commanded all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness
.... ."

4. In the Fourth Place: We Must Assume That The Sinner Has Counted the Cost.

A. Luke 14:26-33: "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him., Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish ...So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple."

B. Here Is The Very Crux Of The Apathy In Our Work And Practice.

(1) Churches Are Filled To Capacity With People Who:

a. Never seriously considered the Great God Of The Bible.

- b. Who scarcely appreciated the Bible as his revealed will to them.
- c. Who did not feel the deep stain of guilt and scars of sin.
- d. Who never seriously considered what a life for Christ would cost.
 - (i) Now they are unwilling to pay the price and they do not intend to tolerate a preacher who keeps reminding them.

III. TRUE REPENTANCE WILL BRING FORTH FRUIT:

- 1. It Will Be Culminated In Confession And Baptism For The Alien Sinner.
- 2. It Will Lead To A True Reformation Of Life Described In Romans Chapter Six.
- 3. It Will Bring About A Rectification of Sin Inasmuch As Is Possible.
 - A. Streetcar Conductor - Knocking Down Money From Company.
 - B. Boy Sealing Money From Cash Register. (Had It Had Under Mattress).
 - C. Man Who Steals Another Man's Wife.

NOTE: All the prayer in the world will never make it right for one man to take another man's wife unscripturally. In fact, while he is down on his knees asking God to forgive him of his adultery when he knows that he is going right on living with this woman shows proof positive that he has not changed his mind and attitude toward adultery - he has not repented. Repentance has to precede prayer.

IV. IT IS A DANGEROUS THING FOR A PERSON TO PUT OFF REPENTANCE,

- 1. It Is Possible To Get To The Place Where You Do Not Have The Capacity To Repent.
 - A. I Timothy 4:1-2: "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron."
 - B. Eph. 4:17,19: "This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk in the vanity of their minds. Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness."
 - C. Hebrews 6:4-6: "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come. If they should fall away, to renew them to repen-

tance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame."

2. God Is Pleading With You to Change Your Mind And Attitudes And Turn To Him.

- A. Isa. 1:18: "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT BAPTISM

INTRODUCTION:

1. Thousands of Books, Debates, Sermons Have Been Preached On This Subject.
2. In the Final Analysis We are Concerned With What the Bible Teaches.

I. THE BAPTISM OF JOHN THE BAPTIST WAS FOR THE JEWS ONLY.

1. Matt. 3:1-6: "In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judea, and all the region around Jordan, And were baptized of Him in Jordan, confessing their sins."

2. This Baptism Was Not Valid After The Cross And Pentecost.

- A. Paul Re-baptized Twelve Who Had Been Baptized Previously by John's Baptism.

- (1) Acts 19:1-7: "And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Spirit since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Spirit. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them: and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. And all the men were about twelve."

3. Some Maintain That The Thief On The Cross Was Saved Without Baptism.

- A. The Bible Does Not Teach That The Thief Was Not Baptized by John's Baptism.

- B. The Bible Does Not Specifically Say That The Thief Was Saved.

- (1) However, I believe that we can infer that that is what Jesus meant.

- C. Jesus Had Power While Still On Earth, Before The Cross, To Forgive Sin.

- (1) Luke 5:23-24: "Whether is easier, to say, thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise

up and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of Man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy), I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house."

- a. Heb. 9:16-17: "For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth."

II. THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS PROMISED AND NEVER COMMANDED.

1. John 14:26; 16:12-13: "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you ... I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he shall not speak of himself: but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come."

A. There Were Three Purposes For The Holy Spirit's Being Given.

- (1) To Guide Them In All Truth.
- (2) To Bring To Their Remembrance The Teachings Of Jesus For Three Years.
- (3) To Show Them Coming Events.

2. There Are Only Two Cases of Holy Spirit Baptism In The Entire Bible.

A. The Apostles On Pentecost. (Acts 2:4)

B. Household Of Cornelius. (Acts 10 and 11)

- (1) This was a completion of Joel's prophecy that Spirit Poured Out On All Flesh - Both Jew and Gentile.
- (2) The Spirit also was Guiding Peter Into All Truth to Preach to Gentiles.

3. The Apostle Paul In Ephesians 4: Said That There Was Only ONE Baptism About A.D. 64.

A. Holy Spirit Baptism Was Accompanied By Sound of Wind, Tongues of Fire.

- (1) There was something you could Hear, See, and Other Languages Spoken.

B. Water Baptism Was To Last Unto The End Of The World. (Matt. 28:18-20)

III. THE BAPTISM OF THE GREAT COMMISSION WAS FOR SALVATION FROM SIN.

1. Jesus Gave The Command To Go, Teach, and Baptize.

A. Matt. 28:18-20: "and Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

- B. Mark 16:15-16: "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

2. In Every Case Of Conversion In The New Testament The Command to Baptize Was Carried Out.

- A. Acts 2:1-47: The Three Thousand on the Day of Pentecost.
- B. Acts 8:1-12: The Samaritans under Philip's preaching.
- C. Acts 8:26-40: The Eunuch from Ethiopia taught and baptized by Philip.
- D. Acts 9:1-18: Saul of Tarsus - Later The Apostle Paul.
- E. Acts 10:1-48: Conversion of Cornelius and his household.
- F. Acts 16:13-15: Lydia and her household - the beginning of the church in Philippi.
- G. Acts 16:16-34: The conversion of the Jailor by Paul and Silas.
- H. Acts 18:8: The Corinthians hearing, believed, and were baptized.

3. There Are Many Scriptures Which Teach That Water Baptism Is Essential To One's Salvation.

- A. Acts 2:38: "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins ..."
- B. Acts 22:16: "and now why tarriest thou, Arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling upon the name of the Lord."
- C. I Peter 3:20-21: "When once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, wherein few, that is eight, souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us, (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ."
- D. Gal. 3:26-27: "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."
- E. I Cor. 12:13: "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."
- F. Romans 6:3-4: "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him

by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

NOTE: The Blood of christ Saves From Sin. He shed His blood in His death. Baptism puts us into His death and therefore in contact with the precious blood of Christ.

- G. John 3:3-5: "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto Him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

NOTE: A birth does not give life. It merely transplants life from one environment to another. Baptism, the spiritual birth, does the same. It transplants the sinner from the world into the church.

4. The Baptism Of The Great Commission Was By Immersion Only.

- A. Three Words: Rantidzo - To Sprinkle In Drops.
Cheo - To Pour Out In A Stream.
Baptidzo - Meaning To Dip, plunge, immerse. (This is used for Baptism.)

B. New Testament Examples Confirm That Baptism Was By Immersion.

- (1) John, The Baptist - "Baptism in Jordan because was much water there."
- (2) Jesus - "When he came up out of the water."
- (3) Ethiopian Eunuch - "Went down into the water both Philip and the Eunuch."
- (4) Romans 6:1-18 - Teaches that Baptism is a burial and a planting.

IV. THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT THERE IS GOING TO BE A BAPTISM OF FIRE.

1. Matt. 3:11: "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance; but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire: whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."
2. Rev. 20:10: "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."
3. II Thess. 1:7-9: "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be

punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power."

NOTE: Is Baptism a Part of the Gospel?
Yes, It is Part of the Gospel.
Those obeying not the Gospel are going to be burned.

V. BAPTISM IN WATER IS FOR SALVATION FROM SINS; BAPTISM IN FIRE IS FOR ETERNAL PUNISHMENT.

1. The Scriptures are plain. Mankind has made the water muddy, not God.
2. People need to be willing to obey this plain teaching in order to be saved.
3. Water Baptism is preceded By:
 - (1) Hearing The Word of God.
 - (2) Believing In God And His word.
 - (3) Repenting Of Sins.
 - (4) Confession of Faith In Jesus Christ As God's Son.

"Buried with Christ, my blessed Redeemer
Dead to the old life of folly and sin;
Satan may call, the world may entreat me,
There is no voice that answers within."

FOUR THINGS BAPTISM WILL NOT ACCOMPLISH

I Peter 3:21

1. More religious discussion on this subject than any other.
2. Been much abused - reason why we say so much about it.

I. BAPTISM WILL NOT CHANGE THE HEART

1. What is the heart? Some pat their chest.
2. The Heart that must be changed in conversion is that part called:
 - A. Intellect - Believes. (Rom. 10:10)
- Reasons. (Mark 2:8)
- Thinks. (Prov. 23:7)
 - B. Emotions - Loves. (Matt. 22:37)
- Trusts. (Prov. 3:5)
- Desires. (Rom. 10:1)
 - C. Will - Intends. (Heb. 4:12)
- Purposes. (2 Cor. 9:7)
- Obeys. (Rom. 6:17-18)
3. Baptism does not change any of these.

II. BAPTISM DOES NOT REMOVE TEMPTATION

1. Jesus was tempted immediately following His baptism.
2. They that live godly lives shall suffer persecution.
 - A. No persecution without temptation. (I Cor. 10:13)
 - B. Blessed is the man who endures temptation. (James 1:12)
3. Examples: Peter, Demas, Judas, Simon. (II Tim. 4:10; Acts 8:22)
 - A. Yield not to temptation.

III. BAPTISM WILL NOT MAKE ONE SINLESS (Not even Holy Spirit baptism)

1. Certain groups affirm they cannot sin after baptism.
 - A. John writing to Christians said they could. (I John 1:10)

IV. BAPTISM DOES NOT GUARANTEE ETERNAL SALVATION

1. Eternal Life is predicated on obedience to God.
 - A. Is Baptism the end of Obedience. (Heb. 5:9)
 - (1) Christian life is one of continual obedience.
 - a. Work out our own salvation. (Phil. 2)
 - b. Be Steadfast in service. (Heb. 10:25)
 - c. Must worship properly. (Acts 2:42)
2. Baptism is just the beginning of the Christian walk. (Col. 3:1; Phil. 2)

3. "To him that overcometh - be thou faithful unto death.
(Rev. 2:10; 22:14)

V. THERE ARE SOME THINGS WHICH BAPTISM WILL ACCOMPLISH.

1. Puts one into Christ. (Gal. 3:24-27)
2. Puts one into the name. (Matt. 28:19-20)
3. It is for remission of sins. (Acts 2:38, Acts 22:16)
4. It saves the penitent believer. (Mark 16:16; I Pet. 3:21)
5. It puts one into the Kingdom of God. (John 3:5; Col. 1:13-14)
6. Baptism is predicated on faith, repentance, confession.
 - A. Baptism alone will not take anyone to heaven.
 - B. Yet, no man can be saved except he be baptized.

VI. BAPTISM MUST BE AN IMMERSION IN WATER FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS.

1. Man teaches that it is non-essential.
2. Christ said that it is essential. (Mark 16:16)
3. Peter said that it is essential. (I Pet. 3:21)
4. Baptism: The element - water.
The design - for remission of sins
The mode - immersion
The Subjects - penitent believers

WATER BAPTISM IN SALVATION

Matt. 28:18-20: "And Jesus came and spoke to them saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatever I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'"

Mark 16:15-16: "And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.'"

Acts 2:38: "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Acts 8:12: "But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerned the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized."

Acts 8:36-39: "And as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, 'See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?' And Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' And he answered and said, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' And he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. And when they had come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing."

Acts 9:17-18: "And Ananias went his way and entered the house. and laying his hands on him, he said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized."

Acts 10:47-48: "And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshipped God, heard us. The Lord opened her heart so that she heeded the things which were spoken by Paul. And when she was baptized, she begged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.' and she constrained them."

Acts 16:30-33: "And he brought them out and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' And they said, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.' And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized."

Acts 18:8: "And Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed, and were baptized."

I Cor. 12:13: "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free - and have all been made to drink into one Spirit."

Col. 2:11-12: "In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead."

Gal. 3:26-28: "For you are all sons of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Acts 22:16: "And now why do you tarry, arise and be baptized, washing away your sins calling on the name of the Lord."

Romans 6:3-4: "Or do you now know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death. Therefore we were buried with Him by 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."

I Peter 3:18-21: "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, wherein few, that is, eight souls, were saved by water. The like figure where unto even baptism doth also now save us, (not the putting away the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), by the resurrection of Jesus Christ."